



Northumberland  
County Council

# Writing Clear Targets



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When writing targets for children, it's important that they're clear and don't leave room for interpretation.

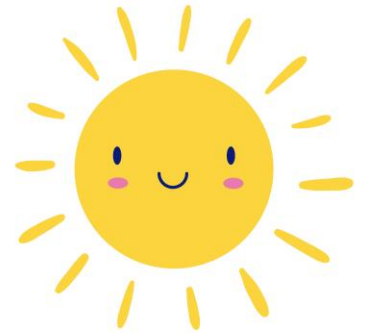
Anyone should be able to pick up the child's targets and know exactly what that child needs to learn.

Consider the following when writing targets:

**What do you want the child to learn?**

**Under what conditions?**

**To what degree of success?**



Here's are a few examples of clear targets using these elements:

Asher will use a spoon to eat her yogurt independently at lunch time once per day.

Jayden will say "bubbles" when an adult shows him the bubble pot on 4 out of 5 occasions.

Finlay will begin to recognise how he is feeling, by choosing an emotions card from a choice of 2 with adult support during circle time each morning.

Remember that a target is something you want the child to learn **not** what you want the adults to do to support them.

# Other things to remember

- Targets should last for around 6-8 weeks
- Make sure the target is achievable for the child within this time frame
- Consider what you want the child to learn long term, and how their target contributes to this
- Don't set too many targets for the child, 3 or 4 is enough



# Let's have a go...

Florence doesn't like other children playing near her, especially if she is playing with her favourite toys. If children come near her, she will scream, grab her toys and push the other child.

Long term, what do we want Florence to learn?

**To allow other children to play in the same space as her and take turns.**

Let's break this down into a clear, short-term target.



Remember to consider the following:

**What do you want Florence to learn?**

**Under what conditions?**

**To what degree of success?**



An example of a clear, short-term target for Florence could be:

**Florence will tolerate an adult and 1 child being next to her while she is playing with the cars for 1 minute.**

This is a short term, achievable target to help Florence towards reaching her long-term goal.

If you require further support, with writing clear targets you can contact your Early Years Inclusion Consultant:

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