



The Early Years Foundation Stage

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life from birth to the end of their first year in school (Reception).

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.

What is the EYFS Framework - why do we have one?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop. The EYFS framework describes how early years settings should work with children and their families to support their learning and development. It describes how your child should be cared for and kept safe and how everyone involved can make sure that your child achieves the most that they can in their early years.

The overarching aim of the EYFS is to help young children achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes of: Staying safe, Being healthy, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a positive contribution and Achieving economic wellbeing.

For further information about the EYFS, visit the [Department of Education website](#)