

Case Study 1: Ayaan (Age 3)

Early Years, Culture, Communication and Belonging

Ayaan is a three-year-old attending a local nursery three mornings a week. The setting has noticed Ayaan has become increasingly withdrawn during play and has begun refusing food, particularly at lunchtime. Staff have also observed that Ayaan becomes distressed when asked to change clothes or take part in physical activities.

Ayaan's family recently moved to the UK, and English is not the primary language spoken at home. Communication with Ayaan's parents has been limited, and staff are unsure whether information shared has been fully understood. The parents are polite but rarely engage in discussion beyond brief exchanges at drop-off and collection.

One practitioner raises concerns that cultural misunderstandings may be influencing practice decisions. Another practitioner is worried about potential neglect or emotional harm but is uncertain whether this reflects safeguarding concerns or adjustment difficulties linked to migration and language.

The nursery manager must decide how to proceed while ensuring children's rights, culturally sensitive practice, and safeguarding responsibilities are met.