



## PODCAST WITH FOSTER CARE SOCIAL WORKERS

By Lisselotte Lowagie, Agency Growing Up, Flanders, 2022

### PART 3: Value of a 3-years old child's voice

Lisselotte

How does this work with very young children (3 years old)? Is there sufficient value attached to this group?

Katrijn

The child cannot put it into words. But the child's change in behavior can be observed by all those who are around the child.

What can certain changes (visits, school) mean for the child? You must listen to the answers that people around the child give to those questions. Can the child cope with certain things? What does the behavior tell us?

The behavior of a child says a lot. To the supervisor: *"Look at this carefully."* To the foster carers: *what do you see in the child's sleeping- behaviour, eating-, and body language?*

You can also see the child's experience during play moments. Using tools like puppets and duplo can also give images to language. By playing along and asking questions during and about the game,

"What does the house look like?" With "story stamps" completed, how does the child experience this supplement? In what way will the child bring this out? These are not objective facts and it is still an interpretation, but they do give a bit of a view or it can raise a few points of attention.