**Developmental Overviews**

*Some frequently asked questions – 2019 version*

***Why would we use a Developmental Overview?***

When the Overviews were being developed, feedback from parents and staff showed us that there were three purposes that were highly valued:

* To see easily where a child’s strengths were in development
* To identify any areas for more work or concerns about a child
* To help with having a conversation with parents about children’s development. The Overviews allow you to emphasise strengths as well as needs, since most children will have many boxes coloured green or yellow.

***When should we use a Developmental Overview?***

Developmental Overviews are best used as an ongoing part of observation, planning and tracking, and shared with families as part of the child’s Profile. It is best to make sure that changes are dated – and learning observations also made in the profile. There are 3 and 4 year old versions, and staff should pick the one that is best for recording for each child. A 2 year old version is due to be rolled out soon.

You can also use the Overviews to discuss any concerns with parents, but also to challenge children’s learning since they also show areas of strength that can be developed further, as well as areas that need more work.

Developmental Overviews are now expected in any request for assistance process for outside professionals, including the Just Ask helpline.

***How should we use the Overviews?***

The Overviews are designed so that you do not need to set up any special tasks or do anything formal. Nearly all the items can be observed over time in day-to-day practice. For some of them, you may need information from home or elsewhere, e.g., if you don’t have stairs in your setting!

***How should we involve parents/carers?***

As with all aspects of profiling, it is by far the best practice to involve parents/carers in the Developmental Overviews as much as possible. Precisely how depends on the situation and your best judgment. Many settings involve parents/carers from the start to share their information and complete the Overviews together. Others give them a copy to complete at home and then compare. Obviously, for children with English as an additional language, you will need to ask parents about language development in their home language. For these children, do not confuse the Developmental Overviews with the trackers for learning English – these are additional documents for children who require them.

***Do we need to do an Overview if the child has a Plan, or an outside professional is involved?***

Yes, Overviews are still likely to be helpful. Firstly, they provide information that is very relevant for the Plan. Secondly, even if the child “has” a Speech and Language Therapist or a Paediatrician, you still need to check their development in other areas, and think how you can support it in your setting. You will also want to monitor ongoing progress as for any child in the setting

***What do we do with the information from the Overviews?***

It is primarily for you, to help you and the child’s parents/carers decide what to do. You can find useful advice and strategies that can be shared with families on [www.bumps2bairns.com](http://www.bumps2bairns.com). This information has been compiled by Highland Speech and Language, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists and others. Remember to check from time to time to see what progress there is in response to your work. If you are not seeing progress, then follow your setting policies with respect to the Practice Model.

***Developmental Overviews and transition to P1***

Feedback from P1 teachers has consistently showed that they find the Overviews useful when they are passed on to them. The Overviews now form the basis for emerging literacy teaching in the first weeks of P1.

For all children transitioning to Primary School, Overviews (4-year-old version) should be updated during May and passed on to the relevant P1 teacher. Overviews can of course also be used in transition discussions earlier for children who need a more planned transition.

You will also be asked to send a copy of the final Overview for Highland-wide collation. Details of how to do this will be circulated in good time each year.