

What is Early Years Foundation Stage

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

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

The EYFS framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents.

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 „Early Learning Goals (ELGs)“;

How your child will be learning

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
- * Personal, social and emotional development

These prime areas are the 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 professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs.