# VR Simulation Exercise for Informed Practice with Children. 9.4.2019

# FIRST DRAFT

## Title: Visiting Chris’s Home

## Instructions for students:

**Introduction:** This virtual reality scenario is designed to help you observe and record your assessment of a child’s environment. That means you will be considering the environment from a child’s perspective with his/her needs in mind. Strengths and challenges for the child should be the subject of your assessment.

**Observation task**:

My name is………..I’m a social work student on placement in an early intervention service (for 1-5 year old children). I have been asked to visit the home of a family that has recently moved into the area after a difficult parental separation. The referral to the early intervention service has come from a teacher who describes the child, Chris, as “a shy child who seems withdrawn and does not mix with the other children”. The purpose of my visit is to begin a general assessment of Chris’s home environment.

**Questions for students pre-visit**:

* How do you prepare for this visit?
* What emotions does this evoke for you?’
* What ‘baggage’ do you bring to this situation?
* What is your hypothesis/explanation of what is going on here?

**During visit:**

* What do you see?
* What does this tell you about the family that live here?

**Questions for students post-visit**:

* Did the family know you were coming?
* What is your hypothesis of what is going on here now?
* What may be some other explanations?
* What more do you need to know?
* Who would you ask for more information?
* What strategies would you use to build rapport?
* What questions would you ask?
* How would you ask for more information?
* How is this a child centred approach to assessment?
* What are the strengths in the child’s environment?
* What are the challenges in the child’s environment?
* Are there indicators of the child’s cultural background?

**Information for tutors**:

As part of this course students will have basic knowledge of legislation and policies re children and well-being. They will also have studied a current assessment framework prior to engaging with the VR scenario.

Things to consider in discussion:

**Pre-engagement with VR:**

Explore what an ‘early intervention service’ means and what its purpose is.

Students will need to clarify the purpose of their visit to Chris’s home.

Students will need to clarify the purpose of their assessment of Chris’s environment.

**During or after engagement with VR:**

Have students picked up on gender?

Have they considered the developmental stage of the child with reference to CD theories?

Students are expected to give a reasonable description of child’s environment

Students are instructed to look for positives and challenges for the child in this environment.

**Debrief questions:**

How did you come to that conclusion?

**Assessment-worth 50% of course mark.**

Case notes (with refs)

Your preparation was.

Your visit.

Your conclusion: summary analysis.