

Leadership and Management

Confident Learning Walks



The learning walk is the activity that enables the inspector to gather evidence to make valid and reliable inspection judgements and forms part of the inspection methodology. It is an effective way to find out what it is like for a child in your setting.

It is important that the person leading the learning walk is confident about the setting, as it is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate all the rich and unique opportunities provided.

The learning walk should outline the curriculum with a focus of the 'intent', it is your opportunity to talk to the inspector about your curriculum design which can then be demonstrated through observed effective teaching and interactions.

Ofsted allow the setting to lead on the learning walk and there is no set format or time, it is determined by those leading the learning walk and will be unique to your provision.

TASK 1

Providers should be familiar with the inspection handbook; this will support the leader in being clear on the processes and expectations of an inspection.

Are you familiar with this document? How do you use it to inform practice? Do you share it with staff?

[Early years inspection handbook for Ofsted-registered provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

TASK 2

Every inspector will have a unique way of asking questions whilst the learning walk is taking place. Here are some that may help you to challenge your thinking and ensure that you have robust embedded answers.

- Tell me about your curriculum intent?
- What do you want children to learn?
- How do you sequence children's learning?
- Explain how you find out what children already know and can do?
- How do you decide what children need to learn next?
- How do you make sure children build on their prior knowledge and practise their skills?
- How do you monitor the curriculum-how do you know its effective in helping children to learn and make progress?
- How do you identify and support cultural capital? How do you find out about the experiences children have had before starting at the setting?
- What do see as the strengths in the curriculum, and the areas you want to improve?

It is important that some of the responsibility/questions are handed over to all the staff. The learning walk is a team effort and by giving the staff autonomy to talk about their room and their children they will feel empowered, as they know their children the best.