

## **Demystifying the new SEF**

### **EYFS self-evaluation form**

Age group covered – birth to 31 August following a child's fifth birthday

Date – Sept 2009

Ofsted reference – 080104

Guidance reference – 080103

### **CONTENTS**

#### **The new SEF is in 3 parts (A, B and C) –**

**Part A** – Setting details and views of those who use the setting

**Section 1** – Your setting;

**Section 2** – Views of those who use your setting;

#### **Part B – the quality of the early years provision and outcomes for children who attend**

This covers the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes but they have changed some of the wording. You must show how you help children to – achieve and enjoy; feel safe; adopt healthy lifestyles; make a positive contribution; develop skills for the future. There are 4 sections that cover...

**Section 3** – The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

**Section 4** – Outcomes for children in the early years provision

**Section 5** – The leadership and management of the early years provision

**Section 6** – The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

#### **Part C – information about compliance with statutory requirements**

### **NOTES**

Try to explain how the things you do impact on the children rather than just listing what you do.

If you think you are repeating yourself, refer back to the section where you have put your answer. You do not need to write things twice. Some of the questions have a different slant to others, but seem quite similar, so think about what you put where and move it around if that helps.

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### **SECTION 1. YOUR SETTING**

Describe your setting and the children who attend... this question is the same as in the original SEF

Guidance page 8.

### **SECTION 2. VIEWS OF THOSE WHO USE YOUR SETTING**

Who says what about your setting and how do you know? This question is the same as in the original SEF

Guidance page 8.

### **SECTION 3. THE QUALITY OF PROVISION IN THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE**

This is asking about how effectively you promote children's learning and development and their welfare to enable them to achieve good outcomes.

Guidance page 9.

#### **Question a. The quality of provision**

The guidance is not particularly helpful I don't think. The question wants you to say how good you are – how you help children to learn and develop – how you observe, plan and assess.

I think you will be able to say more once you have worked through questions b – f. I would do those first then come back to this and put in anything you haven't mentioned.

### **SECTION 4. OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN THE EARLY YEARS PROVISION**

Guidance pages 12–14.

**Question b. Enjoy and achieve;**

**Question c. Safe child;**

**Question d. Healthy lifestyles;**

**Question e. Positive contribution;**

**Question f. Developing skills for the future.**

These are pretty much the same as the original SEF with a few wording changes and the guidance is very slightly different.

**Question g.** This is where you rate yourself from unsatisfactory to outstanding.

**SECTION 5. THE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE EARLY YEARS PROVISION**

This section is new / re-written. The guidance says that you need to show how well you –

- embed ambition and drive improvement
- deploy your resources
- promote equality and diversity
- safeguard children
- use self-evaluation to promote improvement
- work in partnership with parents and others

To do this you need to provide evidence for the following questions. Remember don't just list what you do... try to show how what you do makes a difference for the children. At the end of every section, aim to have a sentence that says 'I do this because it supports the children to...' or 'This means that outcomes for children are improved because...'

**Question h) The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement**

This is about your vision for the setting... your wish list... your view of the future.  
Guidance pages 14–15.

**Question i) The effectiveness with which your setting deploys resources**

How well you use resources, both inside and out. If you employ staff this refers to how well you use their knowledge and expertise as well.

Guidance on page 15

**Question j) The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity**

This question is about equal opportunities – you might have covered bits in the positive contribution question earlier that you can move into here.

Guidance pages 15–16

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### **Question k) The effectiveness of safeguarding**

This has a slightly different slant and asks you to think about recruitment, training, child protection and teaching children to be safe. Again if you have talked about that in the 'Keeping safe' section, you can move it to here.

Guidance page 16–17.

### **Question l) The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement**

Do you use your SEF to improve the work you do? Do you refer back to it and note where you have improved?

Guidance page 17–18.

### **Question m) The effectiveness of partnerships**

This is referring to partnerships with other settings and other professionals.

Guidance page 18.

### **Question n) The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers**

Now you can talk about partnerships with parents and carers. If you have put anything in 'positive contribution' about this, you can copy and paste it into here instead.

Guidance page 18.

### **Question o) The effectiveness of leadership and management in the Early Years Foundation Stage**

Pull your answers to questions h – n together and do a conclusion (like you did for essays at school!)

Guidance page 19–20.

## **SECTION 6. THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EARLY YEARS PROVISION**

This section aims to gather all the evidence you have given and answer the question, 'What is it like for a child here?'

Guidance page 20–22.

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### **Question p) The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement?**

Cross reference your answer back to when you talked about how well you self evaluate and use your SEF to improve.

### **Question q) How well does the setting meet the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?**

This is your very last chance to blow your trumpet. Anything you haven't put in the previous 16 questions goes here!!

**Part C** appears to be the same as the original SEF. It is a table you tick and add comments to as appropriate.