

# MAKING SENSE OF.....

## The EEF Early Years Evidence Store: Suggestions for Managers

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is a charity that aims to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged children by providing evidence-based resources for educators and leaders. In 2023, funded by the DfE, EEF launched its [Early Years Evidence Store](#). The store supports setting leaders in enhancing practice and improving outcomes for children through approaches and practices for face-to-face interactions with 2-5-year-olds.

**Here are some suggestions for how nursery managers can make use of the evidence store.**

### For your own professional development:

The evidence store has a wealth of information to explore. It is broken down in to [themes](#), [approaches and practices](#).

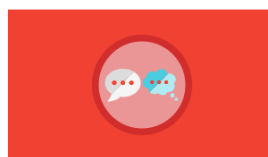
For example, you might choose to focus on [communication and language](#) because this is an area your team wants further support in at the moment.

You can read about the suggested practices, watch the [videos](#) and reflect upon how the information relates to what you already know. What is new to you? What would you like to research more?

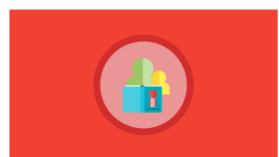
#### Approaches for supporting communication and language development



1. Teaching and Modelling Vocabulary



2. Teaching and Modelling Language



3. Interactive Reading



4. Team Collaboration

Time is always a problem for setting leaders. Why not block off a few hours in your timetable every now and again for your continual professional development? Where you can take an hour or so to go through one approach that interests you, possibly in an area you would like to further support your team in.

**There are several ways you can use the Evidence Store to support your teams continual professional development.**



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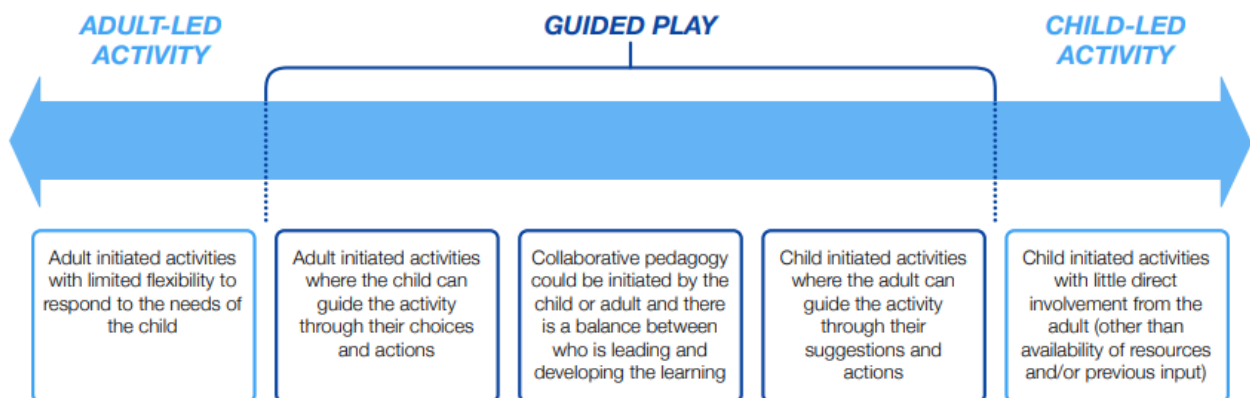
## Supporting your teams continual professional development:

You may choose to use it to support supervision:

Example 1: A staff member raises in supervision that they are struggling with their confidence in reading stories in front of the team. You might use the [interactive reading approach](#) to unpick some practices, watch some of the videos and have a go at some practices together.

Example 2: A staff member in the two-year-old room talks about the children not engaging in group times. You might reflect on the daily routine using the adult-led – child-led activity ([pedagogical continuum](#)) to see how often children are given opportunities for child-led activities versus adult-led or guided activities.

Figure 1: The Early Years Pedagogical Continuum



Another way that managers can use the Evidence Store resources for continual professional development is to design in-house training sessions such as **staff meetings** or **inset day workshops**. To learn more about staff meetings, watch this [webinar](#) on maximising their effectiveness. The resources on the Evidence Store can also be used for staff induction or for apprentices.

By fostering a culture of evidence-based practice within the nursery, managers can support staff in reflecting on and improving their teaching practices.



