



## Learner Voice

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As part of working for the Educational Psychology Service, it is important we **understand learners' views**. As part of our role, we are committed to making sure children and young people's (CYP) voices are **listened to and not just heard** in order to understand how we can most appropriately provide support. We use **person centred planning** which leads to **empowerment** of the learner and shifts the focus from professionals to the CYP. It allows CYP to feel stronger and more confident as they are involved in decision making about their lives. Settings have a **statutory responsibility** to involve a CYP and setting support should 'fit around the needs of the CYP, with their strengths and capabilities placed at the heart of the assessment and planning.' (SEN Code of Practice, 2014).

### Why is the learner's voice important?

We have personal constructs (mental representations) about how the world works. Based on these constructs, the individual makes sense of observations and experiences and this can determine future behaviours, thoughts and emotions. By listening to the CYP, we can unpick the constructs and provide more effective support with a greater chance of modifying these constructs.

### How do we include the learner?

There are many strategies to involve the CYP in decisions about their learning and development:

- School council
- Use visuals of strategies which the learner can sort into helpful and unhelpful for them
- Ask the learner to draw/describe the kind of person they would like to be/not like to be
- Allow the learner to contribute to their targets
- Give the learner ownership of their support plan by involving them in creation of their goals