



Always passionate for childcare

**welcome
little one!**



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

Every child is an individual and deserves the best possible start to life. The EYFS is a statutory government framework that supports this belief.

The EYFS sets out standards for the learning, development and welfare of children from birth to five years of age. It explains the skills, knowledge and understanding that children must learn to support their healthy development.


- It helps very young children acquire the skills they will need to learn at school and beyond.
- It encourages learning through indoor and outdoor play, discovery and other activities that stimulate and entertain your child.
- It's a fun and flexible framework that is focussed around seven areas of learning and development (see opposite).
- Early years practitioners use the framework to help them plan for the learning and healthy development of the children in their care.

The **EYFS Framework** is mandatory for all early years providers - this means that all nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders registered as EYFS providers must adhere to it. By following the same framework, this ensures for quality and consistency in all early years settings.

Why do we have the EYFS Framework?

This framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS and sets out all standards for learning and development of children from birth to five years, as well as ensuring all children are kept healthy and safe. Since 2012, the framework has been developed and revised with parents and early years experts to make it clearer and to emphasise a parent's role in their child's development.

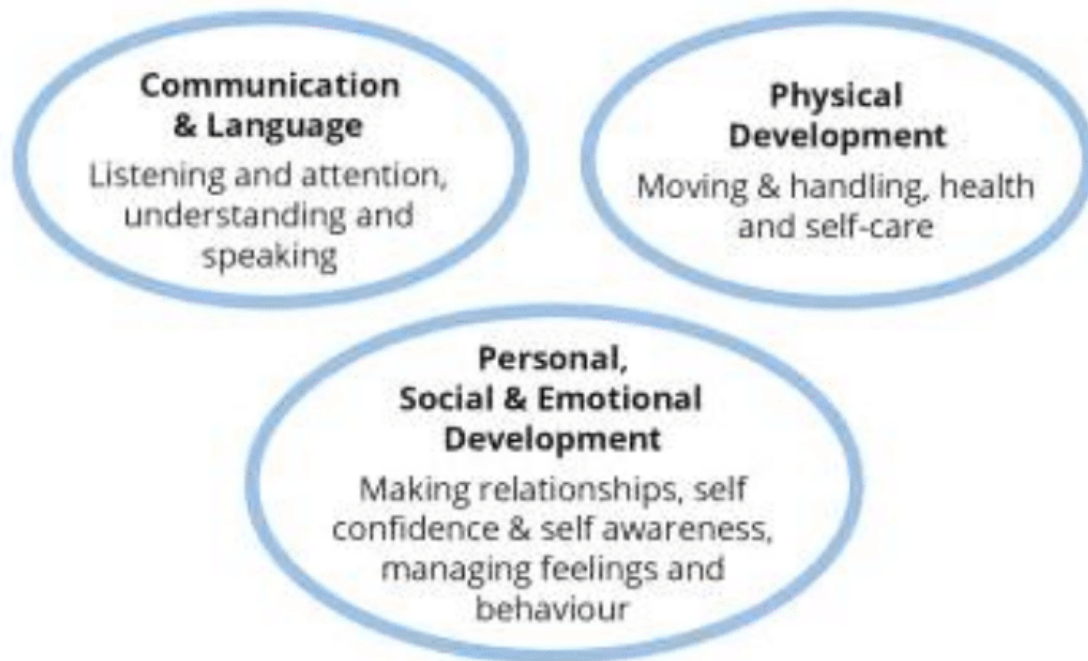
The framework also sets out assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS and expected levels that should be achieved - these goals and expectations are called **Early Learning Goals (ELGs)**.



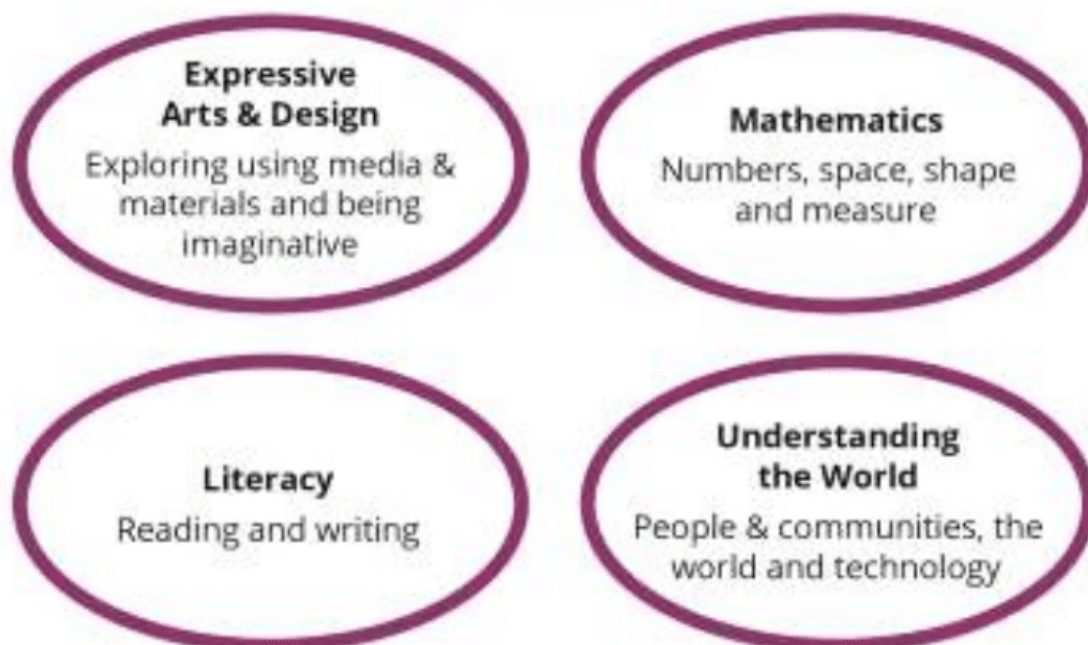
What will my child be learning?

