

Title of example:	Childminder taking funded twos
Centre submitting example	Lynn
Local authority/local area	Telford

Background details to the practice

Lynn has three children of her own, the oldest being 24 years old. After being made redundant from her job chose to have a career change. She began working with another childminder and around 18 months ago Lynn decided to set up as a childminder on her own in Telford. She now has nine children on her books of a range of ages.

About the practice

Lynn decided to take funded twos as she wanted all children to be able to have access to the same opportunities and experiences no matter what their background. When Lynn decided she wanted to take funded twos she decided to go on some extra training to provide a more thorough standard of care. She chose a course on encouraging healthy eating as she felt it was important for children to have a healthy and balanced diet and also participated on the 'I CAN' communication and language programme aimed at the early years workforce. She felt these training programmes were important as a practitioner to enable her to take children with different needs and be able to support them to the best of her ability. As part of her practice Lynn regularly sends questionnaires to her parents asking for feedback on their happiness with her care of their children. Parents that have two year olds in her care have noted improvement in their child's behaviour and seen the children's communication skills improving at home and will be beneficial when they enter nursery. As well as the feedback from parents Lynn also carries out her own regular assessments. She carries out an initial assessment after the children have settled in and then she reassesses 3-4 weeks later with respect to where they are in the EYFS, which she also shares with parents. The initial assessment for children eligible for funded early entitlement under her care showed that they were below where they should be for their age but at the next assessment had made huge improvements and were now either where they should be for their age or above. This shows the real importance of giving disadvantaged two years olds access to regular care and teaching of the EYFS, as an opportunity to catch up with some of their more fortunate peers. Lynn says that the areas of her practice which really made a difference to these children were the emphasis on good communication and language skills that she values in her day to day practice, having a routine which enables the children to feel very settled and open to learning in her environment and healthy eating, providing the children with a nutritionally healthy balanced diet.

Evidence and evaluation of difference to children and families

Improvement in children's behavior and communication skills as feedback by parents
Being below where they should be for their age in the EYFS before commencing their place and then improving to be where they should be or above for their age.