

Self-evaluation and reflective practice

Self-evaluation does not start and end with the Ofsted SEF! Many practitioners take one look at the SEF questions, panic, put it back in the drawer and do something more pressing like their annual accounts instead.

However, self-evaluation is about much more than that! It should be based on constant self-reflection as you ask yourself –

- How well did that activity /game go?
- What did each child learn today?
- Did I use each child's interests when planning the activities I offered them today?
- What went well / badly today? What can I do better tomorrow?
- Does the display on the wall reflect what we are doing with the children at the moment?
- Are the playrooms / areas inviting to all the children?
- How can I support each child better?
- What extra resources / equipment do I need to buy / borrow?
- When children play outside are they learning well?
- Where can I get more training?
- Are children's Learning Journeys a true reflection of what they enjoy doing?
- Do staff share my vision?
- How am I going to use this training I have just attended to improve outcomes for children?
- When we get back from the school run how quickly are all the children engaged and busy?
- What would a visitor think about my provision and practice if they walked in right now?
- What are my goals for my provision and how can I progress towards them?
- Are parents / children happy that I am meeting their needs? How do I know?
- Do our routine outings still meet the children's needs?
- Is everyone happy with the meals I provide? How do I know?
- How well do I meet the needs of the little ones when older children are here?
- How well am I keeping up to date with latest Ofsted / Government / local authority information?
- Am I meeting every statutory requirement of the EYFS? Can I show evidence of this to Ofsted?
- How well are children learning when they go on outings?
- Is my practice the best it can be every day?
- How well are children involved in their own learning e.g. do they help put together their LJ files?
- How well do children learn when I have visitors in the house?
Are parents happy with how I communicate with them? How do I know?
- Am I always ready for an Ofsted inspector to knock on my door?
- Am I effectively working with other settings? How can I improve this?
- Is every child making good progress? How do I know?

All these questions help you to answer the main question that your Ofsted inspector will ask when they visit next – what is it like for a child here?