

# curriculum for excellence

## supporting the early level

## Planning children's learning

### A CPD activity for practitioners

#### Introduction

Planning for every child involves creating rich, challenging and meaningful learning experiences. It involves staff knowing each child well as an individual and understanding what their needs and talents are. Staff should use the information they gather from assessing children's progress and development to plan next steps in learning in collaboration with children.

The purpose of this activity is to allow practitioners to develop their understanding of planning to ensure high quality learning experiences in pre-school and primary settings. It is important to remember that planning should not simply be a paper-based exercise but should be designed to involve children in planning activities, meet their individual needs and ensure better outcomes for them.

As assessment is integral to this process it will be beneficial to practitioners to also look at the CPD activity on 'Assessment', on this CD-ROM.

#### Time required

This activity should take approximately 1 hour.

#### Outcomes

- Staff will gain greater knowledge and understanding of good practice in planning children's learning.
- Staff agree on action(s) for improving planning within their setting.

#### Preparation

This CPD activity is based on staff using video clips to identify features of good practice and reflect on their own practice. In advance of the session, it will be helpful to organise facilities to watch the appropriate video clips and



record your discussions.

## Activity 1

### In a group

- Discuss the ways in which staff and children plan learning.
- To what extent are children's views and interests taken into account?
- How do you use assessment to plan next steps in learning?

### As a staff team

- Share which aspects of your work in this area are most successful in ensuring that children's needs are met?

## Activity 2

### As a staff team, watch the videos

- As you watch these videos, note any aspects which you feel are good practice in planning for children's learning.
- Do you agree on the good practice you observed? How do these features compare with your notes from activity one on your own assessment practice?



- Supporting the Early Level DVD resource – the section on 'Planning' (13.24 mins)



- The Journey to Excellence 'Blairmore Nursery' (11.0 mins)



- The Journey to Excellence – Smoother transitions' (3.0 mins)

## Reflecting on practice

### As a staff team

Having considered your own practice and that shown in the videos:

- identify an aspect that, as a staff, you intend to improve in your setting
- discuss what steps you will take to develop this
- how will you know that this approach is successful in taking forward planning?

## Useful online resources

*(Click on title to view file)*

There are a range of resources to support this topic available online and on the accompanying CD-ROM.

- Examples of **good practice in active learning** can be found on the HMIE website
- Video clips and examples of good practice can also be found on **The Journey to Excellence** website
- There is very helpful information concerning **planning** all areas of the curriculum on the Learning and Teaching Scotland Early Years Website

