

Family Names

It is not uncommon for practitioners to call children's parents 'mam' or 'dad' without acknowledging their name.

Using people's names instead of their 'role' humanises our conversations and centres people as a first step in bridging the gap between professionals and parents / family.

Using parents and family members name rather than 'mam / dad / maternal grandma / paternal aunt' is a simple step towards acknowledging the valuable participation parents and family members make in providing the best possible plan of support for a child. Mutual respect and effective communication are the foundation of trust and co-production.

Reflections for Practice:

- How often do you reflect on the names you are using when you are working with children and their families?
- How often do you check with families what they would like to be called?
- Do you explain to families when entering court proceedings that it's likely they will now be referred to as Ms, Mrs, Mr 'last name'. Do you prepare families for this change?

