



Guidance for using the Integrated 2 Year Old Review progress check

Age two to two-and-a-half is an important time for young children their parents and their family. It is a period of rapid growth, learning and development in a young child's life, and is also a crucial time when a child's need for additional support from health services or the education system can and may become clear.

While the care given during the first months and years of a baby's life is critical for preparing them with the skills for the future, age two is another important stage where planned contact with parents, their child and health can help to make a real difference to their future outcomes. Integrating the existing health and education reviews at age two will help to identify needs therefore enabling effective early intervention for those children who need more support, at an age where these interventions can be more effective than they would be for an older child

In planning and guiding what children learn, practitioners will reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust practice accordingly. Key to supporting young children are the three characteristics of effective learning: playing and learning, active learning and creating and thinking critically. In partnership parents and settings can help and support children to have a go, to keep trying if things are a little difficult, enjoy their achievements, enable children to develop their own ideas and support them to make the links between ideas and strategies for doing things.

With the introduction of the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) from 1st September 2021, the 2 Year Old Review template has been updated and refreshed in order to meet the requirements of the Statutory framework. The template has been shared with colleagues in the Early Years Reference Group who represent the sector and feedback has informed the new template.

The 2 Year Old Review remains a statutory assessment for all 2 year olds attending an early years setting including childminders, Private, Voluntary and Independent providers (PVI's) and schools. The 2 Year Old Health Assessment remains a mandated contact for health between 2 and 2.5 years of age. In the pilot of the revised template the providers included the completed template in the child's red book rather than the summary slip and parents provided very positive feedback about the accessibility of this for their family and their Health Visitor. The use of the red book slip will be considered further in the revised Cumbrian model.

It is a requirement of the EYFS that a child's progress between two and three years of age must be reviewed and a short written summary of the child's development in the three prime areas reported upon. Providers will celebrate the child's successes and also include any actions they will take to help a child develop in areas where they are doing less well. The child's report may be shared with other professionals who can help support a child but they will only do this with parent/carer permission, set out on the report template.

Cumbria Early Years team will be sharing with providers resources and documents including a 2 Year Old Toolkit to support practice and provision and also to enable early identification and intervention for our youngest children to ensure timely support is implemented where needed.

Over the coming weeks the Cumbrian Model for the joint reviews between health and education is being refreshed and will be piloted in selected areas of the county. From this the county model will be finalised and shared with all providers. In the meantime, if you are not involved with the pilot please continue to work with your Health Visitor for any children you feel would benefit from an integrated review.

Between 2 and 3 years of age, childcare providers will ask to meet with parents/carers to talk about what their child is good at, what their interests are and any areas where they think their child might need extra support. This discussion will usually be with the child's key person and/or the key person and Health Visitor. Parents/carers can be encouraged to share with providers about what their child likes to do including details of the activities, games or stories, songs and rhymes they particularly enjoy. Childcare providers will work with parents/carers to help develop these interests and meet the child's needs within the setting and discuss what can be done at home to support the child's learning. During these discussions it is helpful if parent/carers are also able to share the outcome of the child's Ages and Stages Questionnaire if completed to help plan activities for the child in the setting. This questionnaire will cover through discussion:

- General development, including movement, speech, social skills and behaviour, and hearing and vision
- Growth, healthy eating and keeping active
- Managing behaviour and encouraging good sleeping habits
- Tooth brushing and going to the dentist
- Keeping your child safe
- Vaccinations
- Toileting

If there is any area of development where additional support may be required, the 2 Year Old Review must describe some activities and strategies the provider intends to use to address and support these needs. Ideally the progress check and the healthy Child Programme health and development reviews should inform each other and support integrated working in order to benefit the child.