A scaffolded conversation with an early childhood beginning teacher

Before your conversation:

Print 2 copies of the bicycle image over the page, one for your EC Beginning Teacher* and one for yourself – if you are working at different centres and are unable to meet in person you may need to email the image ;-) and follow up with a phone chat. If you do not have an EC beginning teacher at present, engage in the task with a colleague or assistant.

The velocipede image will provide a stimulus for both of you to consider how you are feeling as either a mentor or as an EC beginning teacher. Usually a conversation scaffold such as this would be used at the beginning of your work together and later in the mentoring relationship to help you better understand each other.

Individually think about how you will respond to the following prompt – essentially you will be beginning in each other’s lifeworlds.

Please take some notes to document your chat, which you will share with colleagues at the workshop.

If aspects of this drawing represent how you are feeling now, at this time of year, identify which ones and explain how they reflect what you are feeling.

Our conversation:

1. Share our responses to the above prompt...

2. What do our responses say about how we are feeling about our work together? Similarities? Differences? What might that mean?

3. What are you most excited about?

4. What are two things that are challenging you at the moment that you would like to work on with me?

5. What are some things that I should really know about you and how you prefer to work to make sure we get the most out of our partnership?

6. In what ways will our learning and working together be good for our learners?