

## **Observations and ages of children**

Observations can be broken into 3 main areas...

### **Ages 0 - 3**

Observations should focus on the 3 prime areas of learning and development -

1. Personal, social and emotional development
2. Physical development
3. Communication and language

Children will still be reading books, looking at the natural world, doing paintings, singing and dancing... but observations should focus on how these activities support their learning and development in the prime areas.

### **Ages 2 - 3**

There will be a progress check to complete when children are aged between 2 and 3. The progress check will focus on the child's learning and development in the prime areas, with a nod towards the specific areas if you choose to include information about them.

It should include little stories about the child's learning and development in the provision (in the house, garden and on outings) taken from our formative assessments, comments from parents about what their child is doing and saying at home and input from other settings if appropriate.

### **Ages 3 - 5**

Ongoing observations will support children's learning through all 7 of the Development Matters areas including the 3 prime areas and the 4 specific areas -

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Art and design

If there are any concerns about children's learning in the prime areas these must remain the focus of observations, assessments and planning because these have been recognised as the main skills children need to be ready for school.