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## Linking up academic and setting based research:

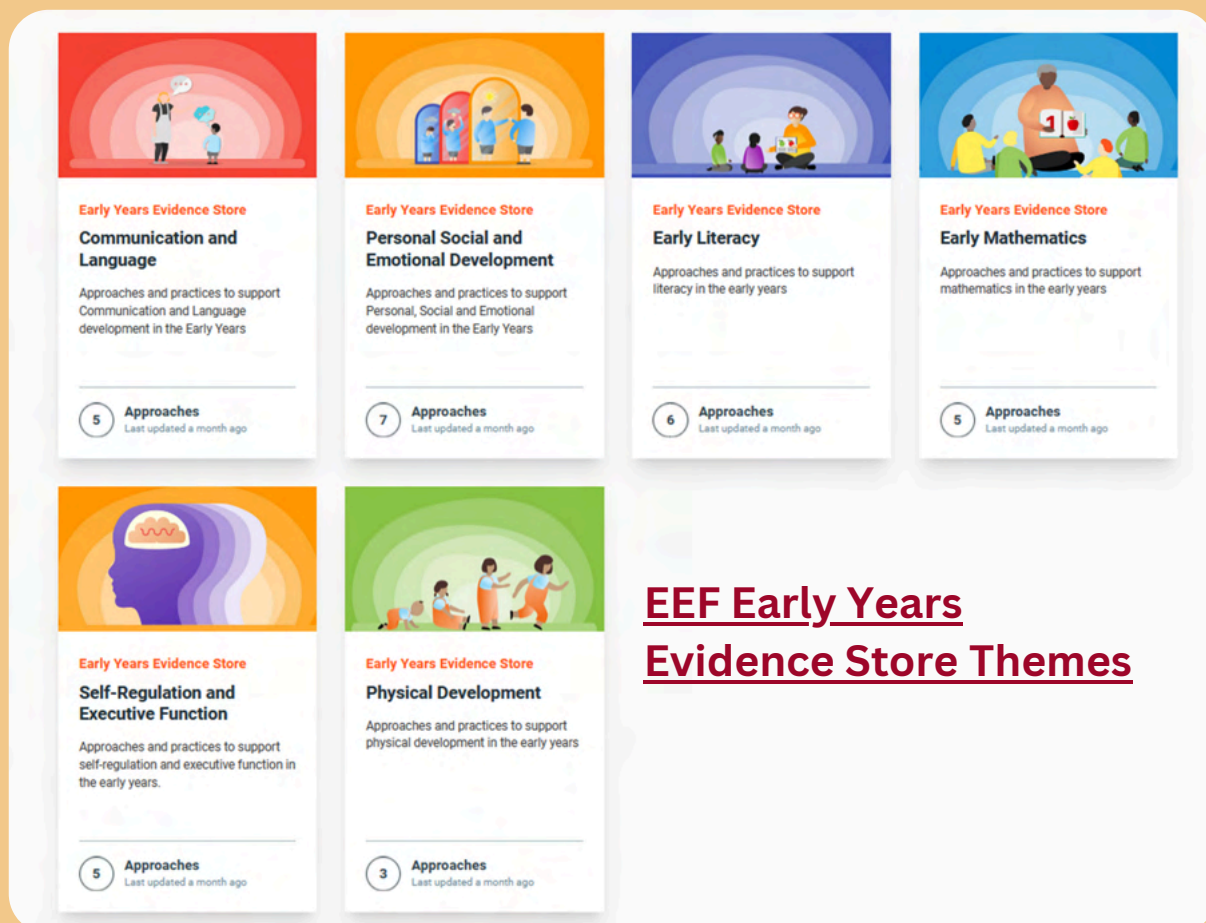
Academic research can support formal and informal setting based research.

Example 3: A professional discussion about the involvement levels of the children whilst in the block or construction area leads you to change an area of your practice, i.e. you agree to always having an adult present in that space for the next few weeks to model play. You then evaluate the impact of that change... has it made a difference? Now what?

Each theme in the [EEF Early Years Evidence Store](#) has a **summary** which can be really useful for suggesting specific interaction practices or tools with the team.

## Students are your new best friend!

Do you have any early years students at the moment? Ensure they share their reading and research with the team. Ask them to come along to a staff meeting to contribute to and learn from the educators in the setting. Students may undertake research projects in your settings. Speak to them about your current challenges and what might be beneficial research for the setting too. The Early Years Evidence Store can help make the link between academic research and practical knowledge in the setting.



## EEF Early Years Evidence Store Themes

