

## **‘Thinking again about assessment’ – EYCS assessment guidance.**

The changes to the guidance on assessment within the revised ‘Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)’ 2021, provide a great opportunity to focus once again on the purpose of assessment and importance of it making a difference to children.

Our updated assessment guidance has been designed to help us all think again about assessment and assessment practices - what we do and why we do it. The materials have been drawn up in alignment with the expectations of the ‘Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)’ 2021 and Ofsted. We believe that they are easily accessed, and simple yet effective to use.

The assessment materials on Suffolk Learning <https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/eyfs-in-suffolk/assessment> will provide an overview of the key elements that make up an effective assessment system.

Greater detail and further information will be found under clear sub-headings in the ‘Assessment in greater depth’ section. These are designed to be used according to your needs – as a layer-by-layer review of assessment, a specific area of focus, or when particularly relevant to staff development.

We are **planning to introduce these gradually over the summer period 2021** – to enable practitioners to read, explore and focus on each of them in turn.

1. We would ask you to start by watching our new presentation – (go to <https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/eyfs-in-suffolk/assessment> and then click on the image on the webpage)



**“What if children designed assessment practices?”**

2. We have included a ‘Reflections and discussion points’ guide to accompany this.

This document can be used in a number of ways -

- to bring out further details about the points raised in the slides
- as a starting point for staff discussions at team meetings
- as a way to reflect on your current practice and think about how you may adjust and improve upon what you already do
- to identify points for development that can be a focus of your meetings with your EYCS Quality and Access Adviser or Worker

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3. Explore each or all of the following sections (details to follow later in the summer)

### Assessment in greater depth



4. As an example, each will provide a range of relevant information.

<b>Developing practice – leaders and managers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at skills, knowledge and systems</li> <li>• Reviews and prompts (groups of children or areas of learning)</li> <li>• Peer to peer observations</li> <li>• Supervisions</li> <li>• Ways of recording</li> </ul>
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5. Each sub-heading will follow a similar arrangement.

<b>Each section</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do I need to know?</li> <li>• What can I develop further?</li> <li>• Points for reflection</li> <li>• Where next? Further information</li> </ul>
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There are many useful and detailed documents and websites that support assessment practice in the early years, some of which we have signposted. We would recommend that you take the opportunity to explore these further as appropriate.