

CEPNET Facilitation Strategies

<p>Encouraging dialogue</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join participants at their level 2. SOUL (Silence, observe, understand, listen) before jumping in 3. Conversational turn taking /levelling – say what you mean/ be honest 4. Acknowledging children’s contributions (repeating and restating) 5. Expand or extend conversation through contributions, comments and /or personal stories 6. Use <i>why</i> questions to encourage participants’ construction of knowledge and understanding
<p>Maintaining the focus</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect children’s ideas back to the focus 2. Summarize ideas and move on 3. Ask group, continue with this thread or move on?
<p>Manage participation</p>	<p>Children’s communication styles may vary, along with their quantity of verbal contributions. Draw out the quieter participants through small group work. Try asking a ‘safe’ question or establishing their opinion once the topic has been initially debated. In addition, consider allocating different roles to the high frequency or noisy contributors such as minute taker, time keeper, or writing on the flipchart. Ensure group work has a balance of participants with different communication styles</p>

Adjust your facilitation style

The facilitation style needs to meet the needs of the group at different development stages. For example, a directive style of facilitation works well at the beginning of the dialogues. This is because participants typically prefer someone to initially take charge and take them in the right direction – particularly in new group meetings. However, after time when the group has settled down working effectively together, a more suggestive or consultative facilitation style would be more appropriate.