**Key questions for the child's social worker**

**Methods**

Suitable for self–directed learning or reflection with a colleague or supervisor.

Learning Outcome

Review your understanding of child development and identify actions you can take to support a child’s healthy development.

**Time Required**

Two sessions of 45 minutes

**Process**

Thinking of your current approach, answer the following questions:

* What is your understanding of child development from birth to adolescence and beyond? (see Research in Practice [Child Development Chart](https://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/frontline-resources/frontline-child-development-chart/) and NSPCC [The Developing World of the Child: Seeing the Child](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/learningresources/developingworldnotebook_wdf60153.pdf))
* What is your understanding of the impact of parental problems, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental ill-health and learning difficulties, on children's development? (see Cleaver, Unell, Aldgate (2011) [Children's Needs- Parenting Capacity](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-needs-parenting-capacity-second-edition))
* How do you ensure that you have a good knowledge and understanding of the impact of maltreatment on children’s development? (See briefing 4 ‘Early brain development and maltreatment’ and briefing 2 ‘Attachment theory and research’.)
* What are your training and development needs in relation to child development?
* How do you ensure that you make the most of any training and development opportunities?
* How do you ensure that a child's developmental progression is a key feature of assessments?
* What steps do you take to ensure that key aspects of development are included in the assessment?
* What steps do you take to gather information on children's development from other professionals?
* How do you ensure that the assessment of the child informs support services and interventions for the child and that the child receives these services?
* What is your understanding on the theoretical perspectives of child development and their relation with interventions for children and families?
* What steps do you take to ensure that you take decisive action to ensure that children's needs are met (including, if necessary removal from the birth family) within their developmental timeframe? (see briefing 6 'Impacts of delayed decision making')

**Key questions for the supervising social worker**

**Methods**

Suitable for self–directed learning or reflection with a colleague or supervisor.

Learning Outcome

Review your understanding of child development and identify actions you can take to support a child’s healthy development.

**Time Required**

Two sessions of 45 minutes

**Process**

Thinking of your current approach, answer the following questions:

* What is your understanding of child development from birth to adolescence and beyond? (see Research in Practice [Child Development Chart](https://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/frontline-resources/frontline-child-development-chart/) and NSPCC [The Developing World of the Child: Seeing the Child](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/learningresources/developingworldnotebook_wdf60153.pdf))
* What is your understanding of the impact of parental problems, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental ill-health and learning difficulties, on children's development? (see Cleaver, Unell, Aldgate (2011) [Children's Needs- Parenting Capacity](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-needs-parenting-capacity-second-edition))
* How do you ensure that you have a good knowledge and understanding of the impact of maltreatment on children’s development? (See briefing 4 ‘Early brain development and maltreatment’ and briefing 2 ‘Attachment theory and research’.)
* What are your training and development needs in relation to child development?
* How do you ensure that you make the most of any training and development opportunities?
* How do you help foster carers and adopters to understand children's development and progress, particularly where there are problems?
* What steps do you take to signpost and facilitate access to support and interventions to help foster carers and adopters manage the child's behaviour?
* How do you encourage and support foster carers (and adopters) to access specialist learning and development opportunities?

**Key questions for social work managers**

**Methods**

Suitable for self–directed learning or reflection with a colleague or supervisor.

Learning Outcome

Review your understanding of child development and identify actions you can take to support a child’s healthy development.

**Time Required**

Two sessions of 45 minutes

**Process**

Thinking of your current approach, answer the following questions:

* What is your understanding of child development from birth to adolescence and beyond and the impact of parental problems on this? (see Research in Practice [Child Development Chart](https://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/frontline-resources/frontline-child-development-chart/), NSPCC [The Developing World of the Child: Seeing the Child](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/learningresources/developingworldnotebook_wdf60153.pdf), see Cleaver, Unell, Aldgate (2011) [Children's Needs- Parenting Capacity](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-needs-parenting-capacity-second-edition))
* To what extent does your team have a good knowledge and understanding of child development and the impact of parental problems on this?
* How do you ensure that you make the most of any training and development opportunities for yourself and your staff?
* How do you ensure that supervision sessions provide social workers with the space and opportunities to reflect upon their cases, in particular in relation to children's development?
* Are you proactive in establishing effective partnerships with other services to facilitate information sharing?
* What support do you need from your organisation to improve these partnerships further?
* What steps do you take to ensure that there are a range of services available for children who may need additional support?

**Key questions for foster carers and adopters**

**Methods**

Suitable for self–directed learning or reflection with a colleague or supervisor.

Learning Outcome

Review your understanding of child development and identify actions you can take to support a child’s healthy development.

**Time Required**

Two sessions of 45 minutes

**Process**

Thinking of your current approach, answer the following questions:

* What is your understanding of child development from birth to adolescence and beyond? (see Research in Practice [Child Development Chart](https://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/frontline-resources/frontline-child-development-chart/) and NSPCC [The Developing World of the Child: Seeing the Child](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/learningresources/developingworldnotebook_wdf60153.pdf))
* What is your understanding of the impact of parental problems, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental ill-health and learning difficulties, on children's development? (see Cleaver, Unell, Aldgate (2011) [Children's Needs- Parenting Capacity](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-needs-parenting-capacity-second-edition))
* What steps do you take to keep the child's social worker informed of any progress or concerns around the child's development?
* What steps do you take to ensure that the child accesses any specialist support he or she may need?
* What are your learning and development needs in relation to child development?
* What steps do you take to ensure that you access relevant training and development?