

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Cohort Analysis and Tracker

#### **What is the purpose of this tracker?**

The cohort tracker enables leaders and managers to compile an overview of groups of children attending the setting. How children are grouped into cohorts is at the leaders or managers discretion.

The cohort tracker is beneficial in developing the setting and improving quality in terms of effective practice and provision. See '*Progress from the Start*' Card 7 for further information on this.

#### **How often should I complete the cohort tracker and analyse the data?**

Refer to '*Progress from the Start*' Card 7 for further clarification on this point. It is important that you look at 'patterns and trends' of cohorts and compare over a period of time

'the grid needs to be completed once a year at a time chosen by the setting (eg you may decide to do this in January, as the information can then be used to further develop practice and provision before some children transfer to school).' *Taken from Progress from the Start – Card 7.*

#### **Do we need to send the Cohort Tracker to the Local Authority?**

At the present time this is not a requirement.

It is good practice to share findings with all practitioners, committees etc.

#### **Do we need to reflect on both Prime and Specific Areas?**

Yes. The specific areas are the context through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied (*Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, p5*).

#### **Do we use percentages or numbers when conducting analysis?**

In order to make a comparison it really is necessary to convert numbers into percentages.

#### **Do we have to complete a Cohort Tracker and who should complete this?**

It is best practice to analyse cohort data as this can inform future planning and practice within the setting. This data can also be used to inform Self Evaluation Form as Ofsted are looking for information on children's progress.

Leaders and managers should be the ones to complete the Cohort Tracker and analyse data.

Childminders with small numbers of children may choose not to use the Cohort Tracker and instead use the Individual Progress Tracker to reflect on their practice. Also refer to *Progress from the Start Card 7 'What do we do with the information from the cohort tracker'?*

#### **Do we need to put the EAR on the Cohort Tracker?**

No, but the EARs may be reflected upon during the discussions and support explanations.

**Will Ofsted want to see how well we help children make progress?**

Inspections will focus on how well individual children benefit from their early years experience. They will want to see how well you help all children to make effective progress; especially those whose needs or circumstances require intervention or additional support. This may include:

- disabled children, and those who have special educational needs
- boys
- girls
- groups of children with starting points that are significantly below those expected for their age
- those who are easily able to exceed expectations for their age
- children from disadvantaged backgrounds including funded two year olds and looked after children
- children for whom English is an additional language