

#### A Professional Development Video:

# Talking to parents about their child's speech, language and communication

### Reflection/Discussion Questions

Following each section of this 3 part video, there are some questions for reflection, or discussion if you're watching the video as a group. The purpose of these questions is to support you with thinking in more detail about your own experiences of speaking with parents about their child's speech, language and communication development, and to help build confidence for engaging in future conversations with parents and family members.

#### Preparation

- Consider some of the benefits and disadvantages of taking a more formal or informal approach to your conversation.
- What are some examples of evidence that you could gather to help support your discussions with parents about your concerns?
- Why is it important to gather information about a child's home circumstances as part of your preparation?

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## During the conversation

- What might be some useful 'openers' to begin the conversation with parents?
- What could you do before, during or after the discussion to help parents feel comfortable during your conversation?
- How would you ensure that the conversation was two-way?
  What strategies would you use to make sure you involve parents in the discussion?
- What have you done in the past in conversations with parents that has worked well?
- What would you do if parents asked a question during your conversation that you didn't feel able to answer?
- How might you support a parent who appeared to be disengaged or uninterested in your conversation?
- What are some of the potential challenges you may face in a conversation with a parent and how might you overcome those?

#### Next steps

- Would you know how to make a referral to specialist speech and language colleagues in your area?
- Do you know of any local or national sources of support for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs that you might be able to refer parents to?
- Think about long term outcomes for the child that might be agreed with the parents, and how long term goals might be broken down in to shorter term targets. Think about or discuss some examples of how a long term goal might be broken down in to smaller steps.
- How would you ensure continued support for parents following this initial conversation? What would you put in place to make sure parents feel supported? What might you agree as your next steps with the parent?

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