



New EYFS Reforms: Parent and Carer Information Sheet

The Early Years Foundation Stage covers the first stage of a child's care from birth to five years old. It sets the standards to ensure that all children learn and develop, as well as keeping them healthy and safe. All schools and Ofsted registered early years providers in England must follow the EYFS.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is being reformed and there is a new EYFS framework that all schools and settings are now following from September 2021. These national changes have been made to better support all young children's learning and development.

The seven areas of learning remain the same, but the Early Learning goals have changed. The Areas of Learning and their Early Learning goals are displayed below.

- **Communication and Language – Listening and Attention and Speaking**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development – Self-Regulation, Managing Self and Building Relationships**
- **Physical Development – Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills**
- **Literacy – Comprehension, Word Reading, and Writing**
- **Mathematics – Number, Numerical Patterns**
- **Understanding the World – Past and Present, People and Communities and The Natural World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design – Creating with Materials and Being Imaginative and Expressive**

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



- 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.



- 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.

There have also been changes to a document called '**Development Matters**'. This document is not compulsory, but it is used by staff to support them to understand child development in the different Areas of Learning. These changes allow more freedom for adults to plan to the learning and interests of the children in the setting.

How could you help learning and development at home to support the new EYFS reforms?

- Read stories daily to your child and use them as an opportunity to talk about the characters and events in the story. You could also discuss some of the details children have spotted in the pictures, such as the character's facial expressions.
- Have lots of conversations with your child throughout the day. Try and increase their vocabulary by using a wide range of vocabulary.
- Practise counting with your child and looking at small groups of items. Explore what happens to numbers when you put these small groups of items together or split a larger group into two smaller groups.
- If your child is of a preschool age, support their early reading by practising phonic skills, such as recognising letter sounds and blending them together to read words. Also, support your child with their writing by checking they are forming their letters in the correct way and holding a pencil properly.
- Encourage your child to make healthy food and drink choices, especially related to sugar content and how this can affect teeth. Also, support your child to properly brush their teeth at least twice a day at home.
- Plan activities that allow your child to be active and develop their strength through large body movements as well as smaller, more precise movements.

We hope that you have a better understanding of the changes that have been made to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We also hope you feel reassured that the wellbeing and care of the children is still the main priority of the EYFS.

Young children are still encouraged to learn and develop through play and exploration. The adults support this through guidance and teaching of skills.

Should you have any further questions on the EYFS changes, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The logo for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is displayed in a playful, multi-colored font. The words 'Early Years' are on the top line, and 'Foundation Stage' are on the bottom line. Each letter is a different color, creating a vibrant and child-friendly appearance.