

Looking Beyond the Checklist

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Quality Improvement Science or a Social Construct?

- Range of strategies to improve quality, using various measures over a period of 10yrs.
- What have we learnt?
- How can practitioners be best supported?

Sandwell MBC

- Have been providing places for 2 year olds since 2004 – funded for 1200 places per year, originally called ‘Free for Two’
- Changed from universal places to targeted places in 2006
- 2011 re-launched as ‘Early Learning for Two’s’
- Two stage criteria for eligibility
- All applications logged through FIS
- Eligibility checked by Children Centres
- Settings registered for NEF or Network Childminders
- Children Centre Playgroups used to meet demand in areas with high birth rates

Successes in Sandwell

- Support for Children with SEN/Disabilities
- Workforce Development
- Ofsted Inspection Outcomes Improving
- Environment Rating Scales Audit Team/ Moderation
- Whole Setting Audits
- Team Around the Setting
- Leading and Managing Quality Improvement Training

Environment Rating Scale Audits

Benefits of whole setting audit:

- No staff feel 'left out' and therefore less important
- Staff cannot be moved around to ensure staffing ratios
- Equipment cannot be moved to specific rooms
- Key themes are identified across the setting
- Strengths and weaknesses of all staff identified
- Planning and assessment exposed across whole setting
- Supportive of managers to look at as a whole settings
- Action Planning is cohesive across the setting

Leading and Managing Quality Improvement

“The biggest impacts for us were assessing the room layouts within the setting, evaluating the variety of equipment but the biggest factor was motivating a staff team that had worked together for a long time.

As we have so little staff turnaround, it can be hard to think outside the box so to speak and this helped focus the team to further develop our practice, make small but significant changes to the setting and motivate a highly qualified team”.

Manager NHS Day Nursery

First Steps Nursery Manager

'I really enjoyed the course. I took back lots of useful information to our setting and my staff and I feel really positive in making changes to our environment. We are very motivated and are excited to have our Audit in July'.

The Learning Environment



A Recipe for Successful Learning - Cooking with Babies & Toddlers



ITERS or ECERS?

When using ITERS for rooms with 2-3yr olds consider:

- Space for privacy
- Use of language to develop reasoning skills
- Math and Number activities
- Interactions
- Planning and Assessment

- Especially for children in the last term before transferring to NEF

Simple Materials – Rich Experiences

Picture Courtesy of Community Playthings

