

Additional Interviewing Techniques

Sometimes a person you are interviewing is struggling to communicate or isn't able to express her or his ideas. These people may be shy or very young. Use these techniques to engage stakeholders in different ways.

USE PLAY OR DRAWING

- Ask the student to show you their favorite and least favorite things about school, either through playing with toys or drawing pictures.
- Ask them, "Tell me more about why you did that... Tell me about what this means..."
- Be sure to take notes and write down specific quotations that you hear.

READ A STORY

- Read a story about school or look at a picture book together.
- Ask them, "What do you like about this? Why? What do you dislike about this? Why? How does this remind you of our school? How does it not remind you of our school?"
- Be sure to take notes and write down specific quotations that you hear.

IMAGE SORT

- Print out ten to twelve pictures of items or places that are relevant to the student (playground, train station, home, the ocean, a cake, etc.). The pictures can be generic - they do not need to be of your community, school, etc.
- Ask the student to pick out images that remind them of how they feel when they are at school. These images do not need to be directly relevant - they are meant to prompt the student's creative and emotional reflection.
- Ask them, "Why did you choose this image? How does this remind you of our school? How does it not remind you of our school?"
- Be sure to take notes and write down specific quotations that you hear.



ASK STUDENTS TO CHOOSE FACES THAT REPRESENT THEIR FEELINGS

- Give the student a sheet with different faces on it - see below as an example.
- Ask them, "Point to the face that represents how you feel about school. Tell me more about why you choose that face."
- You can also ask, "Tell me about your best day at school. Pick the face that represents that day. Tell me about why you choose that face."
- You can also ask, "Tell me about your worst day at school. Pick the face that represents that day. Tell me about why you choose that face."
- Let the student interpret what each face means to them and explain to you what they are thinking.
- Be sure to take notes and write down specific quotations that you hear.



ASK STUDENTS TO INTERVIEW A FRIEND

- Ask the student to find a friend to interview about school. Tell them you want to learn more about their experience with school and you want to see it through their eyes.
- Observe and listen as the student interviews their friend.
- Afterwards, debrief with the interviewer. Ask them, "Tell me more about why you asked that question... What did you think of their answer? Do you relate to that? Why or why not?"
- Be sure to take notes and write down specific quotations that you hear.

TAKE A TOUR

- Ask the student to show you their favorite and least favorite things about school by taking you on a tour.
- Ask them, "Tell me more about why you brought me here... What do you like about this? Why? What do you dislike about this? Why?"
- Be sure to take notes and write down specific quotations that you hear.