

Parents'/Carers' Guide to the New Early Years Foundation Stage Framework 2021

An exciting journey ahead for you and your child!



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Welcome to the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** This is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life from birth to five years.



This is a crucial time in your child's life as it helps them to get ready for future learning and successes. Your child's experiences during this time should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure.

What is the New EYFS Framework - Why is it used?

The 2021 updated framework will be used to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child's development in Nursery and Reception.

It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements for anyone who is registered to look after children. This must be followed to keep your child safe and promote their welfare.
- 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.
- Ongoing assessments that will inform you of your child's progress through the EYFS.
- The levels that your child is expected to reach by the end of their Reception year. These are called the 'Early Learning Goals' (ELGs)



How my child will be learning

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through the **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should firstly develop the **3 prime areas**. These are:

Communication and language

Communication and language this involves giving the children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical development

Physical development provides opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Personal, social and emotional development

Personal, social and emotional development this involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups and to have confidence in their own abilities.

As children grow these prime areas will help them develop skills in the

4 specific areas. These are:

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging the children to link sounds and letters and apply this to their reading and writing. The children are given a wide range of reading materials (books including stories and non-fiction, poetry and other written material) to ignite and inspire their interest.

Mathematics

Mathematics provides the children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and use of number; and also the use of space, shape and measures.

Understanding the World

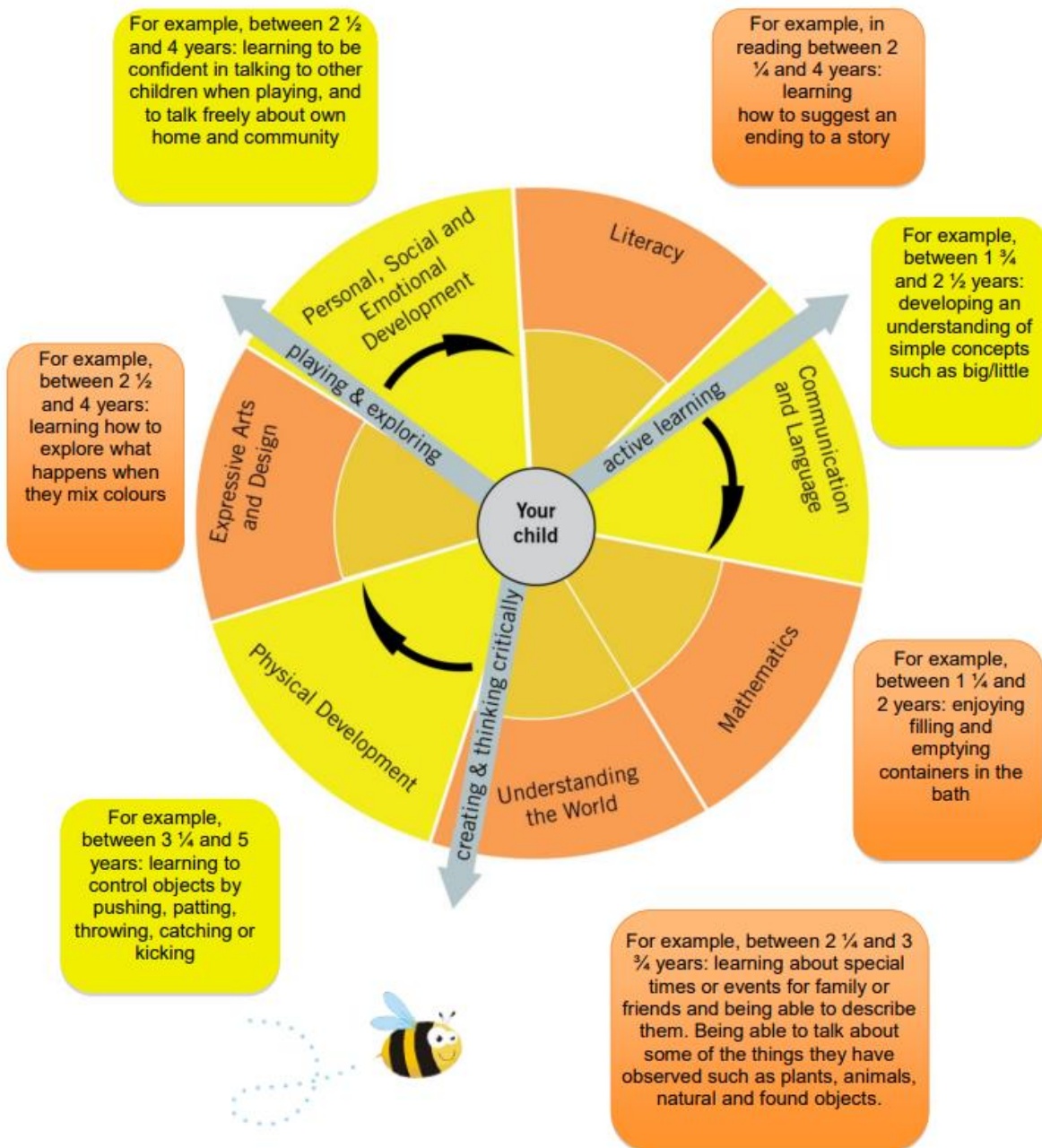
Understanding the world involves guiding the children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive arts and design

Expressive arts and design enables the children to explore and play with a wide range of media and material, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thought, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

Ideas to support your child's learning at home

The diagram below gives examples of the areas of learning and development and shows the links between the way in which your child learns and what they learn.



How can I help my child starting school?

You as parents are your child's first educators and we value this, our aim is to build on all the hard work that you have put in, in those first years of your child's life.

We are often asked 'How can I help my child starting school?' Here are some suggestions.

Diagram taken from EYFS Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.



If you're looking for new ideas for things to do then find out what is on offer at your local children's centre. Many offer 'messy play' activities which you and your child can join in with, and many of the activities they provide are free. Staff can also give you advice about the kinds of books or other activities your child might enjoy at different ages.