

Why track children's observations and next steps planning?

The Development Matters guidance document which comes as part of the EYFS (2012) is clear that it must not be used as a tick chart. It is not a definitive list to everything a child does and says during their early years and must not be used in this way.

However, it is helpful as a guide to what children might be doing and saying at different ages and stages in their lives and will be essential when we are completing the 2 year progress check which must be written when children are between the ages of 2 and 3 years to link in with their health visitor check.

Observations of children's learning and development play an essential role in the 2 year progress check and any other summary assessments written for children. Without observations we cannot see at a glance how a child is progressing and we do not know whether there are any concerns about their learning and development which need to be addressed (early intervention is a key aim of the 2 year progress check).

To help ensure we are observing children across all 7 areas of learning and development (and all 18 aspects - I separate physical development moving and handling because I feel they are 2 very different skills) it is useful to regularly check and make sure that areas have not been forgotten.

For example, we often find that children are concentrating on one particular aspect of their learning for a while and do not seem to be progressing in other areas. A tracker will help us to note this and direct us to areas of learning and development which might need a little extra focused support for a short time.

I intend to use the attached tracker for all my observations - I have also adapted it to use with my individual planning so I can make sure planned activities are holistic, including activities and experiences which links across all of the EYFS. As I currently have 4 Learning Journey documents to write each week I think it will help me focus on each child, ensuring I have made appropriate observations of their learning and development across all 7 areas of learning and development equally and it will help me to quickly spot any areas of concern.

I hope you find it useful.

Sarah

My observations tracker

Observation dates - from to

My name is -

My date of birth -

It is important that my observations cover all 7 areas of learning and development. This ensures my learning experiences are well balanced and helps to show areas where I am making good progress and highlights areas of my learning and development where I might need extra support.

My observations linked to prime areas of learning and development

EYFS area of L & D	Dates of observations...
PSE Development	1.1 -
1.1 Relationships	1.2 -
1.2 Self confidence & self awareness	1.3 -
1.3 Feelings & behaviour	
Physical Development	2.1 (M) -
2.1 Moving (large motor)	2.1 (H) -
2.1 Handling (fine motor)	2.2 -
2.2 Health & self care	
Communication and Language	3.1 -
3.1 Listening & attention	3.2 -
3.2 Understanding	3.3 -
3.3 Speaking	

My observations linked to specific areas of learning and development

EYFS area of L & D	Dates of observations...
Literacy	4.1 -
4.1 Reading	4.2 -
4.2 Writing	
Mathematics	5.1 -
5.1 Numbers	5.2 -
5.2 Shape, space & measures	
Understanding the World	6.1 -
6.1 People & communities	6.2 -
6.2 The world	6.3 -
6.3 Technology	
Expressive Arts and Design	7.1 -
7.1 Media & materials	7.2 -
7.2 Imagination	

My next steps planning tracker

Next steps dates - from to

My name is -

My date of birth -

It is important that my next steps planning covers all 7 areas of learning and development. This ensures my learning experiences are well balanced and helps to show areas where I am making good progress and highlights areas of my learning and development where I might need extra support.

My next steps planning linked to prime areas of learning and development

EYFS area of L & D	Dates of next steps planning...
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1.1 Relationships	1.2 -
1.2 Self confidence & self awareness	1.3 -
1.3 Feelings & behaviour	
Physical Development	2.1 (M) -
2.1 Moving (large motor)	2.1 (H) -
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