

# VIT Video

## THE INQUIRY PROCESS – TIPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

*If you're a provisionally registered teacher about to begin your Inquiry process to move to full registration, there's lots of information on our website to help you.*

*But if you work in an early childhood setting, you may have some further questions:*

- *How do I find a mentor?*
- *What if my mentor can't physically get to where I'm teaching?*
- *How do I observe a colleague?*
- *How do I organise a panel?*

*First, how do I find a mentor?*

*If your service is an Early Years Management organisation, ask the manager if there's a potential mentor at a nearby service.*

*If your service is coordinated by local government, the relevant officer might be able to source a mentor for you.*

*If your employer operates multiple services, your area manager or equivalent might be able to point you to an experienced teacher from another service.*

*Early childhood professional associations can help.*

*Use your professional network or alumni contacts.*

*Consider networking opportunities like conferences and professional development. Your local government may hold networking events.*

*Contact your local primary school. There may be teachers there who are early years trained.*

*Consider becoming a member of relevant early childhood social media pages.*

*And once you've organised a mentor – what happens if they can't actually get to where you are?*

*Don't worry, you can communicate via video conferencing, such as Skype or Polycomm.*

*And you could video your practice so that your mentor can observe you.*

*These solutions can also help if you have trouble observing an experienced colleague's practice. Your colleague could video their class for you to observe.*

*And then once you've finished your Inquiry, how do you organise a panel?*

*First, you should approach your employer about organising a panel.*

*Here's how a panel generally looks:*

1. *A registered early childhood teacher or registered teacher who has completed the VIT mentor training program.*
2. *A registered early childhood teacher or registered teacher nominated by you, who knows your work.*
3. *A registered early childhood teacher.*

*Any of those three can chair the panel.*

*If you're struggling to find all three, contact us at VIT.*

*And remember, for more information about the Inquiry Process, check out our website, and good luck!*