



A Rights-based Baby Room: Buzzword or Best Practice?

In our recent Baby Room Educator Network we reflected on the Danish approach to early childcare education and care (ECEC). We reflected on how their approach aligns with rights-based baby room care which is gaining traction across the sector, however, there are questions around exactly how to implement it well, and what evidence-informed practices underpin it. As a network we reflected on how babies' rights can align with the EEF Evidence Store, and the 'best bet' practices that our babies deserve to be supported by.

In essence, the Danish approach advocates nurturing babies as capable individuals through secure relationships, responsive care, and playful exploration. These are valuable and aspirational characteristics; qualities that we recognise in the UK, but *what does this look like in practice? What evidence informed practices can we implement?* We considered three key rights and the evidence informed practices that could be used to implement them into action;



See the approach
in action

Babies have the right to have their emotions recognised and valued

Connected to EEF Evidence Store's approach to *teaching an awareness of emotions*. We considered the key practices of **labelling**, **explaining** and **reflecting** on babies' emotions and possible opportunities to do this through the day. Such as when they arrive first thing in a morning, "you look happy to see me...what a big smile you have".



See the approach
in action

Babies have the right to loving and responsive care.

We reflected on adopting an approach to teaching that sustains positive relationships. We considered the different ways we can make **connections** with babies, and how we can adjust our practice to focus on their unique qualities and respond to their preferences, such as **observing and responding to individual cues**, **mirroring facial expressions and vocalisations**, and adapting routines to reflect their interests and comfort levels.



See the approach
in action

Babies have the right to inspiring learning experiences and playful conversations

The final approach focused on communication and language development through interactive reading. We practised using information-based prompts for the Dear Zoo, including **commenting**, **recalling**, **expanding ideas**, **explaining** reasons and **extending** children's words.

Do you vary the prompts you use? Keeping a list of these prompts close by when you are planning to share a story. Try pre-planning the prompts that you are going to use.

We will be revisiting this approach in our next baby room network meeting, so sign up to join us.

Have you considered the evidence-informed practices that you use?

Watch each short video using the QR codes above and **note down** when you see or hear the **bolded key practices** in use. As a network community, we'll be revisiting these practices, but beginning with reflection on your own current approach is especially valuable. Which approach would you prioritise implementing first?

Become the expert in your baby room, register to join our termly network to strengthen your evidenced informed practice.

The next Baby Room network is 11th March, "Words in the Basket: Bringing Poetry to Life in the Baby Room", discover how simple poems and props can spark communication and connection.



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Providing equitable access to high-quality early education and collaborating with other educators across the EY sector, is a passion and privilege.

