

Overview for participating ECD practitioners and sites

What is the ECD Quality Toolkit Pilot Project?

In recent years there has been a lot of talk about what ‘quality’ means in ECD. One reason why it is so hard to answer the question “**What is quality ECD provision in practice?**” is because ECD happens in so many different contexts and situations.

The ECD Quality Reflection Toolkit was developed to help people in the sector think about what ‘good quality ECD’ means in practice in different contexts.

The **goals of the pilot** are:

- To gather information from practitioners on the ground about their views on quality.
- To test whether practitioners find the ECD Quality Reflection Tool useful for their own professional development.

The pilot is not an evaluation or assessment of any of the ECD centres or ECD practitioners who take part. It involves visiting selected sites (which will include home-based, community-based and school-based sites), talking to staff about their ideas on quality, and showing them how to use the Quality Reflection Tool for their own development going forward. The information or views gathered through the process will not be linked to specific ECD centres or individuals.

This pilot is being run by BRIDGE and partner organisations from its ECD Community of Practice, a group made up of different stakeholders in ECD (training organisations, ECD NGOs, practitioners, researchers, government representatives and so on).

What is the ECD Quality Toolkit?

The ECD Quality Toolkit is made up of:

1. The ECD Quality Reflection Tool, a self-reflection tool for practitioners
2. A set of processes and resources for piloting the implementation of the ECD Quality Reflection Tool.

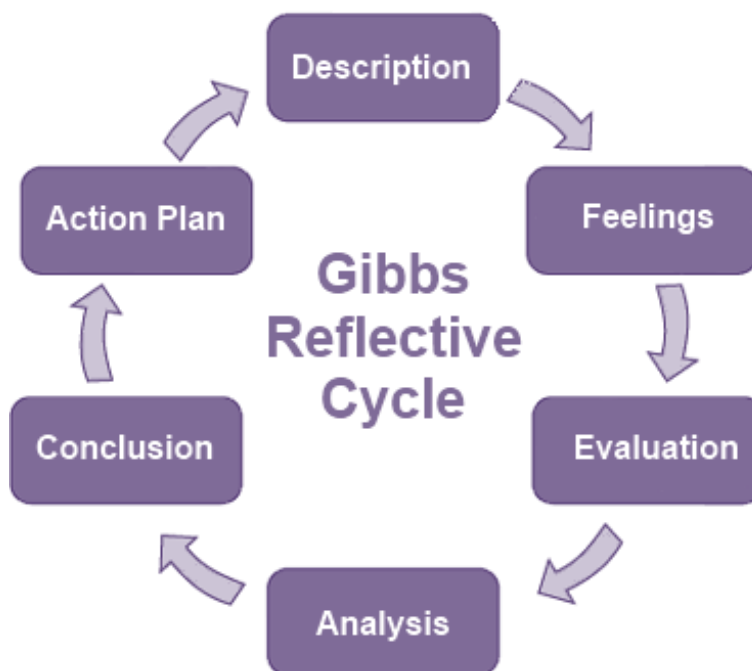
What is a self-reflection tool?

Self-reflection means giving serious thought to your character and actions. In your professional life a self-reflection tool is something that helps you think about your work experience in an aware and critical way. It gives you a structure through which you can examine:

- Your knowledge about your profession
- Your skills
- Your work practices and behaviours
- Your feelings and attitudes about your work.

Looking back over your own experiences and considering what you know (or don't know) about your work helps you find ways in which you can develop your professional practice. You get a deeper understanding of your strengths, and you can plan to improve on areas of weakness.

Self-reflection tools take many forms. Many of them use questions to help you focus on an aspect of your working life. You may be given a template to fill in, or you might keep a journal of your ideas. Many self-reflection tools follow the pattern below¹.

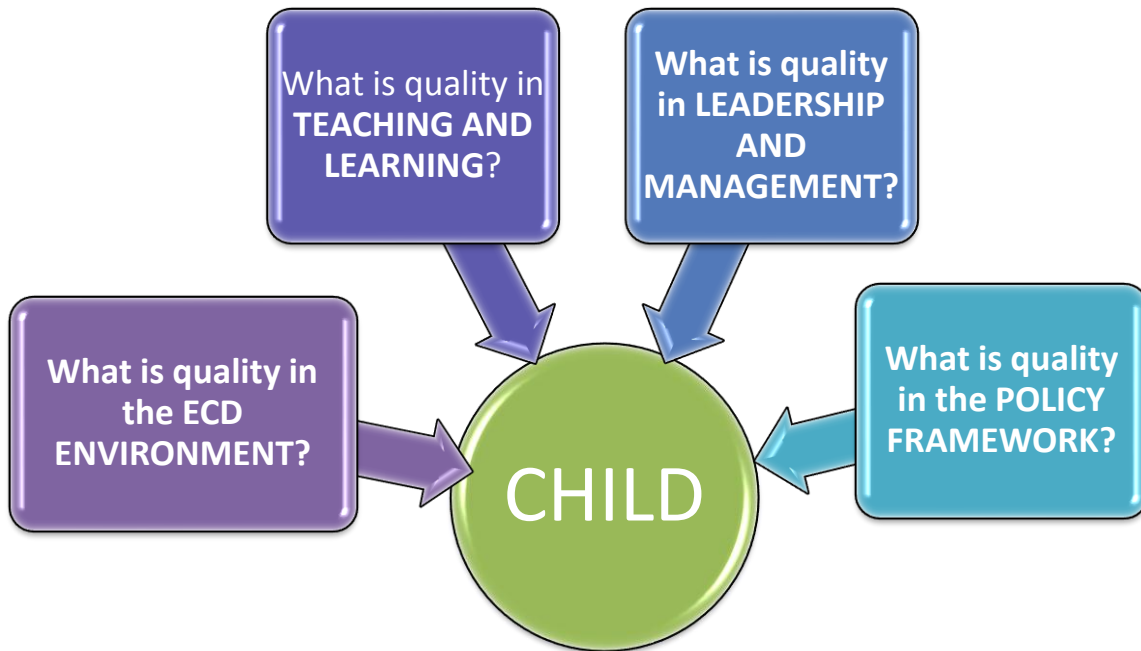


What is the ECD Quality Reflection Tool?

This **ECD Quality Reflection Tool** came out of the idea that it is you, the practitioner who works with children every day, who needs to understand and share what quality means in your context. The Quality Reflection Tool is a self-reflection tool made up of a set of questions about different aspects of ECD. By answering these you can express and own **your** ideas about quality in ECD. We hope it will also guide you in identifying areas of your work where you may need to find out more information, or get help in developing your knowledge and skills.

The questions are grouped into four dimensions of quality. Each dimension has a set of questions attached to it to help you think through these aspects of quality, and what they mean in your ECD context. The four dimensions are show below.

¹ Graham Gibbs Reflective Cycle 1988.



How will the ECD Quality Toolkit Pilot work?

The **processes for the pilot** are summarised below.

