Early Tree

EARLY TREE SUPPORT · GUIDE

Learning and EYFS

Observations, progress and the check at age two

EARLY TREE VERSION
2026.11

PUBLISHED
15 November 2026

FOR
Practitioners, room leaders and managers

ONLINE
help.earlytree.co.uk

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Screenshots show a fictional nursery and people.

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Reading the screenshots. The orange numbers 1 on a picture match the numbers in the step text, and an orange box marks the part of the screen a step is about. Every guide is also online, with search, at help.earlytree.co.uk.

LEARNING AND EYFS

Learning and EYFS

WHO IT'S FOR

Practitioner | Room leader | Manager

WHERE TO FIND IT

Learning

Learning is where you record observations of children's learning, link them to the areas of learning in your chosen framework (Development Matters or Birth to 5 Matters), and see each child's progress. It needs the Learning Journey module.

The **Learning › Dashboard** shows how many observations there are, which children haven't had one recently, and the latest observations.

Guides in this area

Guide	When
Observations	Recording what a child did, and linking it to the framework
Progress and the check at age two	Seeing a child's progress, and the progress check between two and three

What the law asks of you

The EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (effective 1 September 2026) asks you to keep parents and carers up to date with their child's progress (paragraph 2.3), and, when a child is aged between two and three, to review their progress and give parents a short written summary of their development in the prime areas (paragraph 2.6), as set out in paragraphs 2.7 to 2.10. Development Matters and Birth to 5 Matters are non-statutory guidance.

LEARNING AND EYFS

Learning: observations

WHO IT'S FOR	WHERE TO FIND IT	TIME	YOU NEED
Practitioner Room leader Manager	**Learning** › **Observations** › **Add Observation**	A few minutes	Permission to record observations; publishing needs permission to publish observations

Purpose

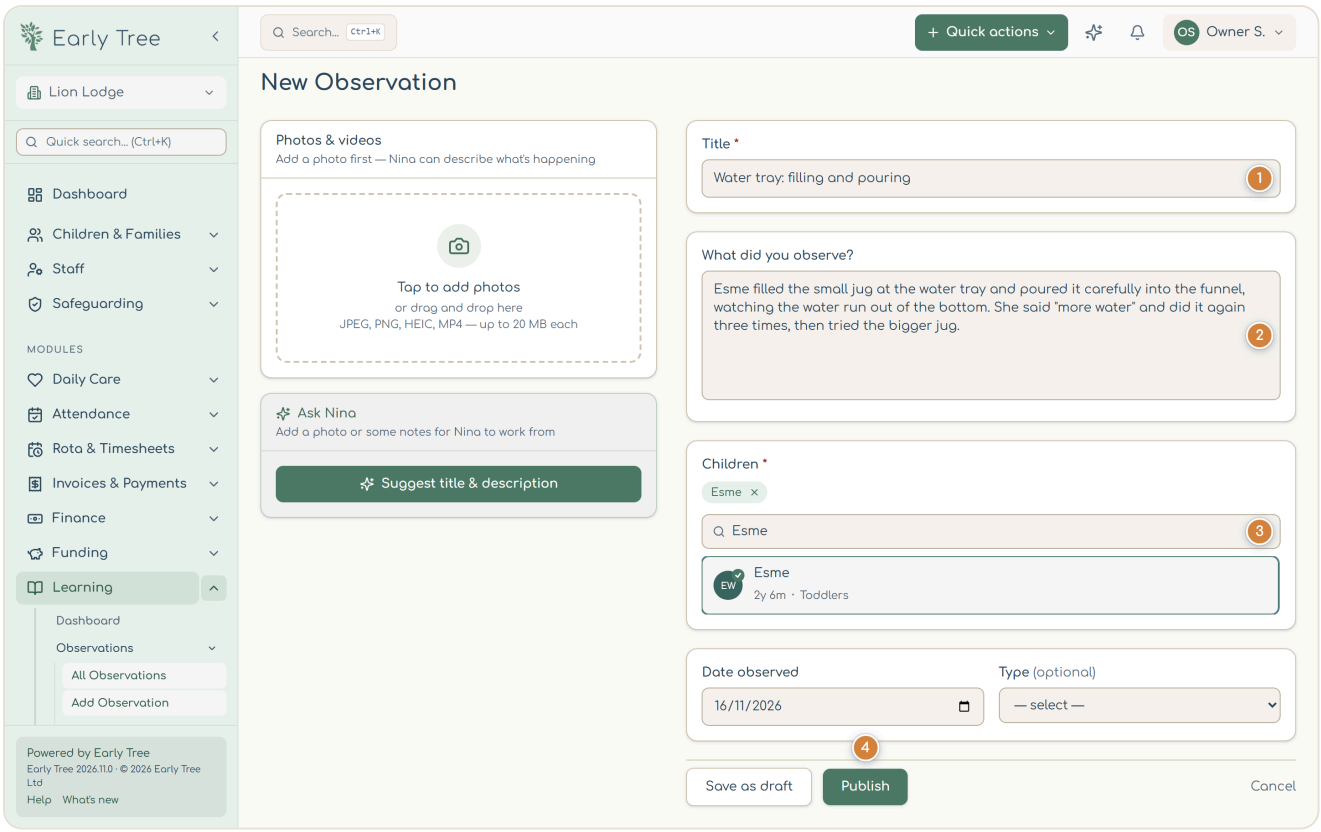
Capture a moment of a child's learning, with photos if you have them, and link it to the areas of learning so it counts towards their progress.

