



TAPESTRY LEARNING JOURNEYS

What is the Learning Journey?

Your child's Learning Journey is a record of their learning and development during the Early Years Foundation Stage (0-5 years). Practitioners at preschool observe your child and these observations form the Learning Journey. Information from parents is also included so that we can take account of skills that your child shows at home. We use these assessments and observations to plan next steps for each child and to make sure that extra early support is given if a child's development or learning is delayed for any reason.

What is Tapestry?

- In the past Learning Journeys were on paper. We now use a digital form of Learning Journey, provided by Tapestry, building a secure online Learning Journey for each child. Observations are made using iPads during the preschool sessions. Photos or videos accompany most observations.
- As a parent you are given a username and password to enable you to access your child's Learning Journey from any mobile device or computer, wherever and whenever you choose.
- Many preschools, nurseries and reception classes also use Tapestry, so we can transfer the Learning Journey to the new setting or school when your child leaves us.

How do we operate Tapestry at Little Owls?

- **Observations:** These are done during the preschool sessions, usually by your key person, but sometimes by another practitioner who notices your child doing something new or developing a new skill. During your child's first few sessions at Little Owls we try to compile several observations so that you can see how he is settling and so that we can form a 'starting points' assessment. Once your child has settled, observations will be done when your key person sees something that is useful in monitoring your child's progress in one or more areas of development.
- **Assessing:** Because observations are done during the sessions, when we are interacting with and caring for up to 30+ children, your keyperson goes through the observations later to edit and assess them. This may be done later the same day, but more likely the key person will edit and assess the week's observations in one go and that may be up to a week later.
- **Uploading:** We are uploading to an online site so we are especially careful. Once the observation has been assessed, the manager takes responsibility for checking each observation and photo before uploading it to Tapestry. With 50-60 children on roll and observations being done on each one, there can be a considerable number of observations during one week. The manager usually uploads all assessed observations at the end of each week.

How can you as a parent contribute to the Learning Journey?

- You can add photos and details of what your child has been learning at home. Your key person may assess the information you've given if it tells us something new about your child's learning or development.
- You can reply to the observations that have been done by preschool staff.
- Your key person may ask you if you can add a post or photo about a specific area of development, such as using a computer or speech (especially if your child is generally very quiet within the preschool environment).
- Your initial 'All About Me' information will be entered into Tapestry to help with compiling the 'starting points' assessment.

How do we monitor progress?

- Your key person can use Tapestry to look at how your child has progressed over a period of time.
- She can use it to help plan for the next steps in your child's learning.
- We can also look at how different groups of children (eg boys, girls, 2 year olds) are progressing as a group so that we can look at what we provide for different groups.
- If your child is due a 2 year check, this will be done on Tapestry and you will be given access to it online.

Will you have a copy of the Learning Journey when your child leaves Little Owls?

- If your child is moving to a setting or school which also uses Tapestry, the Learning Journey will be transferred and will carry on in the new setting.
- If the new setting doesn't use Tapestry, you will be sent the Learning Journey as a PDF file.

Are there things you should bear in mind about the Learning Journey?

Yes. For your key person to compile the Learning Journey efficiently there are a few things you should bear in mind:

- The Learning Journey is not a photo album for parents. It is a tool for us to monitor progress and plan for your child. A photo of a holiday where your child has had a new experience or a post about something your child is learning at home can be useful.
- Observations will not be done with any set frequency, they will be done when they are useful for your key person to monitor and plan for your child.
- Other than when your child is settling in, we do not make observations with the primary purpose of letting you know what your child has been doing.
- Preschool staff work for 38 weeks a year. Uploading of observations may well be delayed when there is a preschool holiday and we would appreciate your understanding if there is a delay. The practitioners at Little Owls all spend a considerable amount of their own time compiling Learning Journeys.
- **Tapestry is not an appropriate way of sending messages to preschool. Observations added by parents won't be checked every day. Please phone, email or speak directly to a member of staff.**