



## **Child-Focused Direct Work**

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At Bright Family Pathways Ltd, direct work with children is at the heart of what we do. We believe that every child deserves to be heard, understood, and meaningfully involved in decisions that affect their lives.

We take time to understand each child's experiences, wishes, and feelings, ensuring their voice is clearly reflected in assessments, reports, and recommendations. Our work is always child-centred, trauma-informed, and suited to the child's age and developmental stage, helping them feel safe, respected, and supported.

### **Our approach to Child-focused direct work**

Child-focused direct work involves working sensitively and purposefully with children and young people to understand their lived experiences, relationships, wishes, and feelings. At Bright Family Pathways Ltd, direct work is undertaken in a way that is age-appropriate, respectful, and responsive to each child's communication needs and individual circumstances.

A range of recognised tools and approaches are used to support meaningful engagement with children. These may include creative, visual, play-based, and conversational methods, adapted to the child's age, developmental stage, and level of understanding. Where appropriate, tools informed by the Signs of Safety model are used to explore what is working well in a child's life, what the child may be worried about, and what helps them to feel safe and supported.

Direct work is carefully planned and undertaken at a pace that supports participation and emotional safety. The purpose of direct work is to gain an informed understanding of the child's experience without placing responsibility or pressure on the child.

### **The Child's Voice**

The voice of the child is central to all direct work undertaken by Bright Family Pathways Ltd. Children's views, wishes, and feelings are actively sought and, where possible,



recorded using their own words, ensuring that their perspectives meaningfully inform assessments and planning.

Children's contributions are considered alongside professional observation, evidence-based assessment, and safeguarding information. While decision-making remains the responsibility of adults and professionals, children's voices are treated with respect and given appropriate weight in shaping understanding and analysis.

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### **How We Work with Children**

We tailor our direct work to each child, creating a safe and supportive environment where they can express themselves freely. This may include:

- One-to-one sessions in a comfortable and appropriate setting
- Creative methods such as play, drawing, and age-appropriate activities
- Gentle, guided conversations to explore thoughts and feelings
- Clear explanations so children understand who we are and how we can help

Children are never pressured to share more than they feel comfortable with. Their emotional wellbeing is always our priority.

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### **How Direct Work Is Recorded and Used**

Direct work with children is recorded accurately, respectfully, and in line with professional standards and statutory guidance. Observations, children's views (where appropriate) their own words are documented in a child-sensitive and balanced manner. Information gathered through direct work is used to inform assessment, analysis, and court reporting, alongside other sources of evidence, rather than in isolation.

All records are handled lawfully and securely, and information is shared only where appropriate, proportionate, and in accordance with data protection legislation, safeguarding responsibilities, and the Bright Family Pathways Ltd Privacy and Data Protection Notice.

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### **Safeguarding and Consent**



Safeguarding is central to all our work. We ensure that:

- Appropriate consent is obtained from those with parental responsibility
- Children understand their rights, including their right to be heard and to privacy
- Any concerns about a child's safety are addressed promptly and in line with statutory guidance.

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### **Further Information**

If you wish to make a referral for child-focused direct work, please complete the relevant referral form available on the 'Make a Referral' page. For further information about our direct work with children, assessments, or supervised contact services, you may also contact us at [info@brightfamilypathways.co.uk](mailto:info@brightfamilypathways.co.uk)

Bright Family Pathways Ltd