

# **Tips for interviewing children**

## **Principles for interviewing children**

- We are adults with POWER and responsibilities
- As adults we have a duty of care to children because they are POWERLESS
- Each child is an individual person
- Children deserve to be treated with respect, and encouraged to speak for themselves
- Do no harm to children
- Be accurate – check and double check
- Include the child's point of view, where possible
- Consider the consequences – make sure children understand what they are doing
- Where possible, seek appropriate permissions

## **Top tips for interviewing children**

1. First, get the right permissions
2. Don't rush in – give them time to decide if they want to talk
3. Use a location where THEY feel comfortable
4. Don't stand over them – operate, literally, at their level
5. Explain WHY you want to talk to them, and HOW you intend to use what they say
6. Give them opportunities to ask questions – and always answer honestly
7. Explain how your recording equipment works. Engage their interest – let them see, touch, and use it.
8. Don't coax or bribe children to 'perform'.
9. Let them know how they can contact you later
10. If possible, make sure they will be able to see or hear what you produce.