**Early Years Development and Assessment Framework (EYDAF)**

*Background*

As part of “*Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan*”, Welsh Government is developing a single overarching 0-7 assessment Framework which can be used to chart children’s progress, longitudinally, across the early years. As part of the Framework, Welsh Government is developing an on-entry assessment to the Foundation Phase which will provide practitioners with a consistent tool for assessing, tracking and monitoring child development through to the end of the Foundation Phase.

*Project update*

It was intended that the new on-entry assessment for the Foundation Phase would be introduced from September 2014. However, on 27 March the Minister for Education and Skills announced that it will be introduced from **September 2015** to align with the statutory introduction of the revised Foundation Phase Areas of Learning for Language, Literacy and Communication Skills (LLCS) and for Mathematical Development (MD). The on-entry assessment will be dependent on the content of these two Areas of Learning, and therefore, it is essential that they align to ensure that the on-entry assessment, annual tracking and end of Phase reporting result in an accurate profile of learner progress.

*Implications for software suppliers*

The on-entry assessment to the Foundation Phase will require settings (maintained and non-maintained) to undertake and record an assessment of a child after 6 weeks within the setting. This is intended to support the formative assessment of the child through to the end of the Foundation Phase. Settings will **not** be required to submit the outcome of this assessment to Welsh Government.

At the start of the reception year, schools will be required to conduct a Baseline assessment within 6 weeks, for that year and submit the outcome to Welsh Government as part of the National Data Collection at the end of the year. This will provide Welsh Government with consistent assessment data at the end of the first year of statutory schooling.

On this basis, schools will be required to submit the data to Welsh Government for the first time from **June 2016**.

The on-entry assessment is currently under development; however, it is anticipated that the assessment will be against the following Areas of Learning:

* Language, Literacy and Communication Skills;
* Mathematical Development;
* Personal and Social Development, Wellbeing and Cultural Diversity; and,
* Physical Development.