



## Tapestry

### A Guide for Parents to the Online Learning Journey

#### **Introduction**

All children in Reception have a personal on-line Learning Journey which records photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their reception year.

We use a system called Tapestry. This gives secure access (via email address and password) to your child's Learning Journey and, in addition to viewing our contributions, we encourage you to add to it by uploading photos and comments, or commenting on observations made by us.

#### **Where do I start?**

Once you have given us a valid email address, we will set up an account for you. Go to <https://eylj.org> on your computer, or if you have an iPhone or iPad, visit the iTunes store and download the Tapestry app from the Education section (search for Tapestry Mobile). There is now an Android app as well (search Tapestry Mobile in your phones app store). Login using your email address and the password we give you.

**We strongly recommend that you change your password on your first visit to the site.**

#### **On a PC**

At the top right of your screen you will see your name, and selecting this will give you the option to 'Edit Preferences'. Choose this option and you will be presented with a screen giving you the option to change your email address and password.

You also have the option to receive an email whenever a new observation is added to your child's Learning Journey – just tick or untick the relevant box if you would like to change this setting.

#### **On an iPhone/iPad/Android**

To change your settings click the 'cog' button (iPhone/iPad) or the menu (3 vertical dots) button (android devices) on the right hand side of the application. This enables you to change password and/or email address.

#### **Viewing my child's Learning Journey**

Once logged in, you will see your child's observations on your home screen in a list – selecting any one of these will open up the observation for you to look at. You may add comments in the box at the bottom of the observation if you would like to – and we would love to receive such comments! Adding an entry to my child's Learning Journey Choose the 'Add Observation' option (or the 'plus' icon on your iPhone/iPad) and add the relevant information in the boxes on screen.

Photos and videos may be uploaded by choosing the 'add media' option. When you have saved your observation, you may go back to the home screen at any time by choosing 'home'.

### **Adding to my child's Learning Journey**

Your input in your child's learning journey is invaluable. It is important that school and parents/carers have a shared understanding of where a child is on their individual learning journey. It is all about capturing a moment when something significant happens and those moments that make you go 'wow'. Observations can come in the form of a note, picture or video recording (if under ten minutes). All of which can be uploaded to the learning platform.

#### **What could I write?**

- What a lovely surprise! I had no idea my child could...
- I was so happy with my child because...
- I was over the moon with my child today because...
- What a brilliant time we had together recently...

#### **What should observations be about?**

- New learning
- Progress
- Developing interests
- SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

#### **What kind of observations would be useful?**

*A brief list of examples – be as creative as you like! To be significant a number of these will be 'firsts'*

- Excellent cooperation with friends/siblings – sharing, resolving conflict
- Using new language
- Accurate use of past, present and future when speaking
- Physical skills: ball control (throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling...); climbing; swimming; new sports and activities
- Self-care: getting dressed/undressed independently (buttons!); cleaning teeth; washing etc.
- Good pencil control; handwriting
- Trying new foods; healthy eating
- Reading: knowing new sounds; reading signs in the environment; reading a whole reading book or choice book independently; knowing all sounds and letters of alphabet
- Writing: own name with all letters accurately formed; good use of phonic knowledge to write words and phrases; as an adult you can read back all of your child's writing; basic punctuation – full stops and capital letters
- Number and shape: counting to/within 10 and then 20; addition; subtraction; doubling; halving; sharing; spotting patterns; talking about time, money, weight etc.

- Your child making observation about plants, animals, the environment, e.g. visiting The Natural History Museum and your child talking about the eating habits of a T-Rex (!)
- Using technology: PCs, iPads, Internet; software at home
- Talking about and understanding own cultural heritage, customs, religion – significant events
- Achievements within hobbies/interests: sports; dancing; drama; languages
- Music, singing, dancing, performing routines
- New creative art and craft skills
- Joining Beavers, Rainbows etc.
- Changes in behaviour (positive!)
- Confidence talking to new people

You may find it useful to refer to the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' grid and links found below for support.

In Bees Class learning is so much more than reading, writing and maths. We aim to develop a lifelong love of learning through developing

### Characteristics of Effective Learning

 <p><b>Playing and Exploring (engagement)</b></p>	 <p><b>Active Learning (motivation)</b></p>	 <p><b>Creating and Thinking Critically (thinking)</b></p>
<p><b>Finding out and exploring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showing curiosity about objects, events and people</li> <li>• Using senses to explore the world around them</li> <li>• Engaging in open-ended activity</li> <li>• Showing particular interests</li> </ul> <p><b>Playing with what they know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pretending objects are things from their experience</li> <li>• Representing their experiences in play</li> <li>• Taking on a role in their play</li> <li>• Acting out experiences with others</li> </ul> <p><b>Being willing to 'have a go':</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiating activities</li> <li>• Seeking challenge</li> <li>• Showing a 'can do' attitude</li> <li>• Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error</li> </ul>	<p><b>Being involved and concentrating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time</li> <li>• Showing high levels of energy, fascination</li> <li>• Not easily distracted</li> <li>• Paying attention to details</li> </ul> <p><b>Keeping on trying:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persisting with activity when challenges occur</li> <li>• Showing a belief more effort or a different approach will pay off</li> <li>• Bouncing back after difficulties</li> </ul> <p><b>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals</li> <li>• Being proud of how they accomplished something - not just the end result</li> <li>• Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise</li> </ul>	<p><b>Having their own ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking of ideas</li> <li>• Finding ways to solve problems</li> <li>• Finding new ways to do things</li> </ul> <p><b>Making links:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making links and noticing patterns in their experience</li> <li>• Making predictions</li> <li>• Testing their ideas</li> <li>• Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect</li> </ul> <p><b>Choosing ways to do things:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning, making decisions and how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal</li> <li>• Checking how well their activities are going</li> <li>• Changing strategy as needed</li> <li>• Reviewing how well the approach worked</li> </ul>

Please find further support on the [Tapestry website](#).

If you have any further questions or require help in how to best complete observations at home please don't hesitate to a member of the Reception Team.