

# curriculum for excellence

## supporting the early level

## Assessing children's learning

### A CPD activity for practitioners

#### Introduction

Assessment involves high quality interactions, based on thoughtful questions, careful listening and reflective responses.

The purpose of this activity is to support staff in assessing children's learning.

Planning for children's learning is integral to this process and as such, it will be of benefit to practitioners to also look at the CPD activity on 'Planning', on this CD-ROM..

#### Time required

This activity should take approximately 1 hour.

#### Outcomes

- Staff will gain a greater knowledge and understanding of good practice in assessment.
- Staff will agree on action(s) for improving assessment practice 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.



## Activity 1

### In a group

- Discuss the ways you assess children's progress in development and learning and note these down. Include individual and group assessments.
- Consider the assessment approaches you have noted. What do they tell you about each child?
- Reflect on the ways in which children use assessment for learning. Are there any areas you do not have information about. How do you use questions to help you learn more about children's progress?
- Reflect on how you record this assessment information. Are there records for each child? Do they make clear what staff will do to plan for and support the child's next steps?

### As a staff team

- Share which aspects of your work in this area are most successful in ensuring that children's needs are met?
- Discuss how you use your interactions with children to assess their learning.

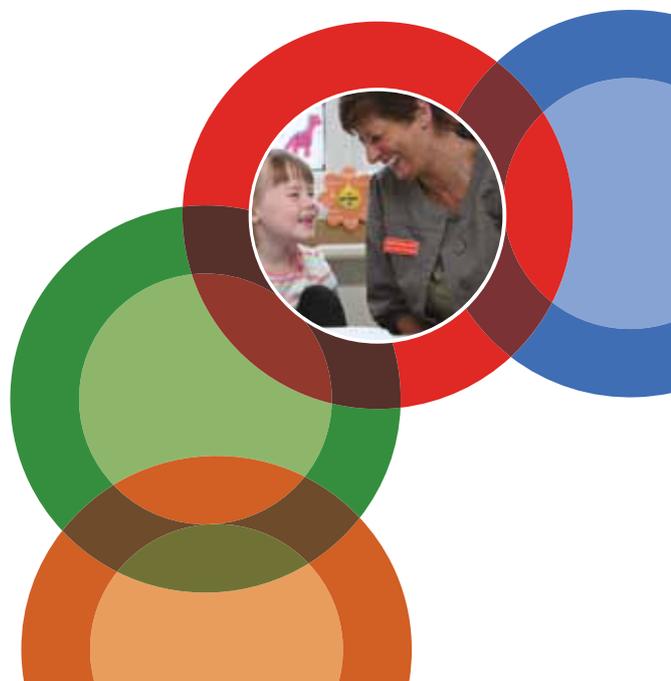
## Activity 2

### As a staff team, watch the videos

- As you watch these videos, note down all of the features of good practice in assessment.
- Compare your notes with others in your group. 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?
- Consider aspects from the videos which you feel would improve your practice.
- Supporting the Early Level DVD resource – the section on 'Assessment' (10.45 mins)



- The Journey to Excellence 'Child centred themes' (2.15 mins)



- Glenlee Primary School – Managing assessment (1.13 mins)



## Reflecting on practice

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

- identify one aspect that, as a staff, you intend to develop further in your setting
- discuss what steps you will take to develop this
- how will you know that this approach is successful in assessing children's learning?

## Useful online resources

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

- AifL – Assessment is for Learning: Sharing Practice. **Documenting children's early learning**
- AifL – Assessment is for Learning: Sharing Practice. **Investigating quality interactions in the nursery**
- **Learning and Teaching Scotland** Early Years website
- Examples of good practice in assessing children's learning can be found on the **HMIE** website and on **The Journey to Excellence** website
- **Self-Assessment Toolkit for Early Years** – this online toolkit provides detailed information on AifL key messages

