

EYFS · EYFS

Continuous Provision

EYFS Knowledge Organiser

Continuous provision — core concepts

1

Continuous provision

Resources and areas available to children throughout the session — not at set times. Children choose where to go and what to do. Core EYFS pedagogy. Often called 'free choice' or 'choosing time'.

2

Why it matters

Play is how young children learn. Continuous provision enables child-led learning, sustained engagement, and development of all seven EYFS areas simultaneously. Research consistently shows play-based learning produces better long-term outcomes.

3

Learning areas

Distinct areas with different learning affordances: book corner (CL, literacy); construction (maths, spatial, problem-solving); role play (PSED, CL, understanding world); creative (expressive arts, fine motor); sand/water (maths, science, sensory).

4

Enhanced provision

Resources added to areas to connect to current topics or interests. A trip to the beach → shells, fish stamps, and sea creature books in the water tray. Enhances without prescribing.

5

Adult role in provision

Sustained Shared Thinking (SST): following the child's lead in extended conversation. Playing alongside without directing. Extending and challenging through questions. Modelling without taking over.



6

Provision in Year 1

Statutory Year 1 curriculum can be delivered through high-quality provision. Not 'back to basics tables and chairs' — a gradual transition that maintains child agency where possible.

