**Tricky Conversations – Raising concerns**

**SENCo /key person- self- reflection**

**At the planning stage:**

Ask yourself…

* What are the benefits and disadvantages of taking a more formal or informal approach to your conversation?
* What are some examples of evidence you could gather to support discussion around your concerns?
* Why is it important to gather home information as part of your preparation?

**At the meeting stage:**

Ask yourself…

* What might be some useful ‘openers’ to begin the conversation with parents?
* What could you do before, during or after the discussion to help parents feel comfortable during your conversation?
* How would you ensure that the conversation was two-way?
* What strategies could you use to involve parents in the discussion?
* What would you do if parents asked a question during your conversation that you didn’t feel able to answer?
* How might you support a parent who appeared disengaged in your conversation?
* What are some of the potential challenges you may face in a conversation with a parent and how can you overcome these?

**Next Steps**

Ask yourself…

* Would you know how to make a referral to a professional agency e.g. Speech and Language therapist, Occupational therapist, Paediatrician?
* Do you know where to go within the local area and nationally to get further support for the parents?
* Think about the long-term outcomes for the child that might be agreed with parents. How can they bebroken down into small short-term targets?
* How would you ensure continued support for parents following this initial conversation? What would you put in place to make sure parents feel supported? What might you agree as your next steps with the parents?