Thinking and Talking Floor Books

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**Background information:**

- It is called a ‘floor book’ because the book is used on the floor so that the children have close access to it.

- Writing in a thinking and talking floor book explores the shared thinking in a more formal way so that children recall each others ideas and record them through writing, drawing and photographs.

- Many children re-visit the books and learn from a previous groups experience or indeed their own ideas from a previous session.

- Thinking and talking floor books create a child centred approach, which records the evidence of the process of play and the learning that comes from it.

- Updating the floor book in consultation with children is important because:
  - It creates closer match between the child and the curriculum they are experiencing
  - It builds self esteem and positive attitudes when the learner is involved in the decision making
  - It increases intrinsic motivation, that stays with a child throughout life.
  - Children have a right to be treated with respect by valuing their thoughts and opinions.

**Features of a talking and thinking floor book include:**

- *Children’s ideas and thoughts*

- *Open ended questions* - Questions are posed as a part of a conversation and are designed to stimulate thought and not test knowledge.

- *Higher order thinking*

- *Depth of learning* - Collating children’s ideas in a book form ensures that the group focus on continuity and progression over longer blocks of time.
• **Collaborative learning** - floor books are designed to be a large size to allow children to gather around them and engage in a learning dialogue around the content of the pages.

• **A variety of methods to represent thinking** - adult scribing the questions and conversations, children’s drawings, photos, adult observations.

• **Collates child centred ideas that are taken forward by the early years staff** - the floor book is an integral part of planning.

• *The books are available to children ay all times.*

**Floor books share:**

• **Ideas**

• **Reflections**

• **Challenges, solutions and failures**

• **Thoughts**

• **Actions**

• **Observations**

• **Plans**

• **Desires**

**Practical notes:**

• *Children draw/write on separate pieces of paper which the adult glues into the book*

• *Notes taken from mat sessions can be typed and glued into the floorbook*

• *A conversation with an individual child can be included in the book*