

Considering Concerns

What attitudes and approaches might be present, and influence our ways of seeing children? What impact might these have on how we relate to them, and in turn, their experiences? This activity is a conversation starter to explore these questions.

This activity originally designed for the Odd Team and a group of undergraduate students training to work with children, with support from Educational Psychologist Rebecca Wright.

Who is this for?

Adults who work with or care for children, or who are training to do so.

Duration

For a Group exercise
(20 minutes + about 5 minutes per participant for discussion)

What you need

A shared Padlet or other shared online space if remote
A shared writing surface / post its if in person

Guidance

You can either work together as a group using all of the statements, or break into smaller groups to work on a single statement or smaller selection.

If using this in a home context, you can do this activity with a friend or co-parent.

Note:

you may want to agree confidentiality, so that your discussion remains within your group.

Odd Threads : Measures: Considering Concerns

Read these are fictionalised accounts of teachers concerns about children in primary school.

THEY CAN FIND IT HARD TO STAY ON TASK WHEN WORKING IN A SMALL GROUP OR 1-1 WITH AN ADULT.

DESPITE HAVING A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF 1-1 SUPPORT, THEY ARE MAKING VERY SLOW PROGRESS.

CONCERNS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT LOW LEVELS OF ATTENTION AND RETENTION

THEY ARE VERY ANXIOUS AND WILL PULL OUT THEIR HAIR AND PULL ON THEIR CLOTHES

THEY HUG THEIR FRIEND A LOT

WHEN LISTENING IN THE CLASSROOM, THEY SHAKE AND ROCK THEIR HEAD

STRUGGLES WITH CHANGE AND RELIES HEAVILY ON ROUTINE

SIGNIFICANT LANGUAGE DELAY AND LACKING SOCIAL SKILLS

Considering concerns

Notes:

Questions:

Do more thoughts arise as you read other peoples notes?

Are there any observations that you share, or unexpected ones?

From other people's observations, choose one that interests you for discussion.

Are there any themes arising from your discussion? If so, what?

What implications might these themes have for understanding childrens experience of feeling 'different' at school?