To add to the depth and breadth of knowledge about each child, it is important to consider ways of including parents/carers, children and other partners in the process of documenting children's learning. When partners have opportunities to share information, to reflect and to contribute ideas, the quality of the information gathered is likely to be richer.

There is also an increased likelihood of developing a shared sense of purpose when parents and children feel valued as active partners in the process. This is very important for young children in terms of developing a sense of agency and voice about their learning.

The following questions are designed to help teachers focus on their existing observation and documentation practices, and to consider new possibilities for engaging partners in the process. These questions may be used as a focus for professional conversations:

- How are parents/carers, children and colleagues currently contributing to the observation and documentation process?
- Are any voices silent? If so, why? What factors are contributing to this situation and how can they be ameliorated, e.g. through changing communication strategies, improving time management, ensuring all parties understand what you are trying to achieve?
- Can parents/carers document ideas and conversations they have had at home with their child? Can they use this documentation to contribute to the conversations/decision making about their child’s direction of learning?
- Is there a place in teacher observations for parents/carers to share their thoughts?
- What role do children have in the collection of data and reflections on their learning? Can they make choices about the information collected?
- Can children take photographs of what they consider significant about their learning?
- What rights do children and parents/carers have about information that is displayed publicly?
- How are colleagues able to contribute their knowledge and ‘ways of seeing’ to the observation and analytical process?
- Are observational tools (e.g. a video recorder or camera) available to families so that they can record experiences at home?
- How do children and their families know you value their contributions?