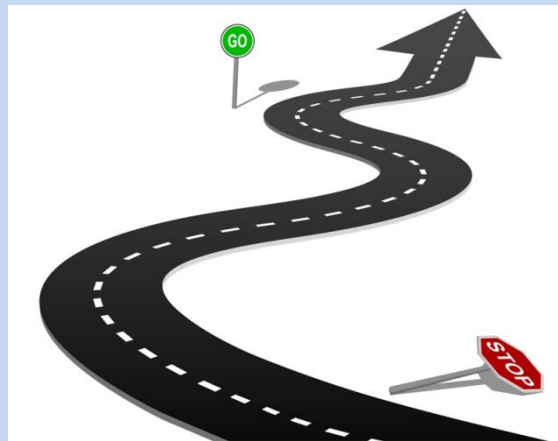


PORT CHARLOTTE PRE 5

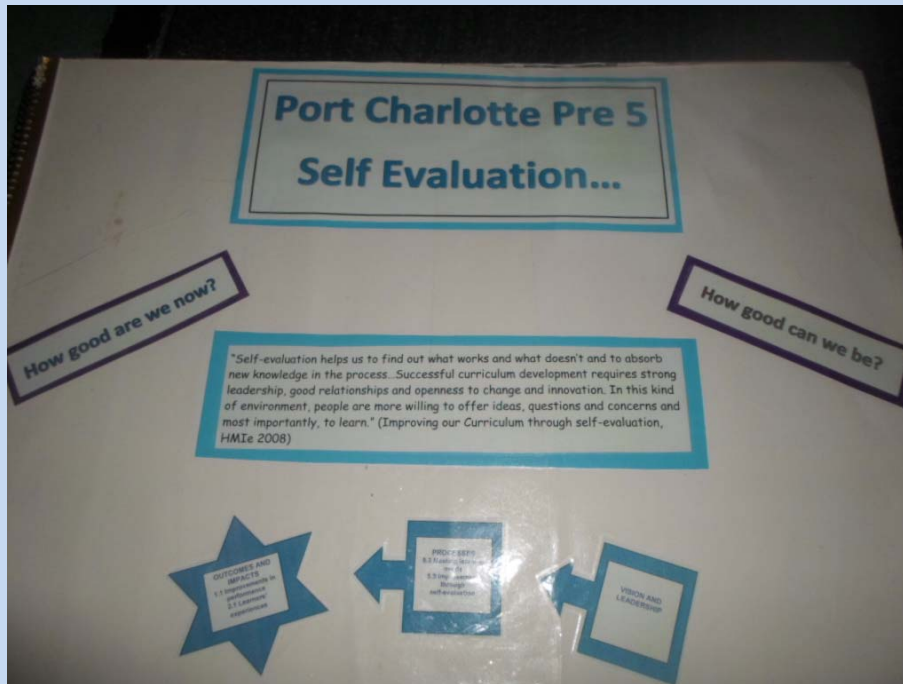
Self evaluation – we're on a journey...

At the last Early Years Conference, we had not long embarked on a different way to document our successes and next steps, which we shared with you.



We would like to share with you where we are now, a year later, and how our new method of recording self-evaluation has helped us.

A starting point...



Where are we?
How do we know?
Where do we want to be?

How can we involve everyone
in the self-evaluation
process in an 'easy to
understand' way?

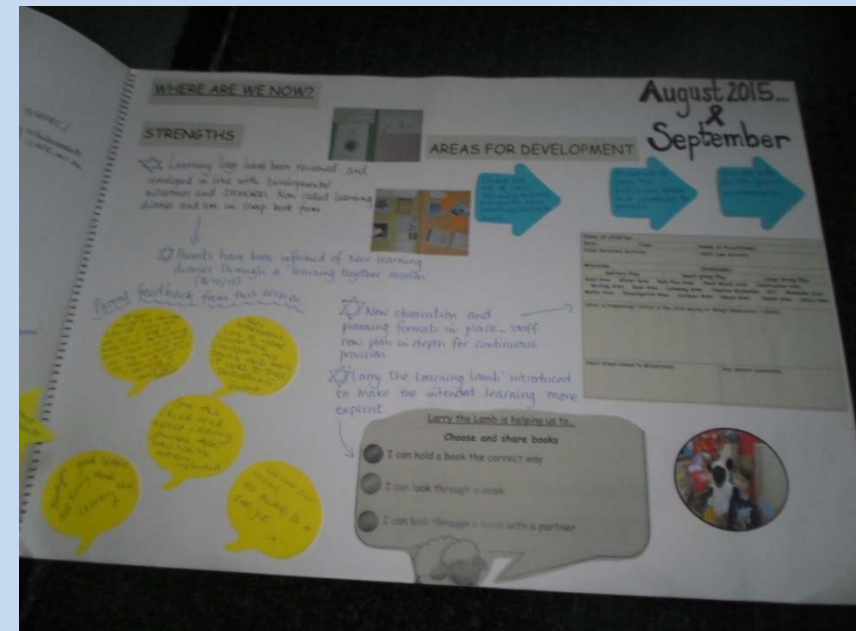
We wanted a way to show our
progress in a visual way instead of
it being put away in a folder
somewhere!

How have we used the floor-book?

