

# Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

## A Parents Guide

*Children are born ready and eager to learn. They actively reach out to interact with other people, and the world around them. Development is not an automatic process, however. It depends upon each unique child having opportunities to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments.*

### **Introduction to the EYFS**

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow.

The Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy

The **EYFS seeks to provide:**

**Quality and consistency**– in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind.

**A Secure Foundation**–through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of the child and are assessed and reviewed regularly.

**Partnership working**– between practitioners and with parents and carers and outside agencies

**Equality of opportunity**– and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

### **The EYFS ages 0-5 (continued into reception)**

The Early Years Foundation stage is the early years curriculum guidance, that we follow to support your children develop in all areas.

4 themes underpin all the guidance

**The Unique Child** – every child is unique who is constantly learning, capable confident and self-assured

**Positive Relationships** – Children learn to be strong and independent

**Enabling Environment** – children learn and develop best in an enabling environment where their experiences respond to their individual needs and where there's a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

**Learning and Development** – Children develop and learn in different ways. The Framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

# Learning and Development

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the Prime and Specific areas of learning and development are all interconnected. This is the way a child engages with other people and their environment - and it underpins all aspects of learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

Play and exploring

Active learning

Creating and thinking critically

## Prime Areas of Learning

These are the fundamental building blocks which support all other areas of development and include

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

## Specific areas of Learning

These include essential skills and knowledge which enable children to participate successfully in society.

These develop effectively when the Prime areas are thoroughly embedded.

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

## What we do at nursery?

We use the information to support each child's learning and development.

We observe children as they play and as we play with them, gaining a greater understanding of their interests.

We use this information to plan for those interests and help them to develop, by challenging their thinking, encouraging creativity and celebrating independence.

We do this by enhancing their play with different resources and providing suitable activities to extend their interests and thinking, in order to support all aspects of learning and development.

All this is done through carefully planned play experiences, alongside understanding staff who work as supportive and sympathetic and effective play partners (also see Key Person Leaflet)

Because

Every Child Matters

5 Outcomes for children

Be Healthy

Stay Safe

Enjoy and Achieve

Make a positive contribution

Achieve Economic well being

