

## The Mosaic Approach - a summary

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- It combines visual and verbal methods
- It is focused on the lived experience of children
- Has been successfully used with children aged 2 +
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### Stage One:

- Children and adults gathering documentation
- Practitioners and parents reflect on what they think life is like in a setting for particular children in their care.
- Especially important when children are pre verbal.

### Stage Two:

- Piecing together information for dialogue, reflection and interpretation
- Practitioners and parents listen to the children's own perspectives.

### Methodology

- Child conferencing
- Cameras
- Audio recordings
- Tours and walks
- Mapping
- Older children as interpreters
- Role play, puppets etc.
- Parents perspectives
- Practitioners perspectives
- Observation

All these different evidences are brought together in a 'mosaic' to give us a picture of what life is like for the child.

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by Alison Clark and Peter Moss  
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In the example:

This is Anna and her Mum and one of their dogs. Anna is 2. She has met me once before but not at her house.

I asked Mum what Anna liked best and where was special to her. She talked about her bedroom, the dogs, the bath, her clothes.

I asked Anna to show me the things that were special to her and what she liked.

1. She took me to her play room and showed me her baby cot, then she put the baby in in. Anna took all the photos, sometimes with a little assistance.
2. Next she took me to her bedroom, she showed me her bed, her toys on her bed and her books. When I asked her what her favourite toy was she showed me Ted. She also showed me her window ledge where there were some precious things including her name. (I haven't shown that for reasons of confidentiality)
3. She then took me to her parents room and showed me where Dad slept. Then onto the bathroom where toys in bath, special jug for her hair, where she showers with Mum and her toothbrush were shown
4. Then she took me to her Dads office
5. Where her clothes are kept....special things were her sparkly shoes and pink tights
6. Downstairs, fleeting photo of a dog, her cycle kit and dry suit and then her current favourite toy.

In addition to how I had seen her eating lunch, cuddling with Mummy, dancing to music and playing I reflected that Anna was a settled girl, secure in her home, a clear sense of what is hers and that Dad was an important person in her life.

Anna has some words, mostly nouns, but her speech is limited. She has lived with her new adoptive family for 5 weeks.