

When we are getting to know kids, there are a few different things that we are trying to infer. To teach kids effectively, it is important to continually grow our knowledge of (these are not things that we will ever “know” in a static way. These knowledges evolve because kids change over time):

- Who and what they LOVE. Even if that thing is not school-related. Also, it is important to know that when kids are young, the things that they love change. Frequently.
- How they know what they know. For example, if a kid knows all the Fortnite dances. Understanding how they came to know these things can benefit me immensely.
- How children find commonality with other kids. This helps me to understand identity and how they see themselves in this moment.
- What they consider their best attributes to be. Even if those attributes are not school-related.
- Why they choose to engage in learning.
- What they want out of life right now.
- **How I might put all of these insights into use...**



Unlike adults, kids will not tell us these things outright. These are complicated things to know about oneself (even for adults!). We learn these things by listening to kids and by seeking to understand them as best we can.

Most times we discover these things in informal ways. This interview is designed to help us learn from kids by thinking about what we learn from the (sometimes non-school-related) things that they say and do.

1. **I want to know what children like** -- what they are into. Sometimes I discover this by asking. Sometimes I discover this through the books that they read, the clothes that they wear, the conversations that they have, things that they carry or by the company that they keep.
 - a. I also want to know how they connect to others or form community around that thing. I want to know who those others are.
 - b. I want to know how they learn or build knowledge about that thing. This is valuable insight for the academic work that we want to do with them.

2. **I want to know what each child wants** -- what makes them “go”? Some kids want to be seen as experts, others want to be funny or tough or cool or known as the most creative or helpful. Some kids want lots of friends. Others want to be left alone. Some kids feel overwhelmed or confused or unseen or misunderstood, and they are seeking clarity. I want to get a sense of what kids want out of the social experience of school because this can impact how I craft the academic experience.
 - a. I want to know how I can support them to craft healthy visions of who they want to be.
 - b. Additionally, I want them to move closer to realizing their goals by linking my lessons to their aspirations.

3. **I want to know how I can best support each kid** -- what do they need from me? How do I need to teach? What kinds of experiences do I need to create? What does the room need to look and feel like so that we can get authentic learning done?



These are the things that I need to know, but these do not necessarily have to be the questions we ask. We can ask or talk about other things that can get us to these understandings... This is where our creativity comes in...