

Portfolio of 2 Parts:

1. Individual Script
2. Group Reference List

I confirm that I have not presented any AI work as my own.

Individual Script

Good morning everyone, my name is Meg and I am going to discuss the parental involvement that we have in this nursery with our parents. I will evaluate how our nursery ensures best practice in parental partnerships, how we measure effectiveness, and areas for further development. In preparation for inspection by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), it is essential that early years settings demonstrate a clear, reflective and evidence-based approach to parental involvement. A key component of this process is the Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS), which is a legal requirement for childcare providers in Wales and informs inspection planning and quality evaluation (CIW, 2026).

Firstly, our setting prioritises building strong, respectful relationships with parents as co-educators. This aligns with Welsh Government expectations that parental involvement contributes to positive outcomes for children and families (Welsh Government, 2025). In practice, we implement daily verbal feedback, digital communication platforms, and termly parent meetings. These strategies ensure that parents are informed about their child's development and feel included in decision-making processes. Additionally, we provide opportunities for parents to contribute to learning journals and participate in nursery events, promoting a collaborative approach.

In preparation for inspection, we would evidence this practice through documentation such as communication logs, parent feedback forms, and examples of shared learning records. The SASS requires providers to reflect on the quality of care and engagement with families; therefore, we ensure that our self-assessment clearly outlines how parental partnerships are embedded in practice. Importantly, the SASS is not merely a compliance task, but a reflective tool used to identify strengths and areas for improvement (CIW, 2026). This aligns with a leadership approach that values continuous improvement rather than inspection readiness alone.

To evaluate how we know we are effective, we utilise both qualitative and quantitative measures. Parent questionnaires are distributed annually, allowing us to gather feedback on communication, inclusivity and satisfaction. High response rates and positive feedback indicate that parents feel valued and listened to. Furthermore, we track engagement levels, such as attendance at events and participation in

consultations. These indicators provide measurable evidence for CIW inspectors that parental involvement is meaningful and consistent.

However, a critical perspective highlights that relying solely on feedback forms may not capture the views of all families, particularly those who are less engaged or face barriers such as language or time constraints. Research and policy in Wales emphasise the importance of inclusive practice and reducing barriers to participation (Welsh Government, 2025). Therefore, while our current systems demonstrate good practice, they may not fully represent all parental voices. This is an important consideration when completing the SASS, as inspectors will expect an honest and balanced evaluation.

To strengthen our practice further, we propose several improvements. Firstly, we aim to introduce more flexible communication methods, such as multilingual resources and varied formats (e.g. video updates), to ensure accessibility for all families. Secondly, we will implement more informal opportunities for engagement, such as stay-and-play sessions at different times, to accommodate working parents. Stay and Play sessions have shown to provide the opportunity for any parents to have fun playing with their child in a safe and friendly environment (Flying Start Cardiff, No Date). During these sessions we will provide the opportunities for parents to sing, play, dance or read with their child and most importantly enjoy spending time together. Thirdly, we will develop targeted strategies to engage underrepresented families, ensuring that all parents have equal opportunities to contribute.

In addition, we recognise the importance of using the SASS as a dynamic tool for leadership and management. The process of completing the SASS supports reflective practice and enables us to identify trends across the service, which can inform action planning and staff training. Failure to engage meaningfully with the SASS can negatively impact inspection outcomes, particularly in relation to leadership and management (CIW, 2023). Therefore, our approach is to integrate self-assessment into ongoing practice rather than treating it as a one-off requirement.

Overall, preparing for a CIW inspection requires a robust, reflective and evidence-informed approach to parental involvement. Our nursery demonstrates best practice through strong communication, collaborative partnerships and ongoing evaluation.

However, critical reflection highlights the need to improve inclusivity and engagement with all families. By using the SASS as a tool for continuous improvement, we can ensure that our practice not only meets regulatory requirements but also enhances outcomes for children and their families.

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