



Cluster Meetings Update

for practitioners who work with children from birth to five

Autumn 2007 - Observation and Assessment

Cluster meetings provide a time and place to

- Meet with other practitioners
- Celebrate, support and develop your practice
- Ask questions and share ideas across sectors
- Keep abreast with national and local trends



Nile Lodge Playgroup



Copley Close Children's Centre

SPRING 2007 ON REFLECTION

Attendees: 22 settings (36 practitioners)

During spring 2007, we held cluster meetings at Copley Close Children's Centre and Nile Lodge Playgroup. The theme for these meetings was "Observation and Assessment" and opportunities were provided for settings to share their own experiences, examples and ideas. The emphasis was on celebrating children's achievements, recording what they **can** do. The use of observations to inform further planning, records and assessments was also discussed.

"All planning starts with observing children in order to understand and consider their current interests, development and learning."
Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Advisory Team provided examples of children's portfolios for practitioners to look at.

The team from Northfields Playgroup shared their team's experience of using photos & videos to capture observations of children.

Ealing Early Years Childcare and Play

www.childrenscentres.org.uk/earlyyears

What did you say about the session?

'Good to meet other practitioners, gain new ideas on observation and assessment. Portfolio's... great idea to involve the child.'

'I found this meeting really useful and informative. The information given has been of great help for when I fill out my profiles in the future.'

'Ideas about portfolio assessment confirmed our practice is on the right track.'

'It was very interesting. Importance of making observations and recording them without judgements or assumptions was stressed.'

Handouts on the day

- Involving parents/carers
- Guidelines for the FS Profile
- Vicky Hutchin on Observing & Assessing
- Assessment principles into Practice (Practical pre-school)
- Good Quality/Poor Quality Guidance sheet

If you would like a copy of one of these handouts please contact: Safina Nazir, 0208 825 7249

Useful Publications

Right from the Start - Vicky Hutchin ISBN 0-340-73049-8

A Practical Guide to Child Observation & Assessment - Vicky Hutchin ISBN Q-7487-4500-9

Observing & Assessing for the FS Profile - Vicky Hutchin ISBN Q340-81212-5

Useful web Links

www.childrenscentres.org.uk/earlyyears

www.childrenscentres.org.uk/ey_listening_to_young_children.asp

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primary/publications/foundation_stage/creating_picture/

