

Future Challenges: Early Years Foundation Stage

By

Ann Langston



Strengths & Weaknesses

STRENGTHS

- Builds on prior knowledge – Birth to Three Matters and CGFS
- Uses familiar terminology and symbols
- Provides important links which will reduce anxiety for practitioners – especially re: 2-4 year olds
- Clear and accessible information

WEAKNESSES

- Needs more information to make links clear
- May seem more complicated than familiar documents
- Introduces new terminology and symbols if you have only worked with one or other of Birth to Three Matters or the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage



Threats

- Aspects of Development OR Areas of Learning?
- Top-down Model?
- Planning?
- Prescriptive Curriculum?



Opportunities

- Recognition that the 'seeds' of learning start from birth, not from 3, 5, or 11
- A wider understanding of the developmental continuum
- More appropriate expectations of young children
- Places an emphasis on the importance of observation – AT LAST!



Beyond Birth to Three Matters

- Holding on to what we believe to be appropriate in the care and education of babies and young children
- Keeping the child as the focus
- Retaining the principles and approach of the BTTMF
- Ensuring the curriculum matches the needs of the child



Engaging in the Process

- Dissect the document
- Think about the SWOT
- Consider the implications
- Contribute to the debate



The Vision

‘Our aim is that EYFS should replicate the things which good parents do as a matter of course with their children, and which they would therefore expect to see in a good childcare setting.’

(EYFS Vision Document)



Marriage

‘The goal in marriage is not to think alike
but to think together.’

Robert. C. Dodds

