

**Life Work**

**Why is Life Work**

Important

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Children who live with their birth families have many opportunities to know their past and to clarify past and present events. However, children separated from their birth families are often denied these opportunities; they may have changed families, social workers, schools, homes, and moved away from familiar neighbourhoods and communities. Children who lose track of their past and who are confused about the present are likely to find it difficult to develop emotionally and socially. They will struggle to develop a secure understanding of who they are, have difficulty in developing secure attachments to other adults, and may get ‘stuck’ in damaging fantasies they form to make sense of their confusion.

Effective Life Work requires planning and consideration of the child’s background, their needs, thoughts, feelings and level of understanding. Practitioners should also be mindful of the importance of utilising resources available such as records to provide background information, support from the process of supervision in managing their own feelings and experiences when facilitating direct work with children and young people and being mindful of responding to verbal and non-verbal cues displayed by the child or young person, choosing a suitable environment, etc

[Link to Principles of Life Work doc]