Before you start

- Choose your nursery in the top bar: you can't save an observation without one.
- Check you have the parent's consent for photos of their child.

Record the observation

1. In the menu, select **Learning**, then **Observations › Add Observation**.
2. Under **Photos & videos**, tap to add up to 10 photos or videos (JPEG, PNG, HEIC or MP4, up to 20 MB each), with a caption each.
3. Give it a **Title** 1.
4. Under **What did you observe?** 2, describe what the child did and said, and what it shows about their learning.
5. Under **Children** 3, search for and select each child it's about.
6. Check the **Date observed**, and choose the **Type** if you use them (for example **Snapshot** or **Learning story**).
7. Select **Save as draft** to finish it later, or **Publish** 4.



Recording an observation.

ASK NINA

Ask Nina can suggest a title and description from a photo, and suggest areas and statements when you link the observation to the framework. Check and edit what it suggests: you know the child.

Link it to the framework

1. Open the observation and select **Review**. The page is **Link to Framework**.
2. If your nursery uses both frameworks, choose one.
3. Choose an area of learning (for example **CL** for Communication and Language) and an age band.
4. For each statement the observation shows, choose **Emerging**, **Developing** or **Secure**.
5. Select **Save selected**.

What you should see

The observation shows its status (**Draft** or **Published**) and the statements it's linked to, and the child's progress in the EYFS tracker includes it.

Common problems

"Please select a nursery from the top bar."
Choose your nursery in the selector at the top of the menu, then save again.

I can't edit an observation.
Only drafts can be edited. Published observations, and ones shared by a parent, can't be changed.

Some photos didn't upload.
The observation was saved without them. Open it, select **Edit observation** and add them again.

Related guides

- Progress and the check at age two

LEARNING AND EYFS

Learning: progress and the check at age two

WHO IT'S FOR	WHERE TO FIND IT	TIME	YOU NEED
Key person Room leader Manager	**Learning** › **Development** › **EYFS Tracker**	A few minutes per child	Access to children's records

