

curriculum for excellence

supporting the early level

Self-evaluation to improve the curriculum

A CPD activity for practitioners

Introduction

Self-evaluation is a reflective professional process through which practitioners get to know their practice well. Self-evaluation is about change and improvement which results in clear benefits for children. The purpose of this activity is to develop practitioners understanding and use of self-evaluation further to improve outcomes for children.

Children are naturally curious and eager to find out about the world around them. We must build on their curiosity and enthusiasm to learn when we develop their learning environments, working outwards from their individual interests and needs. (The Child at the Centre 2)

Learners who are helped to engage positively in conversations about: how they are doing; where they want to go and what they need to get there, have an increased chance of continuing to learn and strengthening their own leadership for learning. (Leadership for Learning)

Time required

This activity will take approximately 1 hour.

Outcomes

- Staff will gain greater knowledge and understanding of good practice in self-evaluation/evaluating the curriculum.
- Staff will agree on action(s) for improving self-evaluation 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 how:

- the curriculum offers stimulating, challenging and enjoyable programmes
- well the curriculum meets the needs and interests of individual children
- the curriculum supports progression, and links between areas of learning
- you develop and manage curriculum changes and innovation
- you identify benefits and impact for children from curriculum changes.

Now consider your answers from above and discuss the extent to which:

- children have opportunities to make choices and plan and lead their own learning in some curriculum areas more than others
- you ensure the curriculum has depth and challenge for each child's needs
- the views of children impact on the work of your pre-school or primary setting.



Activity 2

As a staff team, watch the videos

- Note any examples which make you think about how you evaluate the curriculum.
- Identify key features of good practice.
- How do these features compare with your notes from activity 1 on your own practice?
- Supporting the Early Level DVD resource – the section on 'Self-evaluation' (6.32 mins)



- The Journey to Excellence 'Using technology to empower young pupils' (4.0 mins)



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- If you have time, you could also watch The Journey to Excellence 'Learning through imaginative play' (4.41 mins)



Reflecting on practice

As a staff team

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

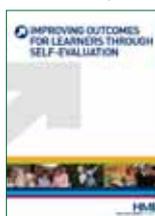
- identify an aspect that, as a staff, you intend to improve in your setting
- discuss what steps you will take to develop this
- how will you know that this approach is successful in making a difference to the outcomes for children?

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.

- **'A collective commitment to improvement'**
- **Moving from good to great** – A collective commitment to improvement
- Improving outcomes for learners through self-evaluation – How Good is our School 3 (HIGOS 3)



- Improving our curriculum through self-evaluation – Child at the Centre 2 (CATC2)

