

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework

What the early years foundation stage (EYFS) framework is

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is a government document that all schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England must follow. It sets the standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

The framework is for all Ofsted registered early years providers in all settings, including:

- Nurseries
- Childminders
- Pre-schools
- Reception

Why the changes are happening?

The Early Years Foundation Stage is being reformed and there is a new framework which all settings must follow from September 2021. These national changes have been made to better support all young children's learning and development. Here is the link to the document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

There are some elements of the EYFS that have not significantly changes 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. 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 knowledge and experience 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 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 Yr1.
- 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 added mention of teaching children about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

What will my child be learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programme. There are three prime areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

Communication and language

Personal, social and emotional development

Physical development

There are four specific areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Early years practitioners also use your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences.

How will my child be learning?

The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of play in your child's development. It is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others. Through play, EYFS practitioners will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills.

The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

Playing and exploring

Active learning

Creating and thinking critically

A greater focus on teaching specific skills will occur as your child progresses through their reception year, which will help them to prepare for Yr1.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Key information, about your child will be shared with you throughout their time in the EYFS. Here at Tithe Farm Primary, we use Tapestry to record our observations. When you set up your account, observations made will be instantly shared with you. You can also comment on them and add photos/film/comments on activities they do at home.

The EYFS practitioners use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. This will be shared with you through parents evenings, interim reports and their end of year report.

How can I help learning and development at home to support the new EYFS?

- 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 character's facial expressions.
- Have a lot 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.
- Support your child's early reading by practising phonic skills, such as letters and sounds, 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 correctly.
- Encourage your child to make healthy food and drink choices, especially related to sugar content and how this can affect their teeth. Also, support your child to brush their teeth properly at least twice a day.
- Plan activities that allow your child to be active and develop their strength through large body movements as well as smaller, more precise movements.

If you have any concerns or questions about the information above, please don't hesitate to contact us