

CARD
2

Observational Assessment as Daily Practice

This card describes the processes involved in observation and assessment and how they fit into *Progress from the Start*.

What is observation?

Observation describes the process of watching children, listening to them and taking note of what is seen and heard.

Why do we observe?

All practitioners need to know their children well - the more practitioners know about each child, the more able they will be to support and extend each child's learning.

Observation, assessment and planning help practitioners to support children's development and learning.

Observation is one of the most important skills a practitioner uses in their daily practice.

How do we observe?

Observe children during daily experiences (child-initiated and adult-led) to find out about their needs, interests and what they can do.

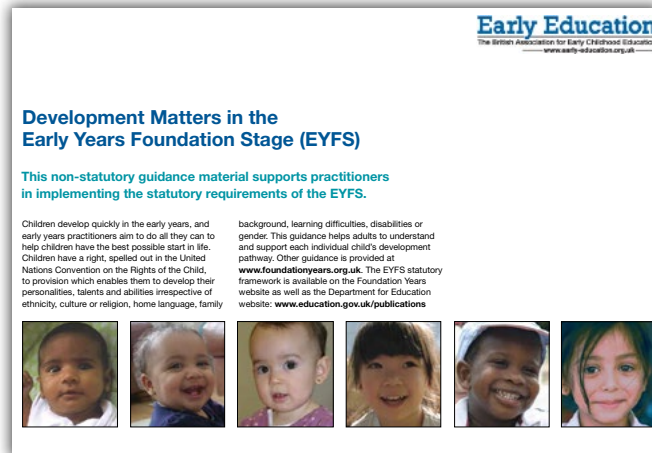
Plan to observe as part of the daily routine.

Only record what might be forgotten, what is significant and what needs to be clarified.

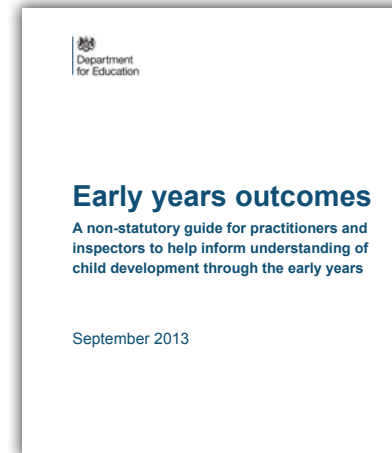
Include children, parents and carers in this process.

There should be a range of observation and recording methods used e.g. post-its, time sampling, learning stories, individual and group observations, etc.

For further information please refer to *Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)* – p.3



Development Matters



Early Years Outcomes

Use the 3 stage process: Notice, Recognise, Respond

Notice	Recognise	Respond
Watching, listening, using the senses	Understanding the learning	Acting on what we understand from the learning
<p>Observe what the child is doing and saying.</p> <p>Where are they?</p> <p>Who are they with?</p> <p>What resources are they using?</p> <p>What are their involvement and well-being levels?</p> <p>www.leics.gov.uk/eywellbeing</p>	<p>What <i>Development Matters</i> statement(s)/ <i>Early Years Outcomes</i> does this link to?</p> <p>Which <i>Characteristics of Effective Learning</i> best describe the child?</p>	<p>What are you going to do as a result of what you have seen?</p> <p>How do you plan to do this?</p> <p>Do you need to make a change to the environment?</p> <p>Is it an immediate response or in a few weeks time?</p> <p>Do children need further play opportunities?</p> <p>Do practitioners need to reflect on their interactions with the child?</p>

Leaders and Managers need to ensure that:

- all practitioners have the training and skills to undertake sensitive observational assessment
- a programme of supervision and appraisal is in place
- practitioners have the opportunity to observe children as part of the daily practice
- there are opportunities for paired observations to allow practitioners to moderate judgements made. This builds confidence and helps ensure accurate assessment.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring	Active Learning	Creating and Thinking
<p>Playing and Exploring Children play to learn and learn through play. They explore objects, people, and spaces, and use their senses to discover the world around them.</p>	<p>Active Learning Children learn by being actively engaged in what they are doing. They are motivated to learn and learn from a variety of experiences.</p>	<p>Creating and Thinking Children use their imagination and creativity to explore the world around them. They think about what they are doing and how they can improve it.</p>

Children develop at their own rate, and in their own way. The development statements and their order should not be taken as necessary steps for individual children. They should not be used as checklists. The age/age bands overlap because these are not fixed age boundaries but suggest a typical range of development.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Development Matters: Self-confidence and self-awareness

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Learning and Development
<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development Children develop self-confidence and self-awareness. They understand their own feelings and the feelings of others.</p>	<p>Physical Development Children develop their gross and fine motor skills. They explore their bodies and learn to control their movements.</p>	<p>Learning and Development Children learn to understand and follow simple instructions. They learn to listen and attend to what others are saying.</p>

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Development Matters