Assessment in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Making a judgement about the age / stage that a child is working within

Using Development Matters as guidance practitioners should consider a best fit judgement about which ‘age/stage band’ a child is working within. It is recognised that the bands are wide and that children will often be expected to be learning within a band for a year or more.

In line with national developments, progress at later stages within the age/stage bands should be tracked in more detail. Practitioners should consider whether a child is ‘Emerging’ within the age/stage band, ‘Developing’, or ‘Secure’.

Consider:

**Emerging** - Children are able to independently demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding to reflect some of the examples in the developmental age/stage band.

**Developing** - Children are able to independently demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding to reflect the large majority of the examples in the previous age/stage band, and most of the examples in the considered developmental age/stage band.

**Secure** - Children are able to independently demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding to reflect all the examples in the previous band, the majority of the considered band and are moving to the next developmental age/stage band.

This guidance is written to support practitioners to use their professional judgement to understand and support each individual child’s development pathway through the EYFS.