

## Assessment in the context of the EYFS Reforms

- Essentially, you cannot teach if you don't assess – we are doing it all the time – constantly observing and assessing.
  - Think about what you need for you to ensure you can plan for each unique child, provide the most effective environment and support them in the most effective way
- Refer to government guidance on assessment:  
<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/get-help-to-improve-your-practice/reducing-paperwork>
  - Assessment should be telling you something you don't already know – remark on the remarkable
  - We suggest you only note down the following:
    - Something that is significant for a child in their learning
    - Something you might forget
    - Something you need to check
  - You need to decide on what assessment will look like in your setting:
    - What will be our approach?
    - What are we assessing?
    - Why?
    - What is the impact on children's learning?
    - What is proportionate?
  - You may well need to assess some children more or differently to others – e.g. those you have concerns about – you can use specific assessment tools for this – e.g. The Child Monitoring Tool
  - There is no expectation that any evidence is gathered – photos, written records, etc.
  - It doesn't say however not to record anything – you will at times need to jog your memory – but that isn't the same thing as collecting evidence
  - You will need to manage the expectations of parents in relation to the amount of information shared. You will need to think about what you do include and what you don't – include parents – ask what matters to them? What is most useful for them?
  - You do still need to share assessments with parents and carers
  - Ofsted will have conversations with you about children – they won't expect to see learning journeys, photos, tracking grids, etc.
  - Rather than using month bands/ levels of development for the cohort, think who is where they should be, then focus on those children who aren't; consider using specific assessment tools to assess their learning and development and detail what you're going to offer these children