

What is important to you for your child's development?

HIGHEST PRIORITY

LOWEST PRIORITY



2016
DATE: _____ VENUE: _____




Three community consultations took place in community venues over two-week periods in 2016, 2019 and 2022. The consultations were led by researchers alongside the community team. The informal approach allowed for open and honest conversations between parents and professionals. Across the three community consultations, 427 individuals provided their feedback.

The consultation supported the initial development and ongoing reflection on the Early Years offer across Blackpool. As a tool it prompts conversations and supports families to consider what is important but critically provides rich insight into where emerging needs within communities are not being met. Anecdotally, practitioners suggested the tool could be useful for the early years workforce to help them understand drivers for change when working with families.



What we learnt

Immediacy

Parents tended to focus on the development needs of their child at that moment, rather than looking long term to building strong foundations across Early Years.

Realism

Many respondents commented on feeling pressured to meet high expectations from peers and professionals, and felt overwhelmed by messages on what they should be doing.

Agency

Parent responses suggested a 'natural order' for several areas of child development e.g. learning to talk, toilet training etc., suggesting a child would achieve these when they are ready. Additionally, parents appeared to lack a sense of their own agency to manage behaviour, for example in suggesting they couldn't stop their children from eating fast food.

Breaking cycles

Respondents would refer to their own experiences in childhood and how this impacted on their parenting style whether this was for negative or positive reasons.

Valuing connections

The impact of Covid restrictions on service delivery and social interaction led to increased recognition of the value of connections for both the child's development for example through interaction with other children and in terms of access to services.