

Cultural Capital

What is Cultural Capital in Early Years?

The Early Years Inspection Handbook defines cultural capital as 'the essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success'.

When children start in an early years setting, they already have a variety of different experiences. Cultural capital in EYFS is about celebrating and building on these early experiences and providing other new opportunities to be curious, explore, try new things and experience awe and wonder.

Ofsted and Cultural Capital

Cultural capital is mentioned in both the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) and the Early Years Inspection Handbook. Before an inspection, consider how your setting has covered cultural capital through the variety of opportunities and experiences presented to the children in your setting.

Here are some questions to consider:

- What opportunities do you provide to cater to the children's interests and needs?
- What do you do to promote exploration, awe and wonder?
- How do you encourage children and their families to share their lives, cultures and experiences with the setting?



How to Cover Cultural Capital in EYFS

Cultural capital is at the centre of early years education. It is easy to overlook all the ways in which it is being covered through your daily interactions and activities with the children in your setting. When considering how cultural capital is covered, think about how you incorporate, build on and celebrate children's existing experiences and ideas and offer them new opportunities and experiences to increase their knowledge, understanding and skills. Think about:

- how you've explored topics the children are interested in
- any 'awe and wonder' activities the children have accessed
- the celebrations and events children have discussed
- any visits or outings the children have been on
- any visitors that have come to the setting
- how the children have been encouraged to explore the world around them
- what activities, materials and resources the children have investigated
- how different areas of the setting have been promoted and developed
- the activities and texts used to develop and extend the children's vocabulary
- the activities where children are invited to take turns and share resources