Purpose

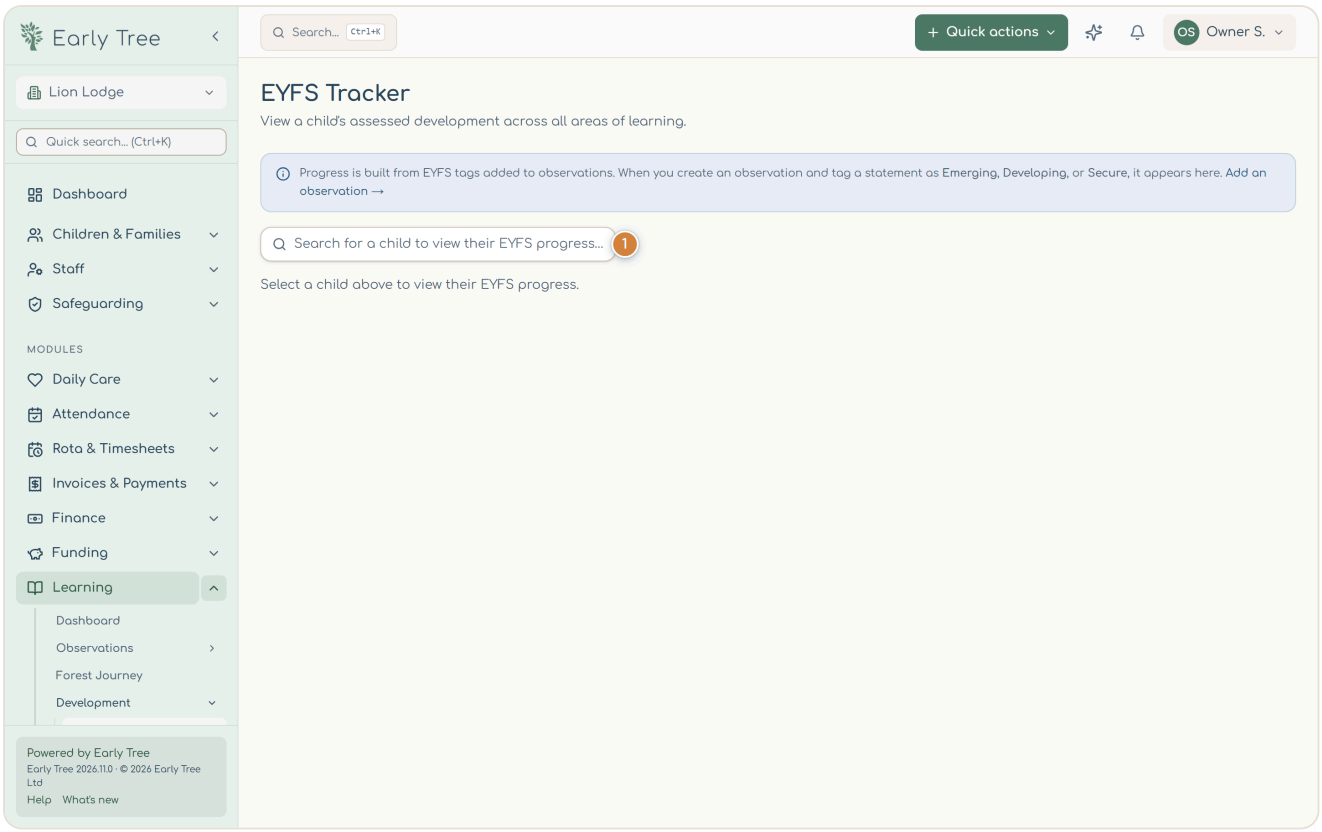
See where each child is across the areas of learning, what to focus on next, and gather what you need for the progress check at age two.

Before you start

- Progress comes from observations linked to the framework (see Observations).

A child's progress

1. In the menu, select **Learning**, then **Development › EYFS Tracker**.
2. Search for the child 1. The tracker shows each area of learning with the child's level: **Emerging** (beginning to show this skill), **Developing** (showing it regularly, not yet secure) or **Secure** (demonstrated consistently).
3. **Development › Next Steps** lists the statements the child is still emerging in, as a starting point for planning. **Cohort Overview** shows the whole room at a glance.

