

09 Early years practice procedures

09.5 Establishing children's starting points

When children start at the setting they arrive at different levels of learning and development. In order to help them to settle and make rapid progress it is important that they are provided with care and learning opportunities that are suited to their needs, interests and abilities. This means establishing and understanding their starting points and whether there are any obstacles to their learning, so that teaching can be tailored to the 'unique child'.

- The aim of establishing a child's starting points is to ensure that the most appropriate care and learning is provided from the outset.
- Starting points are established by gathering information from the first contact with the child's parents at registration and during the 'settling in' period.
- The key person is responsible for establishing their key children's starting points by gathering information in the following ways:
 - observation of the child during an initial visit to the setting
 - discussion with the child's parents
 - building on information that has been gathered during registration by referring to the registration form
 - information taken from the 'All About Me' on Tapestry

The information gathered is recorded within two weeks of the child's official start date and sooner where possible.

If the initial assessment raises any concerns that extra support may be required procedure 09.13 Identification, assessment and support for children with SEND is followed.