

- Using an understanding of the developmental characteristics of two year olds to create an appropriate learning environment for them
- Using observation as a tool to inform record keeping and planning procedures
- Utilising action planning to enable the setting's managers and management committees to provide effectively for two year olds

In addition all our courses for staff working with 3 - 5 year olds are mapped to the key elements of effective practice (KEEP) requirements ensuring that practitioners are working to the principles and ethos of the foundation stage as well as its learning outcomes.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

From September 2008 all registered providers of services for children aged 0-5 will have to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage. This new structure brings together the welfare requirements of the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding with the learning frameworks Birth to Three Matters and the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage. As such it provides an over-arching structure within which children's care and learning takes place and represents a major change in the way early years provision is directed in England.

To help settings and their staff prepare for this change the Alliance offers a range of excellent programmes covering all aspects of the new framework. These include:

- How to review and reflect on own practice, and to how plan for improvement
- Why a strong partnership with parents is important and how to create an inclusive and effective partnership
- How to contribute to a system of evidence collection, assessment, record keeping and planning for each child, that will help them progress
- How to plan for the whole setting
- Understanding the ways children learn in their early years, and teaching strategies that help promote their development

- How to integrate communication, language and literacy into the setting's curriculum
- Understanding children's early mathematical thinking and how to provide a mathematically rich environment
- How to ensure that children's personal, social and emotional development is promoted through the routines and activities of the setting
- How to ensure that the setting's curriculum helps children to lay the foundations of their knowledge and understanding of the world
- How to plan and provide activities that progress children's physical development
- Understanding the nature of children's creativity and how to provide a curriculum that promotes this
- How to provide ICT activities for children that help them to achieve the Foundation Stage's expectations for their learning in ICT and to use ICT to support other areas of their learning

**RR Recommended reading:**

- *Making Their Day: Providing for two-year-olds in pre-schools and mixed age settings* (Pre-school Learning Alliance)
- *Playing and Learning for the Under-Threes* (Pre-school Learning Alliance)
- *Parent and Toddler Groups - Self-assessment for good practice* (Pre-school Learning Alliance)