What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is how the Government and early year’s 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.

Nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

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;

• Personal, social and emotional development

The Prime areas are the **foundation of children’s ability to learn and develop** for **school readiness** and **future progress**. i.e. being able to make friends and /or listen effectively.

By this we do not mean we are treating the children like they are at school, we are however preparing them for what they will face when they begin. Through games, songs and activities initiated by their interests, they learn manners, Patients, how to hold a pencil and recognise letters and numbers. We want them to feel confident and in control when they get to school.

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.

Visit the website for more information https://www.foundationyears.org.uk

Children in the EYFS learn by **playing and exploring**, **being active**, and through **creative and critical thinking** which takes place both indoors and outside.

**Identify early problems…**

**Childcare providers will carry out these reviews on children’s progress between the ages of 2 and 3. Reviews are carried out by a health visitor.A short written summary must be provided to parents/carers highlighting areas that may need support.**

**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.

If you're looking for new ideas for things to do then find out what is on offer at your local children’s centre. Many offer ‘messy play’ activities which you and your child can join in with, and many of the activities they provide are free. Staff can also give you advice about the kinds of books or other activities your child might enjoy at different ages.

Try to speak to your child’s key person as often as possible about

What your child has been doing, what they have enjoyed, what they need to

Keeping the parents informed throughout the journey at nursery

Be doing more of and what you can do at home.

Home visits are a great way of observing your child in both settings

Creating a bond with your child toencourage d

Observations on your child at nursery. Setting activities to develop areas of learning

Complete feedback books and home learning sheets for continues learning

Hold parents evening to discuss achievements of your child

Keyperson

For more information on EYFS visit

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk