



‘You can learn more about a person in an hour of play with them than a year on conversation.’

~ Plato

The EYFS method of assessing children's learning is centred around this approach. Simply put we observe in order to find out what the children understand. It is when they are playing that they are practicing all of the skills that they have learnt in a holistic, natural, child led way. As practitioners it is our role to watch them, join them and support them on this journey of learning.

### **Assessment.**

Observation is the method of assessment used within all early years' settings. It consists of watching children at play, recording what they are doing and saying and using this to make informed judgements about their current level of understanding. This in turn enables practitioners to decide what the child's next step in learning should be. There are many different ways to observe children at play, all of which can give practitioners insight into children's thinking, interests and understanding.

The most commonly used method of observation is **incidental observations**. These are short anecdotal notes of what a child is doing and saying at a particular moment in their play. This involves the practitioners analysing this observation as it happens and providing for the child's next steps as they occur i.e. a child cannot write number 2, an adult then models writing it using different methods resulting in the child writing number two correctly. Each child will have a focus week once a term where they will be observed closely by all practitioners.

**In-depth observations** take place over a specific time period (10 minutes or more) during which the observer will record **EVERYTHING** that the child says and does during that time.



“Delivering our letters to Santa”



“We have lots of fun in Maths”



“We love learning outside”