

Quality Improvement Framework

Section 5 – Reflective Practice

Subsection: **Networking**

Guidance Notes	Reflective Questions	Resources	Your Evidence
<p>The value of learning from other professionals is not to be overlooked.</p> <p>Networking with other providers or supporting agencies allows you to seek advice and guidance, find solutions to common challenges and develop skills and practice that can be applied to your work.</p> <p>The reason for developing links and partnerships with other providers is varied for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a particular area of practice. • To aid the delivery of the blended offer of 30 hours • To keep updated with latest news and changes to standards etc. <p>Making links with your local schools, will allow you to effectively support the transition process for your children and parents, but will enable you to communicate the children's starting points and interests through professional discussion. Working alongside the school, you can identify common practice and methods that could be applied to your practice, providing further continuity for the children.</p> <p>Networking provides an opportunity for professional discussion and debate with peers, that can contribute to not only personal development for individuals, but also to improvements that can be applied to your setting. It enables providers to keep up to date and establish links with other local providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What links have you established with other professionals? • What is the purpose of these links? • Do you establish the focus of the networking opportunity beforehand? • How do you document these networking opportunities? • How do you ensure that the intended outcome is met? • What links do you have with your feeder schools? • How could they be improved? • What benefits do you feel your networking practice has on your setting/professional development? • Who is given the opportunity to take part in the networking opportunities? If only leaders, how are key messages cascades to the wider team? • Are parents kept informed of the sharing of information for transition and continuity purposes? • What are the barriers you face when trying to develop links with other professionals? • How can these barriers be overcome? • How frequently do you share information about children with linked providers? 	<p>Q Cards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neworking • Multi-agency Working <p>Networking Opportunities</p> <p>Quality Forum – 3 sessions per term</p> <p>EYFS Network</p> <p>Useful Links</p>	<p>Guidance note: Remember to date your evidence to allow you to revisit and review relevance.</p>

When delivering the blended offer, working in partnership with shared providers is essential, enabling you to effectively support the child and family. Sharing progress, updates and practice ideas will ensure that you are able to effectively work together to offer the child opportunities of a high quality.

The use of social media is becoming an increasingly popular form of networking with other professionals e.g. Facebook groups/pages, twitter feeds and webinars etc. Whilst there is value in engaging in this practice, it is advisable that professionals remain cautious of advice and guidance shared via this platform. The content of such sources are not verified or quality monitored therefore cannot be considered factual.

- How frequently do you share good practice or problem solve with other professionals?
- Consider the impact of not networking with other professionals on; your setting, professional development and children. Then consider the benefits and develop an action plan which outlines how this area of practice can be developed.