

Frequently Asked Questions

The Early Assessment Review (EAR)

Why does the EAR have to be completed within 6 weeks?

You need to have a clear all round picture of the developmental level of a child to be able to plan effective provision which meets their needs.

Can I complete the EAR sooner than 6 weeks?

Absolutely. If a child attends full time you will have gathered enough information to be able to plot their developmental level within 2 weeks.

I have a child who only attends one session per week. Am I still expected to complete the EAR within 6 weeks?

Yes.

Do I need to share the EAR with parents/carers?

Yes, the 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage' stipulates that "Parents and/or carers should be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development", P10.

Ofsted will also expect to see that parents/ carers have contributed to their child's on entry assessments.

Initial judgements should always be made in partnership with parents/carers. Sensitive discussions need to take place between the key person and parents/carers if there are any anomalies.

How can I share the EAR with parents/carers?

You do not have to share the 'Individual Progress Tracker' if you feel it will confuse parents. You could instead provide parents/carers with verbal feedback and also a brief written summary if you feel this is relevant.

Does it have to be the key person who completes a child's EAR?

Yes, this is crucial as they will be the one who will hold all the relevant information for their key children, although others may contribute.

What do I do if I don't have enough written observations on the child in all areas of development and their aspects?

It is important to have **some** written observations but it is equally important to use your professional judgement based on information you know in your head and your heart. You need to identify a 'best fit' age band for the child in each **area** of learning. Try not to be too focused on individual aspects at this point, this will come later.

How often do I need to complete the EAR?

You only need to complete the EAR once but you need to continue to update the Individual Progress Tracker.

Why do we need to record the EAR on the Individual Progress Tracker?

It is crucial that you can demonstrate the progress children make from their starting points. The first entry you make on the Individual Progress Tracker will make the child's starting points clear.