

Quick Assessment Check Policy (Learning & Development Considerations 1.11-1.17, Assessment 2.1 - 2.6)

Quick Assessment Check, How and Why we use them at Grafton Childcare

We use our quick assessment checks because we believe they have value when used to determine a child's **starting points** here at Grafton Childcare. They tell us how a child is getting on so that we can use it to improve outcomes for every child.

All the assessment points we use are age appropriate and the word 'ish' can be applied to the ages. Our role is to note what each individual child can do and plan to support them with what they cannot yet do.

It is a simple tool in our arsenal to help us to shape future learning, development and progress for every child, we will also:-

- Ask parents about their child's home learning and experiences.
- Watch and listen all the time during our normal day-to-day play.
- Think about what the child can do by knowing child development really well.
- Share what the child is doing at Grafton with parents via our Facebook and Instagram pages, Daily Diaries and Communication Booklets.
- Ask for feedback about home learning via our child's Daily Diaries and Communication Booklets and our Quick Assessment Check sheets.
- Plan for the child's future learning - their longer-term next steps - the things we want them to know and be able to do.
- Regularly sit back and think about how the child is getting on and think about what we need to do to support their ongoing learning.

Any assessment we do here at Grafton Childcare must be **meaningful** to inform practice, **supportive** to ensure key milestones are met and **child centred**, putting the child first. If we are going to capture learning, we need to make sure we are collecting the important things children do and say; and bear in mind that if we are too busy writing things down and taking photos, we may miss being part of what the child is doing and learning.

In order for us to capture the whole picture of your child, twice a year we will ask you to complete one of our quick assessment sheets at home on your child and return it. This is so that we can compare our own assessments, which will have been completed by your child's Key Worker and confirm that we are in agreement with regards to your child's learning and development.

Quick assessment will also help with:

Noting children's Starting Points, the statutory Progress Check at Two and voluntary Transition Report at Four.

Timescales for quick assessment checks

Quick assessment happens on the child's birthday and 6 months later - we think about it as 6 monthly milestones.

Note: When completing these quick assessments we are not saying a child is 'on track' or that their learning is 'falling behind' - we are simply saying, using our knowledge of the child and

parental feedback, that they know and can do this and they still don't know or cannot do the other ... and we will adapt our planning to help the child to make progress.

However, while it can be a useful tool, quick assessment will only work when it is implemented alongside:-

- A good understanding of child development
- A high quality, broad and balanced, well-sequenced curriculum.
- Parent starting points and regular updates; good relationships using the key person approach.
- Secure daily routines which support every child.
- Enabling environments with high quality resources that reflect the child's interests and what they are learning / doing at the moment.

- On the spot observational assessment - this is not about record keeping, it's about **watching, listening and extending** what children know and can do as they play.
- A focus on the child and their current interests which are valued and built on during play.
- Learning, development and progress information from other settings the child attends.

While we understand that quick assessment is useful to give us each child's milestones which can show progress, it does not tell us about the child themselves -

- Their personality and character
- Likes and dislikes
- Current home and setting interests
- Fears and anxieties
- How they think
- Home learning experiences
- Family life
- Community engagement ...

Quick assessment does not tell us what makes your child 'tick'. We need to speak to parents and engage with the child to learn these things about them.

Extra record keeping -

There is no requirement in the EYFS 2021 to record children's learning, development and progress in files, folders or 'learning journeys'. Grafton Childcare is not required to write anything beyond record a child's **Starting Points** and the statutory **Progress Check at 2**.

However, here at Grafton Childcare Day Nursery and Preschool we feel it is really import to continue to keep further records to support your child's learning, development and progress, and we will use these to support, enrich, extend etc with opportunities and resources and planned interventions specifically geared towards the needs of your child.

Individual Planning

Our planning for you child, will be based on our observations of their learning, which do not necessarily have to be written down and new things we want to teach them. Although we will do around seven formal written observations on your child across an Academic year. For

example, during play, we may note a child's interest in something and build their knowledge; at the same time, it's spring and we want to teach the child about growth, so we plan some gardening activities.

Our 'quick assessment' sheets will help us keep a close eye on how your child is getting on between the 6 monthly assessments, so we continuously support their learning.

Getting Early Help

We know the types of things a typical child should be doing and saying around different ages, we are best placed to quickly spot any gaps and plan for their future learning. Regular assessment (based on constant observations and input from parents) is more likely to highlight possible additional needs and can help parents in their journey towards accessing further support.

Our 'quick assessment' sheets will help us to keep an eye on your child's development and spot any gaps that might mean the child is struggling to engage with our curriculum. If we have concerns about a child, we have a whole arsenal of additional toolkits and guidance which we can access to support your child.

Our 'quick assessment' sheets are also very useful to use with new and existing staff when we may use them to evaluate the quality of their observations on your child - not just written observations but what they have noticed about your child's play and learning. We can use them to chat about how they are getting on and use the 'quick assessment' sheets to guide our conversations and identify any future staff training.

Finally please remember our 'Quick Assessment' sheets are NOT for Ofsted - they are for the use of Grafton Childcare Day Nursery and Preschool and parents. They will only be used to benefit your child. However we do realise that they may not work for every child, as they are very simple overviews of what might typically happen in a child's developmental journey. If we feel your child is not making good progress, we will follow this up with a face to face meeting with parents and make contact with other professionals to access any additional support and advice identified to support your child and the child's whole family.