

Self-assessment

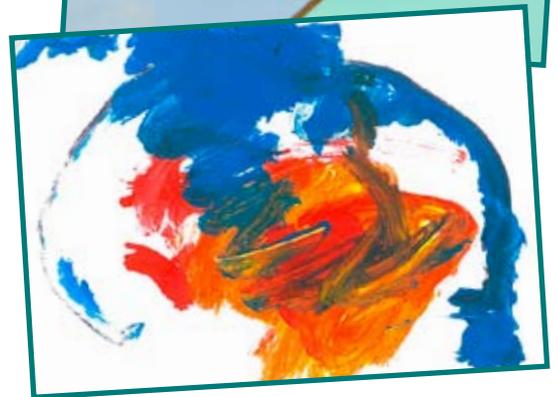
What is self-assessment?

Self-assessment involves children thinking about their own learning and development. Children do this as part of how they learn, and often they are the best assessors of what they have done and achieved. Over time, they are better able to think about what they did, said or made, and to make decisions about how they might do better next time. This helps them to set personal goals and to work towards these goals together as a group or individually.

How do I help children to self-assess?

Children need time to develop self-assessment skills. The adult plays a key role by spending time with them individually, in pairs or in groups, and revisiting the activities and events they were involved in. Using prompts, the adult guides children's thinking as they talk about their experiences. Helpful prompts include:

- *What did you do when ...?*
- *How did you do that? What did you use?*
- *What happened then? Why do you think it happened?*
- *I wonder what would have happened if ...*
- *I wonder how we could ...*
- *What would you like to do next (time)? How will you do that?*
- *You might like to do it with Trevor.*
- *I'm wondering what you were thinking when ...?*
- *What was easy about this work?*
- *What was difficult about the work?*
- *Are you happy with ...?*
- *What did you learn from that?*
- *What would you do differently if you were doing it again?*
- *What would help you to do better ...?*



At other times, the adult might invite children to talk about samples of their work. These might include constructions, drawings, dressing-up outfits, paintings, puzzles, sculptures, or writing. Alternatively, the adult might use photographs of these to start a discussion. As part of the discussion the adult might provide words and phrases to help children develop a language which they can use when talking about what they did, said or made, felt, and learned.

Collections of things children have made and/or photographs can help them connect past learning and new learning. This in turn can help them identify what they are good at, where they can improve, and what new learning they would like to do. This is the basis for setting learning goals for themselves.

With what age group of children can I use self-assessment?

Self-assessment can be used with toddlers and young children. Babies too can sometimes use it as can be seen in the next learning experience.