

Supporting a school to move towards outstanding Early Years provision

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The school's Ofsted inspection identified that to raise teaching and pupils' achievement to outstanding in the EYFS, staff needed to plan the activities for children to choose more thoroughly so that adults working with them could stretch their learning more effectively. Over two terms, the Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) worked with the EYFS Leader and Year R team to review current resourcing and practice and implement changes to improve the quality and effectiveness of child initiated learning experiences. This focused on developing the continuous provision within the learning environments both inside and outside, to ensure all areas provided good levels of engagement and supported high quality learning opportunities. It also involved developing planning for enhancements to the learning environment so that it provided prompts for adults on how to use the resources to support children to effectively make links in order to progress their learning.

Using evidence based audit tools, the provision and levels of children's engagement during child initiated learning experiences were assessed before and after the agreed support. This showed improvements in the way the physical environment and adult facilitation supported child initiated learning resulting in higher levels of involvement and evidence of the characteristics of effective learning from the children in their self-chosen activities. The Teaching Assistants were also interviewed at the start and end of the agreed support to determine their confidence when facilitating child initiated learning. They fed back that the new planning *'lets us know why things (enhancements) are there and how these can be used to support learning'*. They also found the key questions and prompts really useful as they *'help us make links to other learning happening'*. The Teaching Assistants also felt that the improvements to the planning had helped them to become more focused when making observations of children's child initiated learning.