



Derby City Council

Voice of the Child ...  
so what difference will it make?

# Improvement Ladder

Children 0-5 with Special Educational  
Needs and Disabilities

**Name** ..... **Age**.....

**Today's Date** .....



# Guidance for Practitioners

## Improvement Ladder

### Purpose

- To enable the child to have a voice which is listened to and acted upon.
- To enable the parent/carer to give their view on the support they receive for their child.
- To enable the parent/carer to identify what help they would like and from who.
- To enable the carer/parent to identify any worries they may have for their child.
- To enable the parent/carer to give their views on action for change.
- To enable the parent/carer to review what has worked or not worked.
- To improve outcomes and evidence what difference listening to the parents/carers has made.

### Overall Guidance

- The parent/carer should fill out the worksheets (the child should contribute as much as possible - this could be through observation completed by someone who knows the child well).
- It is important to plan a safe space for the child, their parent/carer and to participate in this work and consider their level of development, preferred method of communication and functioning.
- The practitioner supporting the parent/carer must be knowledgeable about their child's special educational needs and the possible effects this might have on their understanding and interpretation of the exercise.
- You are free of course to use this tool flexibly to meet the needs of the individual child for example using a large piece of paper and coloured pens, photographs, toys.

### Action Plan and Review

- The parent/carer [with the support of the practitioner] should complete the action plan to identify the support they feel they may need. Practitioners should ensure their words are recorded and work progresses at a pace suitable to each individual child and set a date to review progress.
- The parent/carer with the support of the practitioner should complete the review form recording observations of the child from someone who knows them well.
- The action plan and review should be used in line with other plan processes as appropriate, for example Team Around the Family [TAF], Children in Need [CIN] Reviews and Child Protection Reviews. This tool should contribute to the overall plan for the child.



## **Outcomes**

- The parent/carer should be able to identify and share any worries or concerns they have for their child.
- The parent/carer should feel able to inform where positive change needs to take place for their child.
- The parent/carer should feel they have experienced positive change.
- The parent/carer should feel they are being supported to make a positive change for their child.
- The parent/carer should be able to identify what has helped or not helped their child.
- The parent/carer and practitioner should be able to identify where further support is required and this should inform assessments and/or any future referrals.
- The practitioner should have a better knowledge and understanding of the child.

## **Guidance**

### **What resources do I need?**

- What are the worries I have for my child?
- This is what I would like to change
- How can we make things better
- Action Plan and Review
- Photos/Pictures/Symbols
- Pens, crayons, paint
- Paper

### **What do I do?**

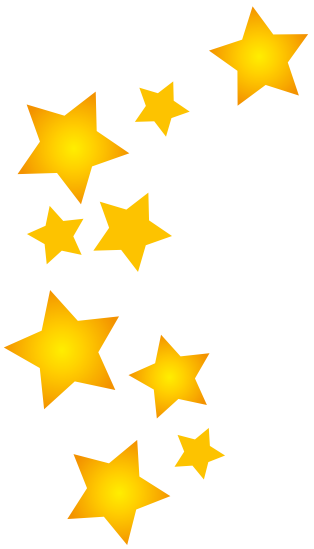
- To meet the needs of the individual child or young person decide whether to use the worries worksheet or the 'This is what I would like to change' worksheet first, but you still need to use both worksheets.
- Explore with the parent/carer the things they would like to change or get better and their worries or concerns for their child.
- Place the worries sheet at the bottom of the ladder and the 'This is what I would like to change' work sheet at the top of the ladder. Then explore with the parent/carer how they get from the worries sheet to the magic wand sheet using the ladder dependent on ability.
- Write under each rung of the ladder how they would like things to change, this does not need to be in any numerical or logical order.

