

Planning Format for the Early Years Foundation Stage

By Clare Henrys

When I began to create units for the Literacy Shed Plus aimed at EYFS, I was using the same format as KS1 for the lesson plans, resources and unit overview. The style used for the lesson plans and resources lent themselves well to use in a Reception classroom and ensures that consistency was maintained when the Literacy Shed Plus planning is used across the year groups. You will find a set of ten or more lesson plans, linked to a book and/or a film clip, alongside a range of resources and links to aid in your teaching of these lessons.

When it came to the 'Unit Overview' the original format was perfect to focus in on a standalone literacy unit as it would be used in KS1 and 2 – it contains an overview of all the lesson plans including learning objectives and curriculum links and book and/or film clip details – but when I imagined teaching the lessons myself in a Reception setting, it just wasn't easy to see how the plan fitted in to the bigger picture.

[The Statutory Guidance for the Early Years](#) paragraph 1.8 (page nine) states:

“Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity.”

Most settings record their planning for this, as you will know, through a mixture of small group plans and continuous/enhanced provision maps. That was the missing piece to the planning format!

Continuous/Enhanced Provision Suggestions

Continuous/Enhanced Provision Suggestions: TITLE			Reception (YR)
Writing	Reading	Maths	
Small World	Construction	Role Play	
Sand	Water	Art	
Craft	Music	Outdoor	
Other/Other			

In addition to the traditional formatting used by KS1 and 2, you will find a second page to the Unit Overview (third page in the case of the “That’s Not My...” planning) entitled ‘*Continuous/Enhanced Provision Suggestions*’.

The purpose of this page is to suggest how the small group literacy planning outlined

on page one of an overview can be extended into other areas of the classroom and even into other small group sessions. The list of areas is not exhaustive, neither is it a list of the areas you should have in your setting, it is a list of suggestions based on the some of the most commonly occurring setups.

This should aid reception teachers with their own provision mapping and could be used in conjunction with existing planning formats

Next Steps

At the bottom of page one of the unit overviews, you will find 'What Next?', this is also a new addition to the planning. This suggests Literacy Shed Plus planning that links well with the current topic and in most cases the next unit will expand on skills covered in the current one.

It is only a suggestion, as topics can be covered in any order; for example, you could choose a topic that links with the theme from the long or medium-term plans. You will find some of the links are repeated on different plans, so if you've already used the next plan suggested don't worry you haven't covered them in the wrong order – there isn't a correct order, it's completely up to you.

A Helping Hand

The new sections are meant as a helping hand for EYFS teachers while still maintaining the same format as KS1 and KS2 planning. They are necessary to ensure the planning is as easy as possible to implement in a Reception setting, while maintaining planning consistency when using the Literacy Shed Plus planning for the whole school. Check out the additions to the planning for Reception [here](#).