

Jordan's story

How can clinicians involve children and young people who lack capacity, in decision-making about treatment?

Even when a young person – ah - lacks capacity, you can still work with them in a way that really respects their input. Um, so even if a young person is expressing a desire to do something that obviously is unsafe, or, you know, doesn't contribute to their overall wellness, it's still possible to hear maybe what they're, they're saying overall. Maybe they're wanting to be in a location that is more comfortable for their needs, maybe the distress that they're expressing when they're in the room with you, is a result of discomfort maybe with the practitioner more so than - ah – any kind of you know overall unwellness, like it's, it's always better to look at each situa- uh situation individually and just assess constantly 'okay so maybe this is relevant to the situation that they're in right now, and that's communicating like a different need that hasn't been met yet, so how can we address that so we can facilitate this person having more input into their own treatment', you know, 'how can we be changing our treatment or – ah - working in a way that allows them to express as much as they can within that time, you know, what works best for them', you know.

Always keeping the persons' safety in mind, but also always keeping in mind their rights and individual wishes, and what maybe they aren't able to communicate to you right now, but really wants to communicate.