



Your Parent's Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** is how the Government and early year's professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

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 as well as supporting their development, care and learning needs.

As we deliver the EYFS, we 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 us working in the EYFS to help your child develop and achieve. It was developed with a number of early year's experts and parents.

It sets out:

- The seven areas of **learning and development** which guide our engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge
- The three **characteristics of teaching and learning**, these underpin learning and development across all areas and support your child to remain an effective and motivated learner
- Assessments that will tell you about **your child's progress** through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the **“Early Learning Goals (ELG's)”**

There is also guidance for us on planning the learning activities and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.





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What does it mean for you as a parent?

How your child will be learning

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

- Communication and Language;
- Physical Development; and
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

These prime areas underpin everything in the early years and are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will strengthen and help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World; and
- Expressive Arts and Design.



These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. As we teach and support your child through their reception year, we ensure that the activities are designed to be really flexible in order to suit and follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.





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As a mum or dad, how can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Talk is crucial to your child's development, it helps them to communicate, learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to their confidence as a young learner.





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How can you find out how your child is getting on?

It is important that you as parents and us as teachers work closely together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. We are always happy to discuss your child's development and their progress in school. Parent-teacher consultations are available in the Autumn and Spring terms, however please feel free to come and talk to us about any concerns you may have. You can catch us for quick questions before and after school or make an appointment by contacting us via email.

Learning Journals

Your child will be provided with their own Learning Journal (A4 workbook) when they begin Foundation Stage. This is a running record that will illustrate your child's individual learning journey throughout their first year in school. It informs all staff, parents and your child of their learning experiences, progress and achievements. A typical learning journal will include observations recorded on your child's learning and development, photographs, examples of independent work and your child's views and comments.

We actively encourage parents to participate in the learning journal by providing us with WOW moments that your child may display at home or when out and about shopping, on a journey, at the park etc. These observations may not be academically based but still very significant in your child's development, for example the first time they get dressed alone, use a knife and fork independently, ride a bike without stabilizers or even share something with a sibling! If you do observe a WOW moment in your child's development we would like you to record it on a WOW star (as below). We will send home fortnightly overviews which will outline learning completed in class during that period; this will also include a WOW star. Any completed stars can be sent in via your child's book bag and we will transfer it into their learning journals as well as celebrating it with your child too!





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When your child is 5

- At the end of the EYFS – in the Summer term of the reception year in school, an assessment which is known as the **EYFS Profile** is completed. This assessment is carried out by your child's class teacher and is based on what they and other staff working with your child have observed over a period of time.
- Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let us know about what they do with you: such as how confident they are in writing their name, reading, talking about a favourite book, their understanding of the world or of numbers.
- All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is progressing in the seven areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in Year 1 will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support and what the support should be.
- You will be provided with a report of your child's progress and development, including information from his or her EYFS Profile towards the end of their reception year.

You can find out more about the Early Years Curriculum here at Pendragon by visiting our school website at www.pendragon.cambs.sch.uk. Follow the 'Our classes' tab on the home page.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

