



Quality Improvement Framework



For Family Support

September 2014



The Bristol Standard Development Group is pleased to announce the publication of this new supportive framework for family support. This framework was developed by a task group under the overview of the Parenting and Family Support Steering Group and has been piloted by early years support specialist leaders.

The framework was developed because research has consistently concluded that parenting is critical to children's life chances and the biggest influence on outcomes for children is from primary caregivers and parents.

"The philosophy underpinning this Quality Improvement Framework is taken from this wealth of research which is that we, as practitioners working with children and families, must provide all possible support to parents in developing their parenting skills, establishing a high quality home learning environment and building loving and secure relationships with their children. By providing the very best family support, settings are making a critical contribution to improving the life chances and outcomes of all children.

This Quality Improvement Framework is a tool which any 'setting' providing family support can use to evaluate the effectiveness of their current practice in helping parents to develop their parenting skills, the quality of the home learning environment and their relationships with their children. Based on the same principles as 'The Bristol Standard Quality Improvement for Birth to Five' it is a self-evaluation framework that supports all settings to develop and improve the quality and effectiveness of their family support provision through an annual cycle of reflection. It involves a whole team approach with practitioners working together on a journey of developments, to improve outcomes for all children and their families.

This Quality Improvement Framework has used the National Quality Improvement Network 'Principles for Engaging with Families' as the basis for the ten principles underpinning this framework."

This framework has been developed in the style of the Bristol Standard. There are ten principles identified for successful engagement with families with an outline of what each of these principles would look like in practice. For each of the principles there are questions which will enable a setting to reflect on the quality of practice in that setting and to draw up an action plan to address those areas for further development. Unlike the Bristol Standard there is no validation system, the focus is on self-assessment and improvement planning as is appropriate in the particular setting. However it can be used and referred to as part of your Bristol Standard journey if you would like to.

The framework is suitable for use in any setting that is providing family support to families with children of all ages. Settings may want to focus on just one or two of the principles at a time using the questions as the focus of staff meetings and development sessions.

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