# What are the worries I have for my child?





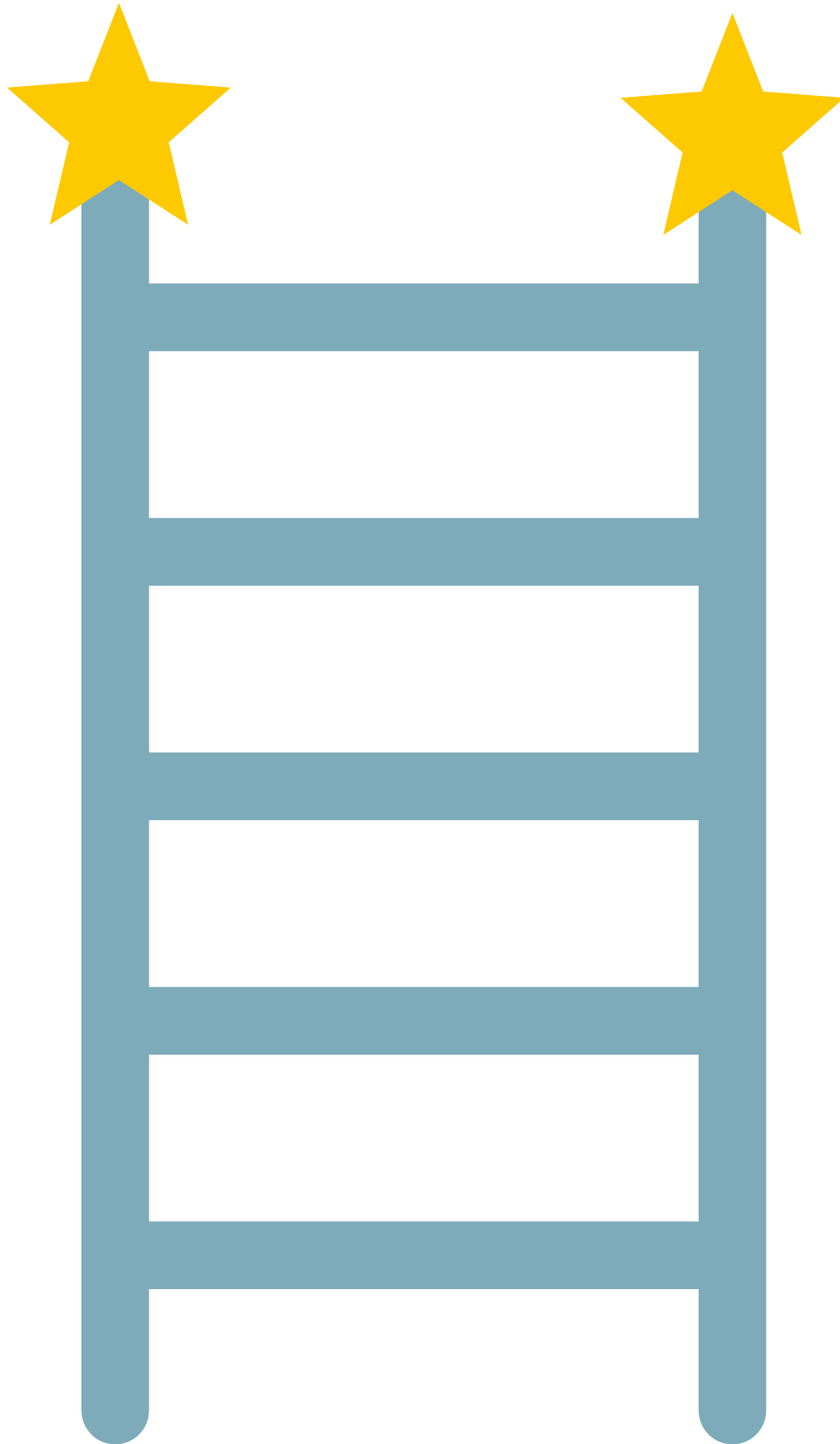
**This is what I would  
change by waving my  
magic wand**





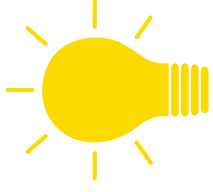


# How can we make things better?





# Action Plan

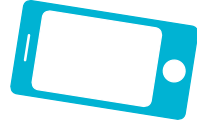


Name .....

Date .....

What is going to help you?	How is it going to help you?	Who is going to help you?	When would you like it to start?
What else might help?			

# Review



Name .....

Date .....

How much has it helped you?

A lot

A little

Not at all

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