



# EARLY YEARS: ASSESSMENT CYCLE

## Observation...

Observation is looking, listening to and noting what we see and hear from the children in their learning. Observing the children allows us to understand how they develop, learn and progress.

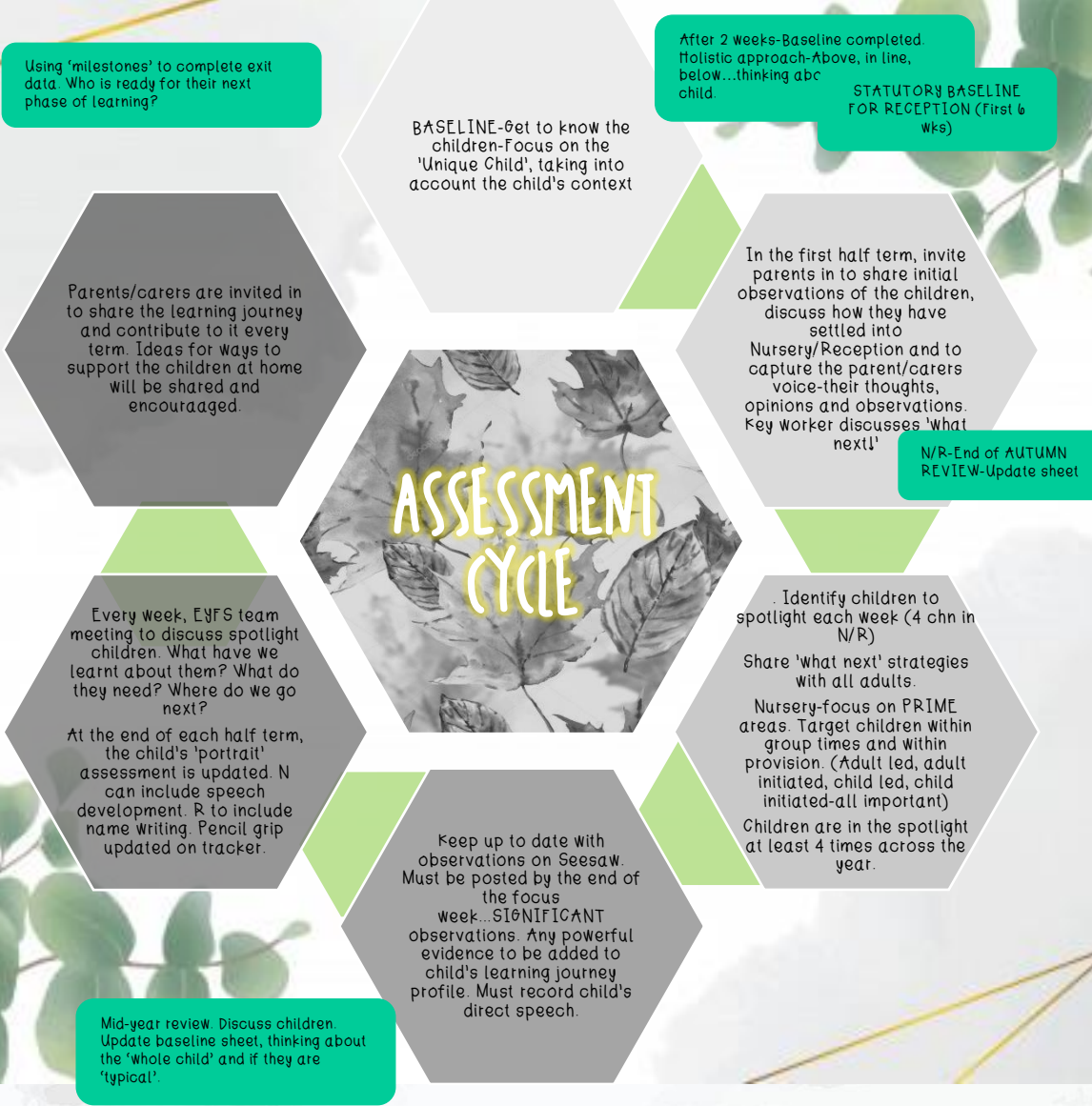
When we observe we:

- \* LOOK
- \* LISTEN
- \* RECORD
- \* THINK
- \* QUESTION

Observing what children choose to do, what their interests are and who and what resources they enjoy playing with, provides adults with reliable information about the children as individuals.

## Partnerships with parents/carers...

Parents know their children intimately. Building a close, trusting and reciprocal relationship with our parents/carers needs to begin as soon as possible. Parents need to be involved as part of our ongoing assessment process. They must share their views and observations about their child's development alongside staff and be involved in planning what opportunities and experiences to offer their child next.



**Assessment...**  
This is the process of analysing and reviewing what we know about the children's learning and development.

**Questions to ask:**

- \* What do the observations tell us about the child's learning and development?
- \* Are we evidencing and capturing progress over time?
- \* How is the assessment feeding into planning?

**Planning...**  
Planning in the early years is about meeting young children's needs so that they can play and learn happily in ways which will help them develop skills and knowledge across the Prime and Specific areas of learning in the EYFS. We follow a long term plan but our short term planning allows us the flexibility to respond to the needs and interests of the children.

