

Teaching and Learning

Let's Reflect - Child Development



Each child's development will be unique. However, having a sound understanding of child development norms for the age of the children you work with, will enable you to support their progress and identify any possible delays in a timely manner. This is an essential skill for any practitioner. It will enable you to create a quality curriculum, through meaningful observations and accurate assessments of child development.

'Each child is unique, and while we can be guided by an understanding of some general patterns of development from pre-birth into early childhood, progression is uneven and unfolds differently for each individual child. The complex differences for each child mean the pathways toward maturity should be seen more as dancing around a ballroom than climbing a ladder'.

Birth to 5 Matters

Therefore, child development should be considered when identifying opportunities for continuous professional development. It is a fundamental skill for all practitioners, and it should not be overlooked.

Task

Consider the questions below and reflect on how you can further develop your knowledge and understanding of Child Development:

- What tools do you use to support you in assessing children's development?
- What professional development opportunities are made available to staff to improve their knowledge and understanding of child development?
- Are you familiar with the variety of tools and resources available to support the subject?
- Do staff maintain an overview of child development throughout the early years, to enable them to accurately assess ages and stages?
- Are staff able to apply a holistic approach to child development?
- Are staff skilled at focusing on particular areas of development?
- What opportunities are there for parents and carers to discuss their child's development with you?
- Do staff have time to discuss children's development with one another.
- Do staff consider the sequence of learning, when supporting children's development?
- Can staff articulate their knowledge of their key children's development and what they are doing to support them?