



Early Years Foundation Stage



The Early Learning Goals

A guide for Parents and Carers

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Having a child in pre-school, nursery or with a child minder you might be familiar with the term The Early Years Foundation Stage. The Early Years Foundation has a set of standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five years old. All schools and Ofsted registered early years providers must follow the EYFS including childminders, pre-schools, nurseries and school reception classes.

The EYFS framework supports an integrated approach to early learning and care. It gives all professionals a set of common principles and commitments to deliver quality early education and childcare experiences to all children.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been reformed and has been in place since September 2021.

These national changes have been made to better support all young children's learning and development. It is also the aim that the new framework will better prepare children for the transition into key stage 1.

There are some elements of the EYFS that have not significantly changed and some that have.

Below are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that include relevant changes which parents, carers and children may notice or experience.

- Staff will be spending less time on large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection and this will be reflected in the amount that gets sent home. This means they can spend more time supporting and engaging with the children and their learning and development needs.
- Children will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age.
- The early learning goals at the end of reception have been changed to become more clear and easier to understand. Staff will use their judgements to assess if the children have met these goals at the end of the EYFS and inform parents and carers.
- There is an emphasis on improving children's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.
- Literacy and numeracy skills focused on in the EYFS have been adapted to better match up with the national curriculum that starts in year 1.
- There is no longer an exceeding judgement at the end of reception. Children will instead be challenged to have a greater depth and understanding of ideas.
- Safeguarding and welfare of children is still a priority, with the added mention of teaching children about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

Click [here](#) to read the Statutory framework for the early years.