

Guide to The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

The Department of Education has issued a statutory framework for nursery settings known as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The framework sets out the legal requirements for the care of young children relating to Learning, Development and Welfare. These are important areas all parents need to be comfortable with before choosing any type of childcare for their young children. Parents at Meaford Fields like to be kept informed on the EYFS as the framework not only provides legal requirements, but also structure around the four key areas of learning and development as well as focus in helping young children achieve their full potential.

The EYFS framework sets the UK standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. The curriculum is built around four principles:

1. Unique child
2. Positive relationships
3. Enabling environments
4. Learning and development

Parents are kept informed of the development of their child's progress within the four principles of the EYFS framework through regular dialogue with their child's key person and through the individual learning journey of each child.

At Meaford Fields we currently have a member of staff who has an Early Years Teacher Status which has helped to maintain high standards in implementing and developing the new curriculum.

When your child is 2.

At some point after your child turns 2, the professionals working with your child must give you a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional development

This is called the progress check at age 2.

When your child is 5.

At the end of the EYFS-in the summer term of the reception year in school- teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.

For further information please visit www.education.gov.uk/publications

How my child will be learning?

In the Early Years Foundation Stage there are 7 areas of learning.

Three Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

And 4 Specific Areas:

- 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.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, Social and Emotional development is recognised as one of the building blocks of success in life. It supports children's development by helping them to interact effectively and develop positive attitudes to themselves and others.

This area is broken down into three aspects:

- Self-confidence and Self-awareness – developing confidence and expressing own ideas
- Managing feelings and behaviour – understanding own and others feelings
- Making relationships – developing relation and making friendships

Physical Development

Physical development is about how babies and young children gain control over their bodies, but also includes learning about how to stay active and healthy in a safe way.

This area is broken down into two aspects:

- Moving and Handling – gaining control over the body with fine/gross skills
- Health and Self-care – toileting, staying safe, feeding

Communication and Language

Communicating is an in-built drive. The way that we communicate with each other varies from verbal to non verbal. Babies love to hear the voices of familiar people around them and respond in many ways.

This area is broken down into three aspects:

- Listening and Attention – listening to others, joining in rhymes, stories
- Speaking – exploring sounds, linking words together, simple sentences
- Understanding – following instructions, understanding what has been said to them

Literacy

Being literate is essential in almost every aspect of adult life. It is thought that literacy is the ability to read and write but it also includes being able to speak and listen.

This area is broken down into two aspects:

- Reading – looking at books, being interested in written material in the environment.
- Writing – mark making, forming letters, giving meaning to marks that are made.

Mathematics

Mathematics is all about understanding and using shape, space and measure in everyday life to solve problems.

This area is broken down into two aspects:

- Numbers – counting, recognising numbers, using quantities
- Shape, Space and Measure – create/describe patterns, talk about time, size

Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding 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.

This area is broken down into three aspects:

- People and communities – past and present events, similarities, differences
- The world – similarities in environment
- Technology – select and use technology

Expressive arts and design

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance.

This area is broken down into two areas:

- Exploring and using media and materials – singing songs, music, dance, use materials safely
- Being imaginative – represent own ideas through art, music and dance, stories, role-play