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One Minute Guide:

Questions for Social Workers to ask regarding the education of children

Early Years:

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the statutory framework that sets the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

It is therefore important that Social Workers are aware of what they should be asking when supporting a child who is of an early year's age. Below are some key questions for Social Workers to use:

1. How is child integrating with other children?
2. How does the child respond to adults?
3. What progress has the child made in the following areas of learning:
 - Communication and language;
 - Physical development;
 - Personal, social and emotional development;
 - Literacy;
 - Mathematics;
 - Understanding the world;
 - Expressive arts and design.

You need to identify whether the child is:

- a) not meeting expectations;
- b) is meeting expectations; or
- c) exceeding expectations within the subsections of each of the areas of learning.

Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4

All children in these key stages follow the national curriculum which identifies the subjects taught at each key stage and how they are assessed.

The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called 'key stages' (KS). At the end of each key stage, the child's teacher will formally assess their performance to measure the child's progress.

The table below indicates the age, year group, key stage, whether assessed and the average level of attainment for each stage enabling you to know what is expected for children at different stages.

Age	Year	Key stage	Assessment	Average level of attainment
5 to 6	Year1	KS1	Phonics screening check	
6 to 7	Year2	KS1	Teacher assessments in reading, writing, maths and science	2
7 to 8	Year3	KS2		
8 to 9	Year4	KS2		
9 to 10	Year5	KS2		
10 to 11	Year6	KS2	National tests and teacher assessments in reading, writing, maths and science	4
11 to 12	Year7	KS3	Teacher assessments	
12 to 13	Year8	KS3	Teacher assessments	
13 to 14	Year9	KS3	Teacher assessments	5/6
14 to 15	Year10	KS4	Some children take GCSEs early	
15 to 16	Year11	KS4	Most children take GCSEs or other national qualifications	

For each subject there is a 'programme of study'. It describes what children should learn. There are also 'attainment targets' usually split into 8 levels for each subject. You should ask to see the latest school report telling you what level the child is at.

Teachers assess children at various points throughout each of the years so you can ask the following questions:

1. At what level is the child performing in each of the subjects?
2. Is the child making the expected rate of progress?
3. How are their attitudes towards learning?
4. How is child integrating with other children?
5. How does the child respond to adults?

How can I find out more?

Further information on the Primary Curriculum can be found on <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/primary>

Further information on the National Curriculum Key Stage 1 to 4 can be found on <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/nationalcurriculum2014/>