

## Engaging with Children: A Foundation Online course

*Engaging with Children: A Foundation* is the first in a suite of resources developed for practitioners who work primarily with adults.

- 45 - 60 minutes in length.
- Introduces the concept of 'engaging children as partners in practice' as a foundation for promoting children's wellbeing and responding to child mental health concerns.
- Presents the key shifts in position and perspective required to effectively engage children as partners in practice.
- Developed for practitioners who work mostly with parents in relation to 'adult problems', and for whom working with children is not a regular focus but is within their scope of practice.

### What is this course about?

This course is the first in a series around the theme of engaging children. Together these courses will support practitioners to:

- understand what 'engaging children as partners in practice' means and why it is important for children, families, practitioners and organisations
- work confidently and proactively to include children, where appropriate, in conversations about decisions that affect their lives
- increase practitioner confidence in the practice of micro-skills of engaging children
- prioritise responding to children's social and emotional wellbeing where parents and families present with many co-existing issues; and
- work with children and their parents regarding challenges that don't necessarily fit within their specialist practice area.

Through this course you will become familiar with the key values that underpin the concept of engaging children as partners in practice, and consider how these link with the values and practice ethics you bring to this area of your work. You will also be introduced to the key shifts in position and perspective required to effectively engage children as partners in practice.

### Why was this course developed?

Effective work with children in relation to their mental health and wellbeing begins with practitioners and services adopting a 'stance' or 'perspective' of children's skills, knowledge and agency. This course was developed to lay this foundation.

### How was this course developed?

A literature review was undertaken into what Australian children had reported as being important to them in terms of how adult practitioners seek to work with them. Additional literature was gathered and child and family practitioners were consulted. The content was then reviewed by Emerging Minds and Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) staff, and tested via a presentation to practitioners from diverse contexts and a Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) webinar.

### What are the learning outcomes of this course?

As a result of this course you will:

#### *Understand:*

- the meaning of 'engaging children as partners in practice' and why it is important for children, families, communities, practitioners and organisations
- how 'engaging children as partners in practice' can provide a foundation for responding to concerns about the effects of 'adult problems' on children's mental health and wellbeing
- the practitioner position/perspective that is required to do this work well.

#### *Envisage:*

- the possibilities and benefits of engaging children as partners in practice in your own context
- some of the potential challenges and dilemmas that accompany this work.

#### *Begin:*

- to take steps to adopt the practitioner position/perspective that supports engaging with children as partners in practice.

Visit the course at: [emergingminds.com.au/training](https://emergingminds.com.au/training)

Delivery partners:



RACGP

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