

Your Future **me** Design Thinking Problem Brief

Department:
Childhood, Youth & Education Studies

Question:

How do you support children/young people from diverse backgrounds, with different experiences and identities, to feel respected and fully able to participate in learning?

You can choose any context for learning that you wish. More guidance is below.

Context:

Research shows us that children and young people face many layers of **discrimination, prejudice** and **inequality** that can impact on their learning. Amongst other things, this could be linked to their social class background, gender, race, religion, disability and sexual orientation.

We want you to consider ways that we can change this situation, from the small everyday things you think we could do to the bigger, wider, societal changes that need to happen. We also want you to explore the opportunities / barriers that you think could help/hinder making change happen, as a professional working with children/young people.

The question is deliberately broad to allow you scope to choose your own focus. You might want to focus on:

- A particular age-group e.g. Early Years
- A specific social division such as class, gender, race and ethnicity
- A particular place of learning e.g. nursery, school or home
- A particular aspect or level of learning (e.g. literacy and numeracy, GCSE, online learning etc)

First, start by reflecting on your degree learning so far. What ideas, concepts, theories do you already know about that could be relevant?

Then, do some research about your chosen place/group/area of learning. What things affect learning in relation to this?

Starting points/ prompts:

Here are some further questions to consider:

- What **diverse backgrounds** can you think of?
- How/can you provide **equal opportunities** for children/young people to learn?
- What factors might shape children's learning?
- What opportunities and barriers could you face in making change happen, as a professional working with children/young people?

Starting points

- If you've had an opportunity to engage with the Birley Place as part of your degree, you might want to utilise Birley Place to start to research your topic. Birley Place is a virtual community, modelled on the community in which Brooks is based. Publicly-available health and population data have been used to ensure that the homes, businesses and services in this virtual community are representative of distinct socio-economic areas of the city. [This worksheet](#) will help you to re-fresh and re-orientate yourself to Birley Place.
- To help provide an introduction to equality and diversity you could enrol on the [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion RISE course](#) and complete section 1: 'Understanding Equality, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging'. You can dip into other sections if you want to and complete the whole thing later on. You can get 40 RISE points if you complete this course and it will be a really relevant and useful CV-Builder.
- If you are interested in exploring this outside of formal education (schools, colleges) then you might also want to look into the '[Alternative perspectives on Education](#)' RISE course
- If you want to situate this in the context of tackling post-pandemic learning inequalities <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/quest/towards-a-better-society/educational-inequality.aspx>

This problem gives you an opportunity to engage in discussions and debates around a number of different issues that feature on your course:

- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Challenging inequalities
- Professional practice
- How children develop and learn