Your child will be learning skills, gaining new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through the seven areas of development.

These are divided into **three prime areas** and **four specific areas**:



The three prime areas are the most crucial for a child's healthy development. As your child grows, these prime areas will help them to develop skills in the following **four specific areas**:

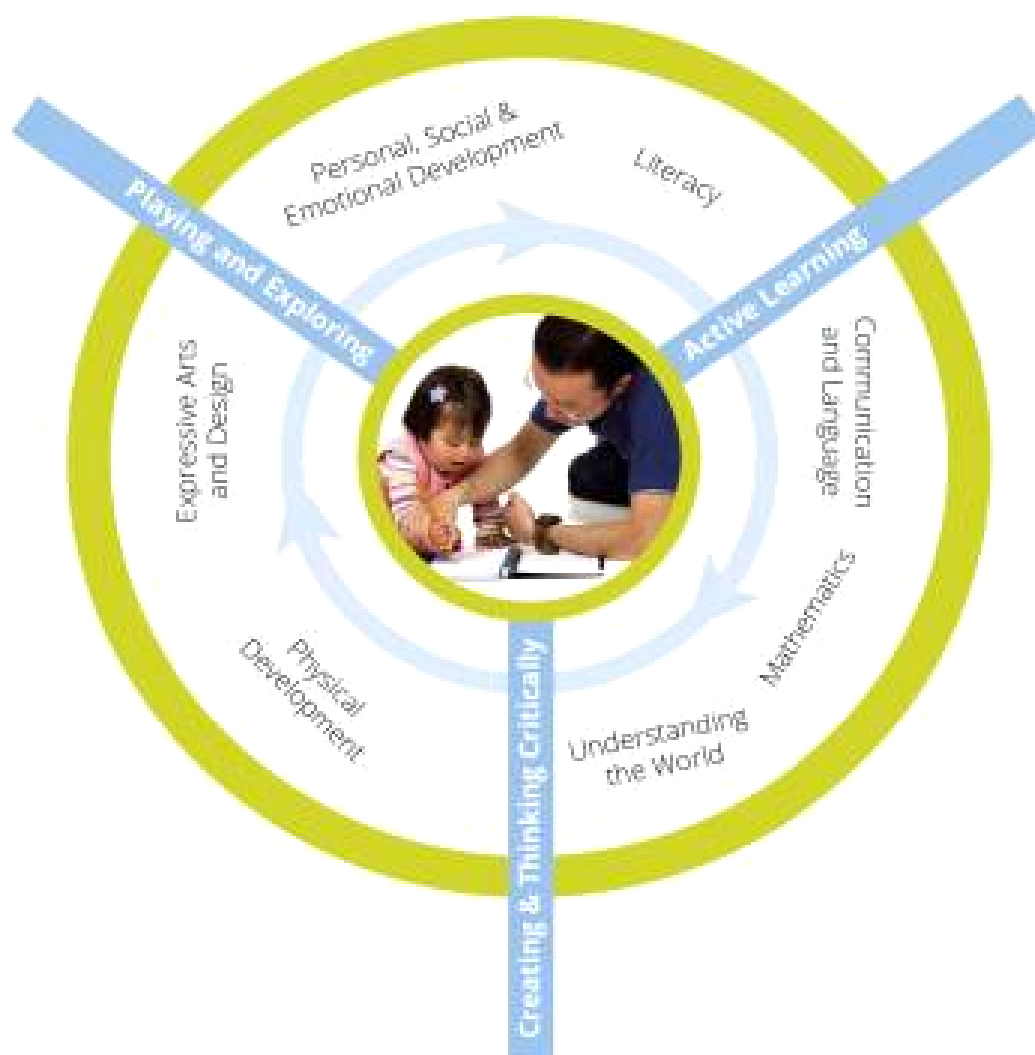


How will my child develop in these areas?

Children in the EYFS learn and develop in the seven areas by playing and exploring, through active learning and by being creative and thinking critically. This takes place both indoors and outdoors.

While your child is at an early years setting, they will be provided with activities and opportunities designed to help them work towards these seven areas.

Your child's Key Person plays an important part in this process; they will plan activities and experiences to promote your child's learning and development as well as conducting on-going observations to track and assess your child's achievements and progress against the [EYFS Early Learning Goals](#). Your child's Key Person will then put this information together to show how your child is progressing.



There are formal assessments as well. The first formal check - the Progress Check at Age 2 will usually take place when your child is between two and three. From September 2015, this is part of the **Integrated Review**.

Your early years setting will assess your child's development in the three prime areas within the EYFS framework. This can also ensure for the early identification of any developmental issues.

A second check happens in your child's reception year at school. Your child's school will carry out an assessment to monitor your child's progress. Some schools can, however, opt out of carrying out these tests.

Progress Check at Age 2	In Reception
This check will identify areas where your child is progressing well and where they may need some extra support and assistance, as well as how parents and other members of your family can work together to help.	In reception, your child's teacher will carry out assessments, creating a picture of your child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

*Please note that local areas are able to conduct the Integrated Review according to their individual requirements, therefore there may be some variations in how this is conducted across settings – please speak to your child's Key Person or childminder for more information.





Development Matters

Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the early years foundation stage

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You can find the full pdf online