

Video Worksheet 3: Being humble and respectful

[Watch video here](#)

Humility is the foundation for effective work by outsiders who want to enable a community-led process. If you are not from the community context then it is very likely that the local people will have better knowledge of the harms children face and possible ways of addressing those harms. As practitioners, we need to respect the knowledge and expertise that already exists in the communities where we work and be humble enough to accept that we might not be the experts. Before assuming that our approach might be better, or that the community needs to be educated, corrected, or guided by us, we first need to acknowledge what we do not know, and learn from the community.

Why practitioners need humility

You may have been trained in child protection or worked on child protection projects before, but it is still useful to think about the limits of our knowledge and expertise. To begin with, child protection issues are complex. There are often no simple answers to many child protection issues,

so listening deeply to community members and learning from their experience is vital. Learning and evidence tells us that effective and sustainable child protection strategies start with engaging a community in an inclusive, humble and respectful way – not as ‘the expert’. It would be a mistake to think that we always have the answers.

Learn More

Read more about the importance of respect and humility in community-led child protection work [here](#).

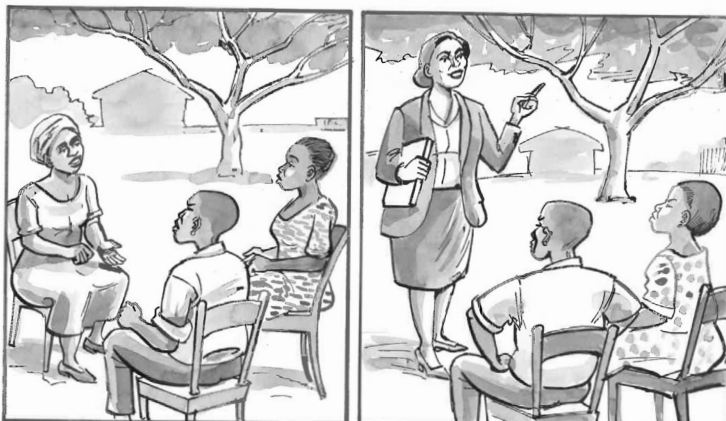
For some more ideas and tools on humble approaches to community-led child protection work [watch this short video \(1 min 57 secs\)](#)

One way of showing humility and respect is through ‘deep listening’. Learn more about it [here](#).

There are many benefits to being humble and respectful in your engagement with communities:

- People are more likely to speak openly if they do not feel that they are being judged or that the outsiders consider themselves to be more knowledgeable.
- A humble approach acknowledges and helps to address the power differences between the community and the NGO and invites the community to be in the driver’s seat.
- If we adopt a humble approach to listening and being there to serve the community, we will build deeper relationships because the community members feel that their ideas and approaches are respected.
- When local people see that the focus is on them and what they themselves can do, there will likely be greater agency on the part of the community and less dependency on outsiders.

HUMILITY



Which one shows humility by the facilitator?

Discussion and self-reflection

1. Which image shows humility by the facilitator, and why?