

Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

Where can I go for further information?

The most important place to find out more is **your child's preschool** do ask as many questions as you need to. Providers really do welcome speaking with you.

You may want to find out what is on offer at **your local children's centre**.

You can find the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which includes the early learning goals at:

www.foundationyears.org.uk

The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

What is the Early Years Foundation stage?

The Early Years Foundation stage is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This framework also has a great emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.

It 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 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 that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "**Early Learning Goals (ELGs)**"



T 01737 222859 | E katie.dudley@ymcaeast Surrey.org.uk

www.ymcaeast Surrey.org.uk   YMCAEastSurrey

YMCA Sovereign Centre,
Slipshatch Road, Reigate,
Surrey, RH2 8HA

Registered charity no. 1075028



As a mum or dad, how can I help with my child's learning?

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.

- ▶ Sing and tell nursery rhymes
- ▶ Share a book
- ▶ Talk about numbers, colours and letters in the environment
- ▶ Cook and bake together
- ▶ Allow your child to cut and stick from magazines
- ▶ Talk about the shapes you see in the every day environment

How can I find out how my child is getting on?

It is important that you and the professionals caring for your child work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will either need to be with your childminder or, in a larger setting like a nursery, with your child's "**key person**". This is the person who:

- ▶ Is your main point of contact within the setting
- ▶ Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe
- ▶ Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning
- ▶ Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home.



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 **7 areas of learning and development**.

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

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- 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; and
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals 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. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