Our Self-evaluation floor book allows us to document improvements in a variety of ways, to everyone involved with the unit. It is a visual way of communicating and we have now developed one for the school too.

It shows our journey to excellence and we are now full steam ahead!

- Children – helped design a new outdoor area, have chosen resources for the nursery, are asked on a regular basis what they like / want to do or change etc.
- Parents – questionnaires, learning together mornings, given a blank plan of outdoor area etc.
- Staff – involved in planning / improving the unit on a weekly basis
- Early Years EO – regular visits and updates.



What has it helped us to develop?

- By being very specific and outcome focussed, we have been able to show how we have taken forward areas of improvement highlighted by HMI, Children, Parents and Staff.
- We have been able to show the progression of these improvements, documenting how important the plan, do, review cycle is.
- Parents have engaged very well with this way of working.

For example, Developing the Environment...

- With stakeholders, we evaluated our nursery environment against the Argyll and Bute checklist:

Environment
Most activities are set up on the floor or in a space that is not restrictive
Activities and the environment change on a regular basis to respond to children's needs and wishes
Areas are open ended and 'provocative' – encouraging children to engage
There are opportunities for children to be inventive and for exploration – promoting independent learning, problem solving and higher order thinking skills
There is daily access to the outdoor learning environment
The outdoor environment also promotes a range of changing, challenging activities
Learning Experiences
Learning through play is promoted and encouraged
Adults use effective questioning to support children in their learning
Adults use effective intervention to support children in their learning but do not lead the learning
Planning is flexible and uses a floorbook approach
Most of the day is child initiated, with less time planned for whole group activities
All staff and children contribute to the planning process
Observations are meaningful and contribute to identifying appropriate next steps for the children
There is clear evidence to show how a child's needs are being met through effective planning, observation and next steps

From this...

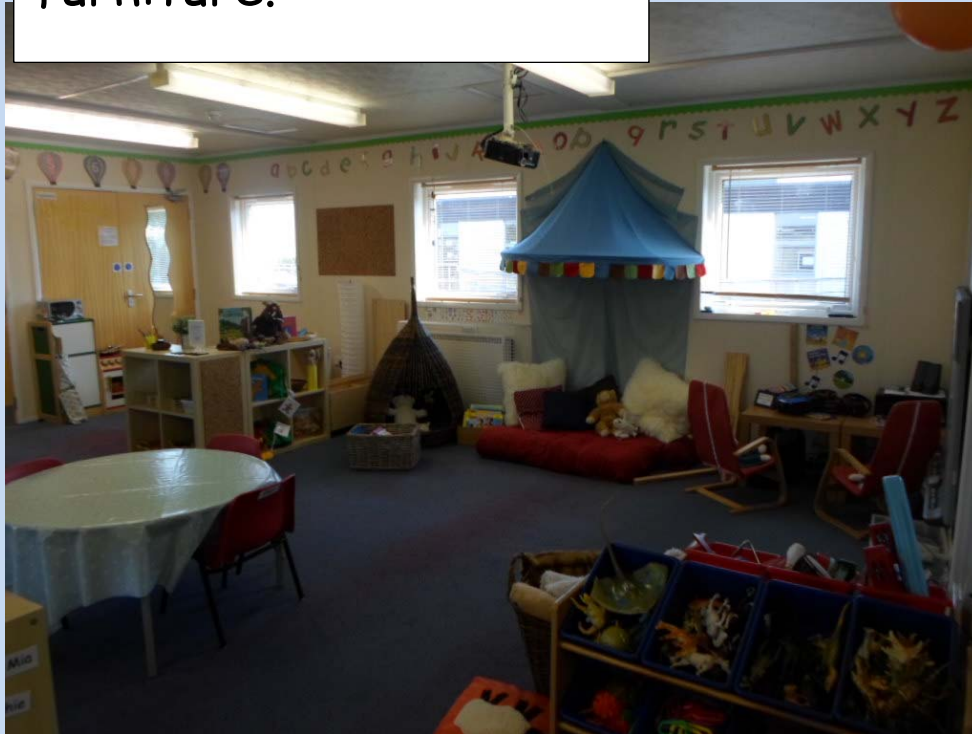


Little free floor space;
Lots of furniture;
Brightly coloured displays on all the walls!

A visit to Arnprior nursery (as part of the sharing practice initiative) helped us to further develop our vision for the environment.

Open, natural and less furniture.

To this...



Open ended, provocative, child's level

There are opportunities for children to be inventive and for exploration - promoting independent learning, problem solving and higher order thinking skills





Easily accessible water and sand resources which include a range of literacy and numeracy.



Literacy and numeracy throughout the unit...



Open ended, provocative, child's level



Dedicated 'home corner' which is always there & next to literacy area. If children want to make their own home corner e.g a cave, den etc, then they can as all resources are open ended.



For example, developing planning and observation cycle...

Checklist Title: Early Level Classes
Learning Experiences
Observations are meaningful and contribute to identifying appropriate next steps for the children
There is clear evidence to show how a child's needs are being met through effective planning, observation and next steps
Planning is flexible and uses a floor-book approach

WHAT NEXT?

- Continue to develop parental involvement with regards to the children's special books.
- Enhance learning experiences further by developing effective questioning and intervention.

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