

# curriculum for excellence

## supporting the early level

## Learning and teaching

### A CPD activity for practitioners

#### Introduction

Good learning and teaching provides learning opportunities that capitalise on an approach that makes learning creative, relevant, lively, motivating and fun. Practitioners need to be flexible in the way in which learning and teaching is managed, in order to find the right blend and balance for each child and maximise their potential.

The purpose of this session is to provide staff with an opportunity to reflect on children's learning and identify how this can be improved. The activity is based around their role as reflective practitioners and their role as facilitators of learning and teaching.

This CPD activity is based on staff reflecting on their own practice, using video clips which illustrate features of good practice and identifying aspects they could improve.

#### Time required

This activity will take approximately 1 hour.

#### Outcomes

- Staff will gain a greater understanding of effective practice in learning and teaching.
- Staff agree on action(s) for improving learning and teaching in 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

### As a group discuss:

- To what extent are children motivated in their learning and enjoy their experiences? How do you know?
- How are children encouraged to be independent learners and to exercise choice?
- In what ways do you involve children in planning and initiating their own learning experiences?
- How do you know children are making appropriate progress in their learning?
- Think of your current work – identify a learning activity you consider to be particularly successful in engaging children's interest and explain why.

## Activity 2

### As a staff team, watch the videos

- As you watch these videos, note down features which you feel are particularly successful in enhancing children's learning.
- How do these compare with your ideas and notes from activity 1.
- Consider features from the video which you could use to improve your practice and raise standards for children through *Curriculum for Excellence*.
- Supporting the Early level DVD resource – the section on 'Implementation through effective learning and teaching' (6.46 mins)



- Journey to Excellence 'Active learning for active minds' (4.20 mins)



- Glenlee Primary School 'Teacher evaluation' (0.50 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 enhancing children's learning and raising standards?

## 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.

- The **Learning and Teaching Scotland** Early Years website
- **Glenlee Primary School** case study: sharing practice in active learning
- Examples of good practice in learning and teaching can be found on the **HMIE** website and on **The Journey to Excellence** website.

