

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Let's explore expertise

Learning aims

For pre-school children:

- Recall and share experiences
- Learn about individual skills, knowledge and interests
- Discuss and celebrate similarities and differences
- Practice listening and communication skills
- Introduce new vocabulary.



Resources

- Parent or family volunteers
- Photographs of volunteers, preferably showing their unique expertise
- A board or wall to attach the photos
- Blue tack.

Activity Outline

Preparation

1. With the children, explain and explore what is meant by expertise. Expertise is having a high level of skill or knowledge about a particular thing. Expertise comes from interest, repetition and practice, which enhances skills, knowledge and confidence
 - Give some examples of your own expertise, maybe you are a good storyteller or singer or good at decorating
 - Ask the children to tell you their expertise, supporting them by pointing out areas where they have skills and confidence. For example, some children may be experienced and confident builders, others may be good runners and some may be imaginative and creative artists.
2. Invite parents and family members to share their individual expertise – this could be their occupation, a hobby, something they are working hard to achieve or something they are interested in
 - Ask if they could send in photographs of their expertise (if they are able to) for example, Grandad doing the gardening, Dad baking a cake or Mum driving her police car
 - Encourage families to share their expertise in more detail with their child so they can develop more knowledge about this ready to share at nursery

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- Also ask parents and family members if any of them would be willing to volunteer to come in and show or talk to the children about their expertise
- Where possible, arrange a varied mix of visitors in order to promote and value diversity.

Activity

3. Go through the photographs you have received and secure these to a board or wall one at a time. For the child whose family member it is they can stand alongside the photo and share what they know about the person's expertise to a small group, if they would like to
4. Encourage the children to share the skills, knowledge and interests their families have and engage in discussion about similarities and differences
5. Prepare the children for visits from family members, such as discussing what props they may bring with them or what they think a job title might mean
6. During the visits the family member can talk to the children, demonstrate their expertise and share any props, introducing relevant new vocabulary
7. If it is safe to do so, engage children in the activity. A few examples could be an older sibling demonstrating football skills then engaging children in ball skills outdoors, or a keen gardener who supports the children to plant seeds and build a wildlife habitat
8. Observe children's interactions with the visitors, sensitively join in the dialogue to encourage conversation and role model asking questions such as 'I wonder ...?'

Extending the activity

- Document the visits by taking photographs (with the appropriate permissions) and create displays or scrap books so children can revisit these and recall their experiences
- Provide a range of appropriate props or objects so that children can incorporate what they have learnt into their role play
- Encourage children to continue to recognise and share their own developing expertise and support each other to develop new skills and knowledge. This is a particularly valuable activity as children prepare for their transition to primary school.

NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [SEND – working with parents – Online course](#)
- [Gender equal play - factsheet](#)