

## **Writing self evaluation**

It is not a statutory requirement of the EYFS 2012 to complete the Ofsted Self Evaluation Form (SEF) - however, it is very good practice to include some type of self evaluation in your day-to-day work as part of your commitment to continually improve your knowledge, business, provision etc. Your self evaluation might be Local Authority required (especially common if childminders receive government funding) or one you have designed yourself.

### **Self evaluation is about thinking...**

- I am doing this or that in my current practice... and I think it could be improved
- In the future I want to do it a different way... how am I going to make the necessary changes?
- How will it benefit the children / families? When you make changes you should always consider the potential impact on the children and their families.
- This is my action plan...
  - What do I need to do? You might read a book, buy an e-book, attend some training, chat to other childminders and share ideas, ask for advice on the Childminding Forum, speak to your local childminding development officer etc.
  - How can I involve parents and children in making changes? It is very important that you involve the families and children in any changes that affect them. The EYFS 2012 strengthens the previous requirement to involve parents and children in all aspects of your business.
  - How long will it take me? There is little point in yourself setting a goal if you do not have a time scale attached. This will encourage you to work hard and aim for better things in the future.

Self evaluation is the process you go through every day when you make changes to your provision... to share it with Ofsted it needs to be documented.

Many childminders do this by using the Ofsted SEF... others by writing an action plan which they regularly update... others use a series of 'Reflections on Provision' type documents - if you are a gold member of [Childcare.co.uk](http://Childcare.co.uk) you will find lots of examples in the members area.