

An introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage. What is it?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a document for us, as early years providers, to help us support your child's learning and development from birth to five years old. All early years providers must follow the EYFS.

How does the EYFS support my child?

The EYFS sets out what we, as an early years provider, must do to make sure that your child learns and develops. It promotes teaching and learning through play to make sure all children have the skills for future life. We must make sure that all staff are fully aware of what they have to do, to make sure your child's individual needs are met through the EYFS.

What will you be doing with my child?

We must think about the individual needs, interests and stages of development of each child in our care. Through care and play we will support learning in the following three prime areas,

Personal, social and emotional development:

- making relationships
- self-confidence and self-awareness
- managing feelings and behaviour.

Physical development:

- moving and handling
- health and self-care.

Communication and language:

- listening and attention
- understanding
- speaking.

As well as the three prime areas, we will also plan activities in the following areas of learning and development, known as specific areas.

Literacy:

- reading
- writing.

Mathematics:

- numbers
- shape, space and measure.

Understanding the world:

- people and communities
- the world
- technology.

Expressive arts and design:

- exploring and using media and material
- being imaginative.

How will you check my child is developing in line with the EYFS requirements?

Your child's teacher will discuss your child's development and interests with you to make sure they are progressing well with us and at home. This will support them, and you, to plan a challenging environment and play based activities to progress your child's learning. There are two required progress checks which take place during EYFS. The first is when your child is between two and three years old and the second in the final term of the year in which your child reaches the age of five.

How can I find out more?

Talk to your child's teacher who will be happy to answer any questions you have. You can also view a copy of the Statutory and non-statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage on the Department for Education website **www.education.gov.uk**