

EARLY YEARS OAG ACTION RESEARCH



Who Took Part

12 Action Research Projects

3 Nursery Schools

2 Primary Schools

3 Childminder Settings

4 PVI Nursery Settings

What was the project?

Birmingham-wide Action Research testing the **Early Years Ordinarily Available Guidance (OAG)** through real-world implementation. Settings explored how ordinarily available support can **strengthen practice**, build **family confidence** and **improve outcomes** for all children, including those with SEND.

What did settings focus on?

Early identification through observation & understanding need using the OAG's 'what you might see'

Aspects of Communication & Interaction through OAG Section Two 'what you can try' strategies

Supporting emotional regulation through routines, environments and transitions

Promoting independence through everyday routines and self-help skills

Strengthening partnerships parents and carers

Building staff confidence in inclusive practice



Actions that settings took

- Introduced **calm, consistent routines** (e.g. calm corners)
- Used simple **strategies to support communication** (modelling, visuals, structured interactions and technology such as inexpensive communication devices)
- Gave children small jobs and responsibilities to **build independence**
- **Adapted activities** based on children's interests and observations
- Provided **staff training** and support to **build confidence**
- **Worked closely with parents** to share and align strategies
- Used short, structured group times to **build attention & engagement**



Impact

100% of practitioners reported confidence in supporting SEND

Staff awareness of the OAG increased from **20%** to **89%**

What parents said about it

"I learnt a lot - I don't need to spend lots on toys, I can make them from things at home."

"We feel more confident in what is in place for our child."

Next Steps

- **Embed the Early Years OAG** in planning and daily practice
- Continue **staff training** and development
- Build even **stronger partnerships** with parents
- Apply successful strategies to **support more children**



What practitioners said about the project

Staff are much more confident to notice needs early and talk to parents about how to support their child.

"It's changed our setting completely to make sure it works for all children."

"We've seen real changes in children - more settled, more engaged and more confident."

"The OAG is an easy, practical tool that helps us reflect on what we're already doing and what we can try next."

