

# SEN and disability in the early years

## Case studies

### Tracking progress and the Graduated approach

The development of tools for all practitioners to use to assess, plan and track progress  
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Presentation available <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/04/special-educational-needs-and-disability-events-march-2015/>

#### Context

The SEND Code of Practice emphasises the requirement for Early years providers to evaluate the interventions that they put in place to support children with SEND. North Somerset's Early Years Learning Team supports practitioners across North Somerset. The Team wanted to provide a consistent and reliable way to support Early Years SENCOs to work with practitioners to meet the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice 0-25. Specifically, this project was designed to enable Early Years practitioners to support children with SEND by using small steps when adopting the graduated approach of Assess, Plan, Do, Review.

#### Development of the tools

North Somerset have taken the Early Support statements that are published by NCB, previous EYFS support materials and the ECAT monitoring tool and created one set of EYFS Early Support Assessment Statements. The statements have been aligned to the Development Matters age bands and separated into curricular areas. Early years providers are encouraged to use these statements to create small steps of progress, for children with SEND who might not otherwise show progress through Development Matters best fit age bands. A separate document has also been produced to encourage Early Years providers to scrutinise their environment, the provision they offer and how staff interact with children. These statements are available to download <http://buff.ly/1Ejo7dn>

North Somerset consultants have also designed an electronic tool that enables leaders and managers to have an oversight of how all children are progressing within their setting, using information from summative assessments which are made three times a year. This tool is called the E-Learning Journey and has the functionality to produce reports about the progress of different groups of children for example: 2 year old funded children, summer-born boys, children who use EAL. English as an additional language.

North Somerset Early Years Team embedded the North Somerset EYFS Early Support Assessment statements within the E-Learning Journey. The statements allow practitioners to plan small steps for progress and evaluate which next steps are appropriate for each child; the E-Learning Journey allows an overview of which statements children have achieved over time.

#### Impact

The team is working very closely with settings to support the implementation of these tools. Practitioners are supported by the setting SENCOs and managers and are becoming more confident in assessing and reviewing the impact of their interventions. This confidence, in turn, enables the setting to develop more inclusive practice in meeting the needs of all children.

The process of scrutinising the overall progress of groups of children, enables providers to identify gaps in their provision and evaluate ways of reducing gaps in achievement. Currently the majority of early years providers in North Somerset are using the E-learning journey with the

North Somerset EYFS Early Support Assessment Statements to monitor specific areas of SEND.

Springboard Opportunity Group have been trialing the statements and E-Learning journey for all their children with SEND and have been working closely with North Somerset to make any necessary adjustments and amendments. For example, practitioners working with children with complex needs felt that the North Somerset Early Support Assessment statements would be easier to use if they were arranged by aspect rather than age band. As a result a 2<sup>nd</sup> version has been published.

### **Next steps**

- The North Somerset EYFS Early Support Assessment statements and their use in planning for progress will be evaluated at the end of 2015 academic year.
- Currently, childminders in North Somerset are using the assessment statements, where required, but an offer has been made for childminders of larger numbers of children to use the E-Learning Journey to support their overview of a cohort.
- The E-Learning Journey is constantly being evaluated by our Early years providers and amendments made to suit differing requirements.