

**Embsay** with **Eastby**



## Ofsted - Definition of Teaching

'Ofsted does not have a preferred style or approach to teaching or play. Those working in schools and settings, rather than Inspectors, are best placed to make the important decisions about how children learn. However, Ofsted does define the elements of Early Years practice that make up teaching so that there is a common ground and degree of transparency when making judgements about the quality of teaching.'

"Teaching should not be taken to imply a 'top down' or formal way of working. It is a broad term which covers the many different ways in which adults help young children learn. It includes their interactions with children during planned and child-initiated play and activities: communicating and modelling language; showing, explaining, demonstrating, exploring ideas; encouraging, questioning, recalling; providing a narrative for what they are doing, facilitating and setting challenges. It takes account of the equipment adults provide and the attention given to the physical environment, as well as the structure and routines of the day that establish expectations. Integral to teaching is how practitioners assess what children know, understand and can do, as well as take account of their interests and dispositions to learn (Characteristics of Effective Learning), and how practitioners use this information to plan children's next steps in learning and monitor their progress."

Taken from: 'Early Years Inspection Handbook', Ofsted, May 2019, p.33

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