

research in practice

Assessment and recording

Assessment is the process that identifies what children and families want and need to achieve in order to maintain or improve their wellbeing. An assessment may have different focuses, dependent on the type of situation or need being experienced.

Here is a selection of learning resources about assessment and recording to support evidence-informed practice with children, young people and families.

Read

Long read: [Defensible decision-making in children's social care: Resource Pack \(2022\)](#)

Long read: [Pre-birth work and assessment: Change Project resources \(2025\)](#)

Long read: [Analysis and critical thinking in assessment: Resource Pack \(2014\)](#)

Short read: [Good practice in record-keeping in children's social care: Views \(2022\)](#)

Tools

[Enabling and embedding creative participation in child and family social work: Practice Tool \(2022\)](#)

[Completing social work chronologies: Practice Tool \(2022\)](#)

[Using genograms in practice: Practice Tool \(2024\)](#)

[Defensible decision-making in children's social care: Learning Programme Resources \(2022\)](#)

[Assessing and supporting family and friends care: Practice Tool \(2020\)](#)

[Learning Pathway: Critical reflection and analysis \(2025\)](#)

Watch

3 minutes: [Research and guidance on embedding participation in child protection \(2023\)](#)

5-10 minutes (approx.): [Working with uncertainty and risk in children's social care: Video learning resources \(2023\)](#)

Listen

30 minutes: [Reflections on accessing care records and supporting good recording: Podcast \(2021\)](#)

Reflect

Reflect on and record your CPD using the button on each resource page. You can also bookmark and share resources with colleagues. Log and review your reflections in '[Your CPD](#)'.

For more resources, explore the [assessment topic page](#).