



# Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

## An Overview for Parents and Carers

### Areas of Learning

The EYFS outlines the time in your child's life from birth to 5 years old. There are 7 areas of learning and development. These areas are separated in prime and specific areas.

#### Prime

The prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

#### Specific

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop in the specific areas.

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive art and design

### Characteristics of Effective Learning

Purposeful play is one of the most important aspects of the EYFS. Throughout the year we will be identifying how your child learns. These are called the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning', and are outlined below.

#### Playing and Exploring

Finding out and exploring  
Playing with what they know  
Being willing to 'have a go'

#### Active Learning

Being involved and concentrating  
Keeping on trying  
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

#### Creating and Thinking Critically

Having their own ideas  
Making links  
Choosing ways to do things

### Assessment

At the end of the EYFS, in the summer term of the Reception year at 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.

Your knowledge about your child's learning and development is an important part. Please let us know about what your child does with you e.g. how confident they are in writing their name, talking about stories etc.

During this process your child will be assessed as either working 'at' or 'below' age related expectations against each of the sub areas of the EYFS.

### Supporting at Home

#### How can I help my child's learning?

- Share a book
- Sing and tell nursery rhymes
- Talk about numbers, colours, words and letters when you are out and about
- Allow your child to cut and stick pictures from magazines
- Cook or bake together
- Plant seeds and watch them grow
- Use opportunities to extend your child's vocabulary e.g. seasons, weather, changes
- Explore the park at a different time of year and go off the beaten track
- Talk to your child at every opportunity
- On a trip to the supermarket talk about the different shapes of packaging