

A guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for parents



What is the EYFS?

The EYFS is the statutory framework for all early years providers including childminders. The EYFS contains –

- Learning and development requirements
- Assessment requirements
- Safeguarding and welfare requirements

Learning and development requirements

There are 3 **prime** areas of learning –

- Communication and language – to support your child's listening, speech and language development.
- Physical development – to support your child's gross (large body) and fine (hand) motor skills and learning about health, safety and wellbeing.
- Personal, social and emotional development – to help your child learn to make friends, work in a group, develop independence, share and express themselves appropriately.

The prime areas of learning are the key skills that children need so they are ready to start school.

There are 4 **specific** areas of learning –

- Literacy – reading and writing
- Mathematics – numbers, shape, size, measure and much more
- Understanding the world – learning about the world around us and technology
- Art and design – exploring art and crafts, music, dance and using imagination.

The specific areas of learning provide your child with the building blocks for life-long learning.

How will your child learn?

We will use a combination of –

- Starting points – information from you about the things your child can do and say when they first start in our care
- Observation of your child's play – from you and when they are here in the provision
- Assessment of what your child's play tells us about them – what they know and how they learn
- Individual planning to help your child make progress
- Ongoing summary assessment and tracking so we spot any concerns quickly and work with you to help your child catch up. We will use Early Years Outcomes to help us check your child's progress and we will provide you with a copy of 'What to Expect, When?' which is a parents guide to progress.
- Home learning – we are required to provide you with activity ideas so you can support your child's learning at home.

.....

Assessment requirements

There are 2 statutory assessments –

- The progress check at age 2
- The assessment at the end of the EYFS

We must also be aware of the Early Learning Goals – however, we do not track children's progress once they start full time school (reception class).

Progress check at age 2

We are required to work with parents and other settings children attend (if relevant) to prepare a written progress check for children between the ages of 2 and 3 years. The progress check should ideally be written at the same time as the child's 'Healthy Child' Health Visitor check and the Health Visitor should be given a copy of the Progress Check by parents.

The assessment at the end of the EYFS

The assessment at the end of the EYFS is the responsibility of your child's reception class teacher at school.

Early Learning Goals

Your child's teacher will be continually assessing your child to make sure they are making good progress towards the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). We will use the Early Years Outcomes guidance to support your child's progress towards the ELGs as well.

.....

The safeguarding and welfare requirements

The EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements cover the following areas of provision –

- **Child protection and safeguarding** - how I must keep your child protected and safe from harm - and what I must do if we are concerned they are being abused or mistreated. I use the Government guidance document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' – you will find a useful summary of this guidance on the NSPCC website.
- **Suitable people** - this section of the EYFS covers information about DBS checks and notes the people who are not considered suitable to work with children. All people living or working on childminding premises over the age of 16 must have CRB or DBS checks.
- **Staff qualifications, training, support and skills** - this section covers what qualifications and training we must have to care for your child. All childminders are regularly checked by Ofsted and must have up-to-date paediatric first aid training.
- **Key person** - every child must have a key person - I am key person for your child. My main roles are to support your child's care, learning and development and to work closely with you and other settings your child attends.
- **Staff / child ratios** - the ratios I must comply with to ensure I am working within the law and what I must do if I exceed my usual ratios in exceptional circumstances to provide continuity of care.
- **Health** - how I must protect your child's health and wellbeing, including arrangements for medication administration.
- **Managing behaviour** - how I must support your child to develop appropriate behaviour so they are ready for school: there is also information about physical intervention which is when I might have to act to stop your child hurting themselves or another child. I am record physical intervention and inform you about it.
- **Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment** - this section notes the ways I must ensure my house, garden, equipment and resources are safe and suitable for use by children. It includes the requirement to offer daily outside play opportunities for all children:
- **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** - I must commit to being inclusive and welcoming to all children and their families. I must comply with the SEND Code of Practice and I am aware of my responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure all children are supported to reach their full potential, making reasonable adjustments where necessary to enable them to succeed.

- **Information and records** - this section details the information I must ask for from you and the records I must keep about you and your child. I am required by my insurance company to retain records relating to safeguarding and welfare until your child is 21 years and 3 months old. Learning and development information will be given to you when your child leaves my care.

How can you support learning at home?

There are 2 requirements in the EYFS related to supporting learning at home - EYFS 1.10 *'The key person must: seek to engage and support parents and/or carers in guiding their child's development at home'* and EYFS 3.73 *'Providers must make the following information available to parents and/or carers: how parents and carers can share learning at home'*

This means that I will make suggestions for things your child might enjoy doing at home. Sometimes, I will share activity ideas with you such as recipes I have tried which your child has enjoyed or I might offer you resources or books to borrow over the weekend.

Keeping you informed

I need to tell you about what your child is doing / saying while they are here – the activities they enjoy and the games they like playing. I will keep you informed in lots of different ways including in my newsletter, in your child's diary, on my noticeboard and through regular chats about your child's progress. If you have any concerns about your child's learning and development, please let me know as soon as possible so we can all work together to support them. If I have concerns I will talk to you and suggest other agencies or professionals who might be able to provide further advice and guidance.

Finding out more information about the EYFS

You can find copies of the documents I have mentioned in this guide as follows –

- EYFS - www.gov.uk.
- Progress check at age 2 – www.foundationyears.org.uk.
- SEND Code of Practice – www.gov.uk / Equality Act 2010 – www.legislation.gov.uk.
- Early Years Outcomes – www.gov.uk / What to expect, when – 4Children.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children – www.gov.uk.

I have copies of all these documents and will email them to you on request.

Useful contact numbers

- Local Safeguarding Children Board – Local Authority
- Contacting Ofsted – please see the Ofsted poster on my noticeboard and my Complaints Policy.

If you have any questions about the EYFS or how it is delivered in my provision please ask me.

Thank you.