The Derbyshire Early Years SEN Service – Celebratory Checkpoints. 3-4

When considering the aspects of development being observed, we should always have in mind the foundational learning themes that accompany and underpin the play and interaction we see.

Executive fund	Executive function includes the child's ability to hold information in mind, focus their attention, think flexibly, inhibit impulsive						
behaviour.							
These abilities contribute to the child's growing ability to self-regulate, concentrate their thinking, plan what to do next, monitor							
what they are doing and adapt, regulate strong feelings, be patient for what they want and bounce back when things get diffic ult.							
Language development is central to self-regulation: children use language to guide their actions and plans. Pretend play gives							
many opportur	nities for children to focus their thinking, persist and plan ahead.						
The 7 Cs of	Communication and Language	Characteristics of Effective					
resilience	Small Step Celebratory Checkpoints (including Development Matters	Learning					
	checkpoints)						
Competence	Around the age of 3, can the child shift from one task to another if you fully	Playing and exploring – I realise					
l can achieve	obtain their attention, for example, by using their name?	that my actions have an effect on					
and make	Toes the child listen in small groups or 1:1 when conversation interests	the world, so I repeat them.					
progress.	them or attend and concentrate to a favoured adult led activity?						
	Can the child focus attention, listen and do, can they shift attention?	I reach for and accept objects,					
Confidence	Toes the child know to wait while others are talking but sometimes can't	making choices and exploring					
I have a go	help butting in?	different resources and materials.					
and keep on							
trying.	Does the child show understanding of discussion of recent events by	I plan and think ahead about how					
	commenting and responding to questions?	to explore or play with objects.					
Connection	Does the child join in with repeated refrains and anticipates key						
l feel safe	events and phrases in rhymes and stories?	l guide my own thinking and					
and secure in	🐨 Can the child listen and follow unfamiliar instructions to carry out an	actions by talking to myself while					
my	activity step by step?	playing.					
relationships;	Toes the child identify a musical instrument from up to four, or	I make independent choices and					
I know who	produce a sequence of sound from sound making objects?	I make independent choices and					
will support	Can the child say a word which rhymes with a word an adult says or continue	do things independently that I					
me and who l	Can the child say a word which mythes with a word an addit says of continue	have been previously taught.					

help.	a rhyming string with nonsense words? The Can the child maintain concentration and attention to an activity and sits quietly for longer periods of time, and persevere with a challenging activity?	I can collaborate and learn	
	quietty for tonger periods of time, and persevere with a chattenging activity:	I can collaborate and learn alongside my peers.	
I have a	Does the child listen to more complex sentences and answers appropriately for example "why are you going upstairs?"	l bring my own interests and fascinations into setting. This	
personality,	Does the child initiate conversation, attend to or take account of what others say and show awareness of when the listener is speaking?	helps me develop my learning.	
strengths	🖚 Can the child work as part of a group or class, taking turns?	I respond to new experiences that	
	Can the child carry out a sequence of simple instructions during play, e.g., sit down, then pat head, then touch nose?	you bring to my attention. Active learning – I participate in routines and can predict sequences of familiar routines. I demonstrate goal-directed behaviour to get to something I	
difference to	Can the child retell a past experience in the correct order or talk about a recent past experience using time vocabulary such as last night or yesterday?		
my setting and to the	Does the child remember three or four items shown on a list for example a picture shopping list of apples, oranges and bananas or remember a spoken list of three objects without visual cues? Can they fetch 3 objects at a time?		
_	🆚 Can the child sequence two to four photographs and talk through the story?	want.	
	Does the child use talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences?	I can correct my mistakes, for example, instead of using increasing force to push a puzzle piece into the slot, I see if a different piece will fit.	
important and valued.	Can the child question why things happen and gives explanations? Do they ask who, what, when, how or use a range of tenses e.g. play, playing, will play, played, or use intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others?		
Coping When things are difficult. I	Does the child play with sounds in words during games with pictures and objects? (Given a sound e.g. 'mmm' can give a word e.g. mouse; and, given a word, e.g. 'sun – can hear and give the initial sound 's')	l repeat activities and make connections.	
own ways of helping	Does the child talk freely about their home and community are of particular importance to them, and build up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences?	I keep on trying when things are difficult.	
well as		I learn through trial and error.	

looking to others for support (I can also let you know what works and what doesn't). Control I have a range of ways that help me feel in control and feel things are predictable.	 Can the child recall and use learned expressions such as name, age, address and phone number? Can the child use words to say what they want, play with others, direct others, tell others about things? Does the child initiate conversations? Can the child talk about pretending that objects stand for something else in play, e.g., 'This box is my castle' Does the child use doll or teddy as partner in play, talking to it and telling it what to do next? Does the child use words to give reasons for actions, for example '" Why are you going upstairs?" "Get teddy" Can the child answer simple 'why' questions? Does the child understand questions including how why and which or clarify own understanding of new words for example "what is a giraffe?" Can the child understand prepositions by carrying out an action or identifying action in image / photograph? Does the child understand the language of 'the same' and 'different', do they use colour vocabulary? Can the child correctly use tenses for example play, played, playing? or correctly use possessives e.g., the boy's teddy? Is the child understand and answer questions containing personal details; name, age, address, names of family members etc 	I watch my peers and adults (modelling). Creating and thinking critically I take part in simple pretend play. I can sort materials, putting different toys in together when tidying I can review my progress as I try to achieve a goal, check how well I am doing to solve real problems I use pretend play to think beyond the 'here and now' and to understand another perspective. As I know more, I feel confident at coming up with my own ideas and make more links between those ideas. I concentrate on achieving something that's important to me and am able to control my attention and ignore distractions
		1

Does the child use language to imagine and recreate roles and new experiences in play situations?
Can the child talk about the feelings of characters in stories and relate to their own experience?
🖚 Can the child produce a sequence of words that begin with same sound?
Toes the child follow a two-part instruction?
🖚 Does the child understand humour in rhymes and jokes?
🖚 Can the child follow and understand a simple conversation with an adult?
 Does the child understand common irregular plurals eg men and feet? Around the age of 4, is the child using sentences of four to six words – "I want to play with cars" or "What's that thing called?" Can the child use sentences joined up with words like 'because', 'or', 'and'? For example: "I like ice cream because it makes my tongue shiver".

Leuven signs of engagement (2008)						
1 Extremely Low	2 Low	3 Moderate	4 High	5 Extremely High		
I have limited	I show some	I am busy but without real	I demonstrate clear signs of	I am continually engaged in		
activity or	degree of	concentration. I engage in	intermittent involvement; I am	the activity and completely		
concentration, I	activity which	some routine actions, but	engaged in the activity without	absorbed and focussed. I am		
daydream and	is often	my attention is often	interruption. Most of the time	highly motivated and am not		
stare. I am passive	interrupted. I	superficial. I am not	there is real concentration,	distracted by strong stimuli. I		
and do not	have	absorbed in the activity;	but during brief moments	exhibit attention for details,		
demonstrate goal	intermittent	activities are short lived. I	attention is more superficial;	shows precision and am		
directed	concentration	have limited motivation with	there is a certain degree of	constantly addressing all my		
behaviour. I do not	and look away	no real dedication, and do	motivation when challenges	capabilities and enjoys being		
show signs of	during activity	not feel challenged; I do not	occur; My capabilities and	engrossed in the activity.		
exploration or	or fiddle. I am	gain deep-level experiences	imagination to a certain extent			
interests.	easily	or use my capabilities to full	are addressed in the activity.			
	distracted	extent; The activity does not				
		address my imagination.				