



What is cultural capital in the early years?

Cultural capital refers to an approach within the EYFS framework, which is now evident within the revised Ofsted judgement, '*Quality of Education*'. In this judgement, settings are assessed as to how they effectively use the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage to enhance the opportunities and experiences available to the children, particularly the most disadvantaged children.

By introducing cultural capital, it is hoped that children from all backgrounds receive the best possible start in life, irrespective of their home life or challenges. They should be given the support and opportunities to thrive and achieve with their early education and beyond! Each child arrives at Old London Road Preschool with a number of experiences, ideas, and pre-conceived knowledge based on what they have been taught and experienced so far. The idea of cultural capital is that children will have their experiences broadened within our setting, and be opened to a new world of learning and wonder, particularly where children have a more disadvantaged home life. This means that our Old London Road Preschool EYFS practitioners are expected to increase a child's cultural capital over the course of their Early Years Foundation Stage journey.

Where children are from a more underprivileged background, we may receive additional funding to ensure that we can provide stimulating, thought-provoking activities and provisions which allow children to explore ideas and concepts they may not have previously been exposed to. During an Ofsted inspection, it will be our role to demonstrate how we have introduced cultural capital through our planning, practice, and provisions.

What exactly does this mean in early years settings?

Cultural capital is all about providing our children with experiences and opportunities to help them progress and achieve success. Essentially, it's about giving them everything they need for what comes next in their learning and development.

When children start in our setting, they already have a variety of different experiences in learning and play. Cultural capital in EYFS is about building on these early experiences. It gives children other opportunities to be curious, explore, try new things, and experience awe and wonder.

It's always about offering things that children are interested in, and opportunities for them to practice and develop new skills. For us as practitioners, this will mean using regular observations of the children in our setting. This will enable us to develop an understanding of what every child requires and needs. It will also mean we can learn about their current experiences and prompt them with new activities.