

A Guide to Special Sheets in the Early Years



Please find attached your child's special sheet. This sheet is used in your child's learning journal as evidence of the progress they are making. This sheet provides a snapshot of your child's learning in school as well as their developmental stage. It is yours to keep at home and we hope you enjoy celebrating your child's achievements.

In the autumn and spring term, your child will receive a special sheet with observations evidencing new learning and the progress they have made. Children staying in nursery will also receive a 'special sheet' in the summer term. Those children moving from Nursery to Reception or Reception to year 1 receive an end of year report.

Instead of having Parents' Evening in EYFS, you will have the opportunity to briefly discuss this sheet and how your child is getting on. In addition, there will be drop-in sessions for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. If you have any other concerns or questions at any other point, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Where should my child be and what if my child is behind where they should be?

On your child's special sheet, you will be told if your child is working:

- Below
- Towards
- At
- Above

Children develop at different rates and it is very normal to be working at different points in the various areas of learning. We would expect the children to be working 'at' age expectation on each special sheet.

It is not unusual for a child to be working below, particularly if they are learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) or if they have Special Educational Needs (SEN). Children new to Nursery are often working below age expectations as well. With the support of home and school, the children can quickly make progress.

What is the next step?

The next step is something that would help your child to progress. It is designed to be something that you can work on at home and we will, of course, practise it in school too. Sometimes your child's teacher will give you resources to support you at home. Please ask if there is anything you need.

How can I contribute to my child's learning journal?

We know that your child will continue learning at home and you will be seeing them progress and develop new skills every day. We value what happens at home just as much as the learning we observe in school and we would love to hear about achievements at home. Please return the attached 'wow slips' to add to your child's learning profile in school. Please ask for more if you require them. There is no particular achievement that needs to be recorded on the slip. It will most likely be something that makes you proud or something your child has not done before. Here are some suggestions:

- A new skill they have learned such as putting on socks or a coat.
- New words or language they have developed.
- An experience that is new such as visiting a farm or museum.

Thank you for your support, *The EYFS Team*