

# Teaching and Learning

## Let's reflect – Observations.



Observation is the practice of looking and listening to children to find out how they are developing, what they like doing and what they are learning through their play and the experiences on offer. Observations of children are vital – each child has a unique set of abilities and talents, observations in different situations capture these first hand.

The EYFS requires that assessment begins with observation of the children. To find out about a child we need to observe them in a way that is valuable to the child and makes the best use of our time – they help us assess children's progress; so we can find out about the specific care and learning needs of each individual and plan the next steps in their development and learning. It is important to remember that an observation alone will not be a piece of assessment.

“The observation checkpoints can help you to notice whether a child is at risk of falling behind. You can make all the difference by acting quickly. By monitoring a child's progress closely, you can make the right decisions about what sort of extra help is needed.”

Development Matters 2023

## Task

Consider the questions below and reflect on how you can further develop the use of meaningful observations in your setting:

- Do you use a range of observational methods?
- Are staff skilled in using a variety of observation techniques e.g., timeline, detailed, checklist, group observation, room mapping observation etc.
- Do you record your observations?
- Are your observations planned or spontaneous or both?
- Do your observations have purpose/intent?
- Do your observations inform your planning? If so, how?
- How do you communicate your observations within your team, with parents etc.
- Do you seek observation feedback from parents, carers and other professionals?
- Do your observations cover different times, activities, routines etc.?