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## What is the Kent Quality Mark?

The Kent Quality Mark is a quality improvement tool that builds upon the strong practice that already exists in the county. It supports practitioners to improve outcomes for children through:

-  A commitment to improving outcomes for all children
-  A leadership focus on continuing quality improvement
-  A commitment to continuous professional development for all staff
-  An ethos of reflective practice to inform improvement planning

The Kent Quality Mark is underpinned by the principles that have been developed by the National Quality Improvement Network.

The Kent Quality Mark process will:

-  Recognise and celebrate existing good practice
-  Raise the quality of provision and improve outcomes for children and their families
-  Support and engage practitioners in a process of self-evaluation and action planning
-  Provide settings with opportunities to become part of local networks and share examples of good practice







## What is involved?

Kent Quality Mark has at its core the Leuven Well-being and Involvement scales and the Early Childhood Infant and Toddler Environment Rating Scales (ECERS/ITERS). These quality improvement tools will support settings in measuring and further improving quality for children in their setting.

**In order to achieve the Kent Quality Mark a whole-setting approach must be adopted.**

### Improving Outcomes for Children (Unit A)






This Unit reflects the four themes that underpin the Early Years Foundation Stage:

-  A Unique Child
-  Positive Relationships
-  Enabling Environments
-  Learning and Development

The design of the Kent Quality Mark will support settings to embed the principles and commitment of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through case study work.

### Leadership and Management (Unit B)

This Unit is completed by the manager or supervisor; it includes a self-assessment audit tool which explores the effectiveness of the leadership and includes:

-  Monitoring of change
-  Effectiveness of communication
-  Monitoring of children's progress
-  Levels of parental involvement
-  Effectiveness of transitions

**Both units are completed within a year.**



## **Support will include :**

- A dedicated consultant for each setting who will provide mentor support
- Regular opportunities to attend local Quality Mark network meetings.
- Workshops on Improving Outcomes for Children (Unit A) and Leadership and Management (Unit B)
- A full programme of training to support settings in carrying out the work in the two Units.

## **How long will accreditation last?**

Following accreditation, settings will be expected to continue on a journey of reflective practice. The Kent Quality Mark is awarded for three years when reaccreditation will be necessary.

