

research in practice



Professional curiosity

Curiosity is needed to make connections to enable greater understanding, and question and challenge information received (Thacker, 2020).

Remaining curious and applying curiosity to practice is 'difficult and skilled work' (Dickens et al., 2023, p. 1).

Practitioners require support from organisations and colleagues, to nurture the communication skills and the courage needed to remain curious (Dickens et al., 2023).

Read

Longer read: [Difficult conversations in social care: Frontline Briefing \(2023\)](#)

Tools

[Supporting practitioner wellbeing: Practice Guide \(2022\)](#)

[Analysis and critical thinking in assessment: Resource Pack \(2014\)](#)

[Enabling and embedding creative participation in child and family social work: Practice Tool \(2022\)](#)

[Reflective Supervision: Learning Hub \(2025\) Supporting critical analysis](#)

[Critical reflection and analysis: Learning Pathway \(2025\)](#)



Listen

30 minutes: [What is professional curiosity?: Podcast \(2024\)](#)

27 minutes: [Organisational resilience: Podcast \(2024\)](#)



Watch

14 minutes: [Strengths-based practice: Film \(2020\)](#)

11 minutes: [Working with uncertainty and risk in children's social care \(Eileen Munro\): Film \(2023\)](#)

5 minutes: [Dialogic practice: Garavan's six steps \(2023\)](#)



Reflect

Reflect on and record your CPD using the button on each resource page. You can also bookmark and share resources with colleagues. Log and review your reflections in [Your CPD](#).

For more resources, explore the [Research in Practice website](#) using the search function.

References:

Dickens, J., Cook, L., Cossar, J., Okpokiri, C., Taylor, J., & Garstang, J. (2023). Re-envisioning professional curiosity and challenge: messages for child protection practice from reviews of serious cases in England. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 152, 107081.

Thacker H, Anka A & Penhale B. (2020). *Professional curiosity in safeguarding adults: Strategic Briefing*. Dartington Hall Trust: Research in Practice.