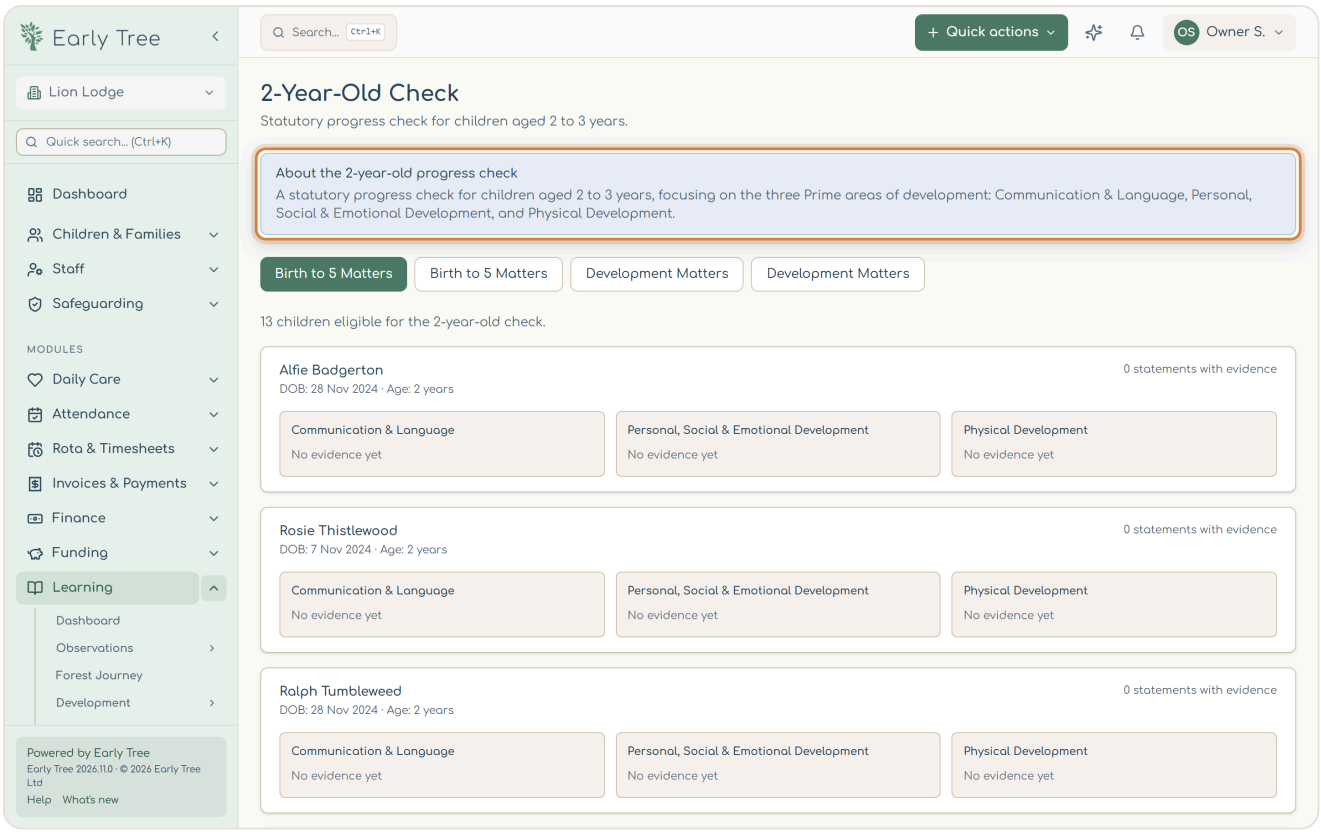


The EYFS tracker.

The progress check at age two

When a child is aged between two and three, you must review their progress and give their parents a short, written summary of their development in the prime areas (EYFS paragraph 2.6). The summary must highlight where the child is progressing well, where some additional support might be needed, and any concern about developmental delay, and describe what you'll do about it (paragraph 2.8).

1. Select **Learning › Reports › 2-Year-Old Check**.
2. Every child aged 2 to 3 is listed, with their best level so far in the three prime areas: **Communication & Language**, **Personal, Social & Emotional Development** and **Physical Development**. **No evidence yet** means there are no linked observations in that area.
3. Use this, with your own knowledge of the child and the parents' views, to write the summary. Early Tree shows the evidence; it doesn't write or send the summary for you.



The 2-Year-Old Check page shows the evidence for each child aged 2 to 3.

Common problems

A child shows "No evidence yet".
None of their observations are linked to that area. Review their observations and link them to the framework.

A child is missing from the 2-Year-Old Check.
Only children aged 24 to 36 months today are listed. Check their date of birth on their record.

Related guides

- Observations