

## Cultural Capital

The EYFS (2023) describe cultural capital as the essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success. We can explain this with a very simple analogy;

Imagine each child which comes to your setting does so with a pocket full of jigsaw pieces. Each piece represents their life experiences thus far.

It is our role as adults to lay out those pieces to see where the gaps may be. We can then provide experiences, resources and opportunities to fill those gaps. The aim being for all children to leave your setting with a more completed puzzle.

Taking this a step further I would like you to consider your child's puzzle at a deeper level.

I want you to imagine the important straight edges, each side of our puzzle representing the principles of the EYFS: Unique child, Positive relationships, Enabling environments and Learning and development. These are what hold the puzzle in place, if we have these threaded through practice the puzzle has a solid start. We then just have to fill in the middle pieces that maybe missing.

It is also important to recognise that you can think about cultural capital both as an individual basis or as a cohort.



**It is about giving children the best possible start to their early education.**

'In my setting I recognised most children came to preschool in a vehicle or pushchair. As a result of this physical stamina was poor, and we felt children didn't really know the village they lived in as they never truly explored this.

We identified this as a whole cohort cultural capital opportunity and included daily nature walks around the village.

The results were phenomenal.

- Children explored the local village and connected with the community
- Physical stamina over the academic year developed so much the children wanted to walk and explore further, this accumulated in a child led idea to walk 3 miles to a local woodland
- As part of our walks children learned road safety.
- Children were emotionally present and learned a new respect for the beauty of the local area and a respect for nature.'

What does cultural capital mean to your setting?

