

Teaching and Learning

Let's reflect – Planning



“The EYFS seeks to provide: a secure foundation through planning for the learning and development of each individual child and assessing and reviewing what they have learned regularly”.

Statutory Framework 2023

There are different aspects of planning that need to be taken into consideration. There should be clear identifiable links to the EYFS and in particular the characteristics of effective learning for individual children. The resources and opportunities planned should be based upon quality, ongoing observations of children's development, learning styles and interests. Planning should ensure the play environment offers a broad range of teaching and learning opportunities. Planning should be shared with other significant staff/adults involved with the children to check that it is relevant and understood by all.

The planning process should be flexible to allow for spontaneous learning opportunities to occur. Practitioners should be responsive to how the play session evolves and give consideration as to how they support and extend play and learning.

Task

Consider the questions below and reflect on how you plan effectively in your setting:

- Does the planning cover all areas of learning and development in a holistic way? (This does not necessarily mean planned, specific activities in each area of learning and development.)
- How flexible is your planning process? Does it allow for spontaneous learning to occur?
- Are the staff aware of their role in ensuring outcomes are met through planned purposeful play?
- Do staff have a sound understanding of child development?
- Do they recognise how this contributes to their ability to successfully support the child in their play and learning?
- Do staff know what is meant by planned, purposeful play?

Are staff able to reflect on and articulate their understanding of the following:

- why they have planned the learning opportunities.
- how opportunities support individual learning outcomes
- when children have demonstrated sufficient development in specific areas
- how they encourage extended learning opportunities.