



The Bristol Standard is used by other local authorities, play associations and individual schools and settings across the country.

The Bristol Standard supports reflective practice and continuing professional development.



These purposes are underpinned by the National Quality Improvement Principles.

The Bristol Standard supports Play settings to:

Achieve high quality provision for all children from birth in a culture of inclusion and anti-discriminatory practice.

Work together collaboratively, have a voice and learn from each other.

Celebrate current good practice and develop the quality and effectiveness of provision through a process of reflection.

Make improvements that will benefit all children from birth.

Develop genuine partnerships with children's families or carers, other professionals and the local and wider community.

Promote leadership which is motivational and inclusive that demonstrates a commitment to sustain continuous improvement and contribute to professional development.

Enable change through clear leadership and a shared vision which values individual strengths.



Improving on our previous best!



Children are at the heart of the Bristol Standard



What is the Bristol Standard?

The Bristol Standard is a framework that enables settings to continually reflect on their practice to improve the quality and effectiveness of their provision for all children and families.

This is through a dynamic cycle of informed discussion, self evaluation and action.

The Bristol Standard identifies good practice and is in tune with current National and International research.



How do Play Settings achieve the Bristol Standard?

The whole staff team or childminders reflect on the 10 dimensions of quality over a year and gather evidence of their strengths and set actions for improvement to submit for validation.

The framework identifies good practice and then asks practitioners questions to help them identify.

- Their strengths
- What they want to improve
- How this will benefit the children

Bristol Standard 10 Dimensions of Quality

Values and Aims - What do we want for all our children? How will we go about it?

Relationships and Interactions - Are we welcoming and supportive to all the people in our setting? How do we know?

The Reflective Playworker - How do we make time and value reflection as part of our professional development?

The Play Environment - How do we support children to create stimulating, flexible and accessible spaces inside and out?

Play Experiences - How do we value the essential nature of play for healthy, holistic development?

Observing and Listening to Play

How do we observe, listen and respond to children with play being central to Playwork practice?

Staffing, Leadership and Management

How do we support staff to fulfil their role and take part in professional development?

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

How do we include all children and ensure that we give individuals the appropriate access and support?

Family and Community - How do we value parents as experts on their children and make links with the community?

Record Keeping, Monitoring and Evaluation

Are we doing what we aimed to do, how well is it going and what is the impact?

Bristol Standard Validation

The submission is validated by a team of experienced local authority validators, representing a range of Play settings who check that the criteria have been met.

Settings receive a certificate which is valid for one year and is an endorsement of the setting's reflective journey and their commitment to improving the quality of their provision and outcomes for children and families.

