

# The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

## What parents/carers need to know

### What is the EYFS?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was originally launched in 2008. It is the statutory framework for all early year's providers in England but it is held in high regard worldwide. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards that all early years providers must meet. Early years providers in England who provide care and learning for children from birth to the end of reception class must comply with the EYFS Statutory Framework. Ofsted regulate and inspect all early year's providers against the safeguarding and welfare requirements and areas of learning to determine how well children are kept safe and healthy. From time to time the EYFS is updated and refreshed, so far this has happened in 2012, 2014 and 2017.

### What is changing?

From September 2021 a revised EYFS came into force. The key messages about the reforms included:

- ✓ Reducing practitioner/teacher workload and needless paperwork to allow for more quality time and interactions with the children
- ✓ Improving the outcomes of all children and addressing/reducing the disadvantage gaps
- ✓ The importance of workforce knowledge and professional development to inform assessments. Reflect upon the need to assess every child's development against 'check lists', saving formal steps of assessment for when they are necessary
- ✓ Making early learning goals clearer and more aligned to Y1 curriculum.

### What do the changes mean to me as a parent/carer?

The safety of your child and the quality of the education provided did not change. You may not see any changes in terms of the activities and opportunities on offer to your child/ren. However, you may have noticed that we are not physically recording as many observations and assessments of progress. Please be reassured that we are still supporting your child's development and responding to their interests. We are using our professional judgements to assess your child's development during our daily interactions and activities. The progress check at 2 years is still a mandatory assessment point and we will still share your child's development and progress with you through summative assessments in May and November and parent's evenings twice per year.

### Our Pedagogy

Our Pedagogy is a mix of different approaches. It is common to combine different approaches within a setting and teaching method. We take aspects from:

#### **Froebel**

- Childhood is more than just prepping for adulthood
- All learning is linked – all areas impacting each other
- Focus on what children can do not what they can't do

#### **Steiner/Waldorf**

- Learning through regular tasks and activities

- A familiar environment not over stimulating
- Homely environment to make children feel welcome, each child has space for their own things
- Routine and repetition

### **Bandura**

- Adults are role models
- Calm respectful and interacting well with each other
- Solving problems together and speaking about solutions

### **Our Curriculum**

We follow a curriculum of what we would like the children to learn throughout the year. This will include different celebrations and seasonal events as well as planning activities around the children's interests.

The 7 areas of learning and development within the EYFS have not changed, these are:

- **Communication and language**
- **Physical development**
- **Personal, social and emotional development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the world**
- **Expressive arts and design**

The **prime areas** of learning form the essential foundations for healthy development and future learning. Once a solid start has formed within the **prime areas** we continue to build upon these skills, opening to explore more learning opportunities within the **specific areas** of learning.

These 7 areas are the basis for our curriculum. Careful thought is given to inform our enabling environments (indoors and outdoors), to provide resources, activities and learning opportunities to meet each child's unique requirements. Ofsted call this 'curriculum'. Our curriculum is very flexible and responsive to follow children's interests and those totally unplanned learning opportunities that sometimes come out of the blue, such as it unexpectedly snowing, etc!

Young children learn through play. The EYFS refers to the Characteristics of Effective Learning. These are:

- **Playing and exploring**
- **Active learning**
- **Creating and thinking critically**

Every EYFS provider has their own bespoke curriculum, to support each child's unique developmental pathway, following their interests and fascinations.