

Teaching and Learning Cultural Capital



“Some children arrive at an early year setting with different experiences from others, in their learning and play. What a setting does, through the EYFS curriculum and interactions with practitioners potentially makes all the difference to children. It is the role of the setting to help the children experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live, through the seven areas of learning.”

Education Inspection Framework

The term cultural capital is no longer new to us. It’s embedded within the framework in which Ofsted use to inspect providers like yourself. But how well is it embedded within your practice? Do you (and your team if applicable) feel confident in demonstrating how you diversify your curriculum to support the children in your care?

[Cultural capital - Early Education \(early-education.org.uk\)](http://early-education.org.uk)

Quick fire question – How do you know about the child’s lived experiences?

Think about your relationships with parents and carers. What opportunities are in place for enabling you to get to know the family, how they live, what a normal week might look like for them, what experience they may want to share with you. Do they know why this information is so valuable to you?

Task 1

As individuals, read through the list of experiences below and give yourself a point for each one that applies to you.

- I have planted flowers in a garden.
- I have had a birthday cake with candles on for me to blow out
- I have swum in the sea.
- I have seen tiger at the zoo.
- I have learned how to make homemade pasta from scratch.
- I have been to university.
- I have been to a carnival.
- I have owned a pet.
- I have learned to drive.
- I have been to the circus.
- I have witnessed a thunderstorm.
- I have eaten calamari
- I have travelled on a bus.
- I have built a snowman.
- I have ridden a horse.
- I have stayed in a caravan on holiday.

Now, compare your list to a partner.

- How did you score in comparison?
- Which experiences did you score differently on?

Your experiences shape you as a person. Discuss how your lived experiences might impact on your work for example, if you have never planted flowers before, would you think to offer this as an experience for the children? If you did, would you need to ask someone for guidance before doing so.

Task 2

Applying this same logic to the children in your care consider:

- How each child's list is unique
- How the experiences they have had so far will impact on how they learn.

This consideration should inform your curriculum and ensure that the activities, resources, and experiences you provide are both relevant and meaningful.