

What is OPAL?

Opal (observation of play and learning) is an observation and assessment system we use which has an emphasis on less paperwork and spending more quality time with your children. At particular times of the year your child will be spotlighted and the observations and assessments we make will be called spotlights.

When will my child be spotlighted?

Your child will be spotlighted twice during the year. Once during the month of their birthday and again 6 months later.

What does it mean when my child is spotlighted?

During these months your child's key worker will focus extra attention on your child. They will do this through observations, looking at their interests and spending time playing and talking with them.

What feedback will I get?

At the end of the month, using all the information that has been gathered, your child's key worker will fill in a spotlight form which will be shared with you on Tapestry. A spotlight will show your child's current interests, whether your child is meeting their milestones, using very simple six-monthly child developmental milestones and recording a simple 'yes' or 'not yet'. It will also have plans on how to support your child to make progress moving forwards. Once you have read the spotlight form, we welcome you to reply on Tapestry with any questions, comments or information you have about your child which would be useful for us.

What happens when my child is not being spotlighted?

We are always observing and assessing children on an ongoing basis and this will continue all the time. If at any time your child's key worker has any concerns about your child's progress, they will discuss this with you. Your child's keyworker will also put a couple of observations on Tapestry for your child each half term.