

An introduction to ORIM

ORIM stands for **Opportunities, Recognition, Interaction** and **Modelling**. These are four ways you can support your child's early learning and development every day – ORIM is about making the most of what you are already doing!

ORIM reminds us of all the wonderful things we do to help our children. It can also help us think about some new ways to help them learn and to feel really good about themselves.

Opportunities



Opportunities for children to do and learn new things can be found in ordinary everyday experiences, routines and activities. Everyday **opportunities** for learning are often simple things, such as:

- giving your baby the **opportunity** to study your face when you are feeding them
- giving a toddler the **opportunity** to choose the colour of their cup and pour their drink
- giving a young child the **opportunity** to hold and count the apples as they put them into the fruit bowl

You might recognise how you are already turning ordinary experiences into learning **opportunities** through the way in which you do things with your baby or child, perhaps by:

- listening and talking together
- sharing books and stories, songs and rhymes
- looking at signs, logos and writing when out and about
- providing simple resources and household objects for your child to explore and experiment with as part of their play



- giving your child chances to see and do new things
- providing paper and materials for drawing and making marks
- giving your child time and attention

Being aware of these things can help you find lots more opportunities for learning every day

Every opportunity is a learning opportunity!



Recognition

Recognition is about noticing and valuing your child and the things they do every day. This might be **recognising** when your child has made an effort or has achieved something, or **recognising** what counts as progress for your child - or it may just be **recognising** your child for who they are and how much they are loved.

Recognition can be very simple, perhaps just a gentle word or quietly noticing their efforts with a nod and a smile. It can also be more obvious praise and encouragement – or it can be quite expressive, such as putting a painting on the fridge or making up a story with your child as the main character.



Recognise and value your child's efforts and achievements day by day.

You can show your child that you **recognise** their efforts and achievements by:

- noticing what they do and watching with interest
- praising, encouraging and reassuring them
- talking about their efforts and achievements
- understanding and supporting their next steps
- making sure they know when you are pleased with them

Recognising and valuing children's learning and development day helps them to feel good about themselves and encourages them to carry on exploring and learning new things.



Interaction

Interaction is about doing things together with your child and talking with them about what they are doing and how they are feeling.

Your child's learning and development are supported by the many different ways that you **interact** with them, such as:

- listening and talking together about what they are doing
- helping them to do something that they can nearly do and letting them manage by themselves when they are ready
- responding to their feelings and expressions
- sharing books and stories, songs and rhymes
- involving them in everyday tasks such as cooking or cleaning
- making things and doing things together
- explaining or demonstrating how to do something
- helping them to manage their frustrations when they find things too difficult
- letting them know they are loved through cuddles and hugs
- simply being together – an encouraging and reassuring presence.

There are lots of different ways to **interact** with your child to help them learn and to feel good about themselves.



Modelling

Modelling is the way in which your child sees you behave and respond in different situations. Babies and young children learn how to behave and respond to things from watching those around them. They learn most from the people they spend the most time with and those who they love the most.



You are the most important model for your child!

Your child will use you as a model to learn how to interact with others, and what kind of interactions to expect from those around them. They will absorb your attitudes and behaviours as well as more specific things such as how you use reading, writing and maths as part of day-to-day life. As your child gets older, you might notice them responding to situations in ways that may seem familiar!

We act as models even when we are not aware of doing so. Children can pick up on our likes and dislikes as well as the words and phrases we use on a day-to-day basis.

These are some of the ways in which close family, other adults and even TV characters are an example to children:

- smiling, noticing and taking time to listen carefully to others
- talking about thoughts and feelings
- reading for information or enjoyment – books, magazines, newspapers, tablet, phone etc.
- writing – messages, shopping lists, forms etc.
- showing pleasure and pride in their achievements
- learning new things



ORIM offers you the chance to support your child's early learning more consciously, more meaningfully and more frequently.