

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Supporting students

Student placements in early years settings are essential for the professional development of the next generation early years workforce and they could potentially be your next employee.

Here are some top tips for supporting student placements in your setting.

1. Prior to placement, ensure students are included in your employer liability insurance, policies and procedures, induction procedures and so on
2. Be aware of the work placement requirements by communicating regularly with the student's tutor
3. Where possible, invite students for a visit before placement enabling you to get an insight into their current knowledge and understanding and to provide them with a code of conduct so they know what to expect, such as their presentation
4. Make a good first impression by being well prepared for the placement. First impressions can influence a student's future decisions about their career, so ensure a warm welcome from the whole staff team to help the student feel valued
5. To enable placements to be productive, treat students like a new member of staff. Have a robust student induction which helps them to become familiar with their surroundings and their role, including a student handbook detailing relevant policies and procedures, and a tour of the setting
6. Allocate a mentor to each student who can guide and support them. Ideally this should be someone who they have regular contact with throughout the day so they can ask questions and look to them as a role model
7. Provide students with regular one to one supervision sessions where they can ask questions and you can share feedback on their performance



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8. Remember students are learning, so talk things through with them constructively, giving suggestions of what they could do or how they could act moving forward. Where possible invite students to planning sessions, team meetings and team building activities to support their learning and development.
9. Create opportunities for the student to share their ideas, such as developing and leading an activity.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Effective team leadership - [face to face](#) or [live virtual course](#)
- Supporting staff wellbeing - [face to face](#) or [live virtual course](#)

Find more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna