

A Unique Child

When referring to the guidance for the Areas of Learning and Development, it is important to start with what is observed and understood about the individual child.

A typical progression in development and learning has been grouped into broad ranges in the column for A Unique Child. This is intended to support knowledge of a general pattern of child development.

Practitioners can identify a range that most closely describes the child's development and learning, and then consider the suggestions for adults within that range (or earlier ranges) to plan to support continued progress.

The guidance can also help to identify when children may need additional support, by referring to the key provided here which links the ranges to typical age spans.

In summative assessments, comparing best-fit judgements of ranges with typical age spans can help identify whether children are roughly on track, or are progressing more slowly or quickly. This information can be useful for leaders and managers in planning for the continual improvement of practice and provision in the setting.

Key to understanding the age ranges:

RANGE 1

BIRTH - 6 MONTHS

6 - 12 MONTHS

MONTHS

RANGE 2

12 - 18 MONTHS

MONTHS

RANGE 3

18 - 24 MONTHS

MONTHS

RANGE 4

24 - 36 MONTHS

MONTHS

RANGE 5

36 - 48 MONTHS

MONTHS

RANGE 6

48 - 60 MONTHS

MONTHS

60 - 71 MONTHS

MONTHS

Children develop and learn at their own rates, and in their own ways. The guidance on possible development trajectories should not be taken as necessary steps, nor assumed to be in a particular order, for individual children. The guidance should not be used as a checklist. The age links overlap Ranges because these are not fixed age boundaries but suggest a typical range of development.

Please note: This key is also available for quick view on the inside back cover