

Observation, assessment and planning

Starting with the child

- Observe children to find out about their needs, what they are interested in and what they can do.
- Note children's responses in different situations.
- Analyse your observations and highlight children's achievements or their need for further support.
- Involve parents as part of the ongoing observation and assessment process.

Planning and assessment

- Planning always follows the same pattern - observe, analyse and use what you found out about the children in your group so that you plan for the next steps in their learning.

Supporting every child

Children's needs

- Children need sensitive, knowledgeable adults who know when and how to engage their interests and how to offer support at different times.
- Children benefit from a range of experiences, including those that are predictable, comforting and challenging.

The learning journey

- Learning is a continuous journey through which children build on all the things they have already experienced and come across new and interesting challenges.
- Every child's learning journey takes a personal path based on their own individual interests, experiences and the curriculum on offer.

Working together

- A setting which recognises the needs of every child plans learning journeys suitable for groups but flexible enough to cater for individual pathways along the way.
- Parents and professionals work together to identify what is necessary for each child at any particular time.

The learning environment

The emotional environment

- The emotional environment is created by everyone in the setting but adults have to ensure that it is warm and accepting.
- Adults need to empathise with children and support their emotions.
- When children feel confident in the environment they are willing to try things out, knowing their effort is valued.
- When children know their feelings are accepted, they learn to express them, confident that adults will help with how they are feeling.

The outdoor environment

- Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on a different scale than being indoors.
- The outdoor environment gives children first-hand contact with the natural world.

The indoor environment

- The indoor environment contains resources which are appropriate, well-maintained and accessible for all children.
- Indoor spaces are planned flexibly, using an appropriate range of activities.

