

**Activity: What helps children learn****Objectives:**

1. Parents understand what helps children to learn
2. Parents explore the six principles
3. Parents see children as having the same feelings as themselves
4. Through sharing an experience with others the group gets to know each other better.

**Process – Set the Scene**

Discipline is the process of teaching and learning by following a good example.  
Punishment is to make suffer for a wrongdoing.

Parenting is a process of discipline leading to self-discipline. We are constantly trying to teach our children how we want them to behave.

**Individual:** I am going to give you three minutes to think about the last time you had to learn something from someone else. Maybe it was a new job, how to drive or cook or play an instrument. As you remember that time of you trying to learn the new thing I want you to think about what the person teaching you did and which things they did were helpful and which were not.

**Small group discussion:** Now I would like you to join with one or two other people and share your experiences of learning something new. I would like you to come up with a list of the things the person teaching you did that were helpful and another list of the things that were unhelpful. The list can be written or kept in your head. You will have three minutes each to share your experience then four minutes to make your lists. We will then make a big list with the ideas from the whole group.

**Large group:** When you are ready please call out the items from your list and I will jot them on the whiteboard here.

[Once the two lists are written up play the SKIP 'Children's Voices' DVD clip to see what children say helps them to learn. Reflect with the group and ask whether people whether there are differences in what helps children learn and what helps adults learn.]

**Extension:** When putting the helpful items from the small group lists onto the white board put them each under a SKIP principle. You can also do this by:

- getting the small groups to write each helpful thing on a post it note and then placing under the principle they think it matches
- dividing the big group into 6 groups and giving each a principle and asking them to list behaviours helpful to learning that fit their principle
- giving everyone a SKIP 6 principles poster to take home that they can write them onto for their own record.

**Options:** If the group is less than 8 people skip over the small group stage and get individuals to share their story with everyone.

**Resources used:**

SKIP Voices DVD

DVD player/TV/datashow

SKIP 6 principles poster