

COMMUNICATION HOTSPOT MAPPING

Add the areas of provision to be observed to the table below. Every 10/15 minutes briefly observe the areas and make a tally of how many children there are in each area.

Circle if this is boys (**B**), girls (**G**) or a mixture (**M**) of boys and girls.

If there is an adult present then add an (**A**)

Make notes on whether there is communication happening in the area you are observing. Some suggested observations you may want to consider;

(**C-C**) communication between children

(**A-C**) communication between adult/s and child/children

The nature of the communication

You could complete a hotspot observation on all areas of one room or choose specific areas to focus on. In larger settings you could look at different areas across age groups e.g sand play across different rooms. You may even just complete your observation on one particular area that you are currently working on.

Once you are finished you will be able to look at your overview and hopefully see which areas of your provision are your successful communication hotspots, what impact adults are having in areas and have some ideas of how best to target different groups of children.

It can also be useful once you have reflected and acted on your observations to re-complete the hotspot observations again to see what changes have occurred as a result of your actions. In this way Communication Hotspot Observations can become a useful part of the observe-plan-do-review cycle.

EXAMPLE

Following your observations you might notice that there are a lot of boys visiting the construction area and water tray but the play is solitary and there is little communication happening. In contrast the small world area is being used by a mixture of boys and girls and there is plenty of communication happening both amongst children and between children and adults. You may then look deeper at what is working in the small world area, what is communication friendly about it? How could you apply what is working there to the construction and water areas.

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Completed by:

Date completed:

Indoor/Outdoor Environment

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Make notes on whether there is communication happening in the area you are observing. Some suggested observations you may want to consider;

(C-C) communication between children (A-C) communication between a dult/s and child/children

Area of environment	Time (10/15 minute intervals)				
	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M
	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M
	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M
	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M
	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M	B G M

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