



Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** describes the time from birth to age 5 and provides a set of guidelines to all early years' professionals describing how to care for and educate the children they provide for.

It is a very important set of guidelines as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. Your child's early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs. It is essential that settings work closely with parents

All nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders must be registered to deliver the EYFS and follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and to give greater emphasis on the parents' role in helping your child develop.

The EYFS framework sets out:

The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare

The Education requirements which centres around observation, next steps and assessments ensure each child has an individualised education programme

Underpinning these requirements, influencing all policy, planning and delivery are guiding principles and characteristics of learning. These ensure that each child's Early Years experience is delivered individually and in ways best suited for their style of learning at their current stage of development.

The Welfare Requirement

The welfare requirements exist to make sure that the children are as safe as possible and they are presented as legal standards that all Early Years professionals must follow. These include the numbers of staff required in a nursery, how many children a childminder can look after, and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

Little Hands policies are built around the welfare standards. You can find further information and the full EYFS welfare requirements at www.foundationyears.org.uk

The Learning Requirements

The learning requirements ensure each child has an individualised education programme and include:

The 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals

Engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge

Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS

Expected levels (Early Learning Goals (ELGs)) that your child should reach at age 5, the end of their reception year.

There is also guidance for the nursery professionals on planning the learning activities, observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

7 Areas of Learning

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are

Communication and language

Physical development

Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**.

These are

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the world

Expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The nursery staff who are teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Finding out how your child is progressing.

It is important for your child that parents and staff work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will either be with your child's keyworker, the session leader or nursery manager.

Your keyworker is your main point of contact within the setting and will help your child to become settled, happy and keep safe whilst recording their progress and sharing this with you. You will be able to get information about your child's progress and development at any time.

Each term the keyworker makes a summary of your child's achievements and next steps in their All About Me folder and this is given to you to take home, read and comment on. We also encourage you to share the information with any other professionals involved in your child's care and give you ideas as to how to continue these threads of learning at home.

EYFS progress checks

The EYFS framework requires professionals to make two written summaries of how your child is progressing in addition to the settings usual records. These are made at two and five years. More information can be found in the parents booklet - What to Expect When - which can be downloaded from www.foundationyears.org.uk

Two Year old Check

If your child attends Little Hands whilst they are two years old the observations assessments in their All About Me folder will be used to provide you with a Two Year Old Progress Check which is a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning. This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and any where they might need some extra help. We will discuss the progress check with you beforehand and ask for your opinions and thoughts so we can build up a complete picture of your child. You might find it useful to share the information from the check with other professionals such as health visitors (who can use it as part of the health and development review).

Five Year old check

At the end of the EYFS - in the summer term of the reception year in school - teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher.

Where can I go for further information?

There is additional written information on the parents' notice boards and staff are always happy to answer your questions. You can also find contacts, information, and a range of resources at www.foundationyears.org.uk.

You can check the quality of nurseries and other Early Year's providers in

You can check the quality of nurseries and other Early Year's providers in relation to the EYFS Framework by visiting the website of the Government's official inspection body for early years, Ofsted at www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report