

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.

Top tips: Annual planning

Annual planning enables forward-thinking and the creation of a child-centred curriculum, providing a well-rounded and enriching experience throughout the year.

1. Set clear objectives: Define educational and developmental goals for the year
2. Create a balanced curriculum: Ensure the curriculum covers what you intend the children to learn, to experience and encompasses all areas of learning
3. Focus on staff development: Schedule regular training opportunities, team meetings, peer review cycles, etc.
4. Engage families: Plan events that involve families, such as parent workshops, home visits, or 'stay and play' sessions. These foster strong home-nursery partnerships
5. Plan around key dates: Align planning with key dates like school terms, awareness days (such as Road Safety Week or World Book Day), local events, and seasonal and cultural activities (e.g. autumn walks, Christmas events) to keep learning engaging and relevant
6. Plan for each unique child and family: Think about the experiences of the children and their families at your setting and consider what they might need
7. Be proactive: Anticipate times of the year when additional resources may be needed, such as extra staff during transition periods
8. Evaluate and adapt: This is a working plan and will constantly change, review accordingly in your staff/leadership meetings to ensure it stays relevant for the children.



NDNA products to support you with these tips

- [Outstanding Practice](#) – online course
- [Planning in the Here and Now](#) - publication
- [Building Your Nursery Curriculum](#) - webinar.

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