

A Parent's Guide to The Early Years Foundation Stage

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

Every child deserves the best possible start to life.

EYFS is a statutory government framework that supports this belief.

- ★ It sets standards for the learning, development, and welfare of children aged 0-5
- ★ It's a fun and flexible framework that's focused around seven areas of learning and development
- ★ It explains the skills; knowledge and understanding children must learn to support their healthy development
- ★ It helps very young children acquire the skills they will need to learn at school and beyond.
- ★ It encourages learning through indoor and outdoor play, discovery and other activities that stimulate and entertain your child.

Early year's practitioners use the framework to help them plan for the learning and healthy development of the children in their care. This means that if your child is in a nursery or a childcare setting the EYFS applies to them.

What will my child learn whilst in the early years setting?

EYFS has defined 7 areas of learning and development, divided into 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas.

The 3 prime areas are the most crucial for a child's healthy development. They are:

Prime area	Aspect
Communication & Language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking
Physical Development	Moving and handling Health and Self-Care
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Making relationships Self Confidence and Self-Awareness Managing Feelings and Behaviour

The four specific areas detail the important skills your child will need to develop. They are:

Specific Area	Aspect
Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers • Space, Shape and Measure
Understanding of the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People & Communities • The World • Technology
Expressing Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring using Media and Materials • Being imaginative

How will my child develop in these areas?

Whilst your child is at an Early Years setting they will be provided with activities and opportunities designed to help them work towards the seven areas of learning and development.

Your child's key person plays an important part in this process. They are responsible for:

- ★ Planning activities and experiences to promote your child's learning and development.
- ★ Conducting on-going observations to track and assess your child's achievements and progress against the EYFS early learning goals.
- ★ Putting together information about how your child is progressing.

How will I know how my child is progressing?

In addition to a curriculum of learning, EYFS also outlines how your child will be assessed whilst in an early years setting. You can expect:

On-going formal assessments:

Your key person will observe and assess your child and record feedback in a Learning Journey. As well as the two formal assessments:

1. The 1st formal check takes place sometime between your child's 2nd and 3rd birthdays. This is called the Progress Check at Age 2. This check will assess your child against the three prime areas. It can also ensure the early identification of any developmental issues.
2. The 2nd formal check happens in the final term of your child's reception year at school. The check assesses development against the 17 Early Learning Goals as outlined in the Development Matters document.

What can I do to support my child's learning and development under EYFS?

Parents have a really important role to play in their child's learning and development. Even everyday situations offer opportunities for children to explore and discover. Children benefit when the influential adults around them work in partnership.

As such your chosen childcare setting will encourage you to share your child's "at home" experiences and achievements. This will help the nursery plan for and support your child's development journey. If you know what your child has been enjoying away from home, you can reinforce the learning with relevant activities at home.

I still have some questions...

If you have any further questions about the EYFS and the impact of the framework on your child then please feel free to speak with your child's key person.

We are also free to talk at any time so contact us on:

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