

Supporting Children with EAL in the Setting

EYFS Commitment 1.2: The diversity of individuals and communities is valued and respected. No child or family is discriminated against.

How do you ensure accurate assessment of an EAL child's understanding and knowledge?



How do you ensure that all children and adults in your setting show respect for each child's home language?

Consider current practice in your setting against our top ten strategies for effective support of your EAL children:

Advise parents to use first language at home. Learn some key words and phrases in children's home languages.

Limit intensive listening to short bursts: it is tiring listening to a different and new language. Support listening with visual props.

Provide a rich language environment—create opportunities for speaking and listening across all areas of learning.

Value and respond to non-verbal communication: gesture, signing, facial expressions. Encourage use of visual support.

Learn to pronounce and spell children's names correctly.

Allow children to hear their home languages spoken in the setting as well as English, for example, read a story or play story tapes in their language, have video materials available

Keep instructions simple. Repeat them clearly for your EAL children.

Use clear, natural language. Avoid using complex language that can be misunderstood or confusing. Check stories for clarity of language. Use repetitive texts.

Ensure adult led activities are taught in a multi-sensory way and that provision encourages active learning, play and exploration.

Keep routines consistent. Share these with parents and children. Ensure they are understood. Consistency helps the child to know what to expect next.

Encourage all children and staff to learn some of the languages they hear around them. Learn greetings in different languages.

Involve parents in using bilingual skills for story telling and translating focus texts; writing labels in their child's home language. Discuss themes before you start them; send home stories that they can share with their child before you read them.

Please refer to your Inclusive Practice commitment card in the EYFS, as well as the CD-rom for further reading on effective practice.