

## Early Years Foundation Stage Overview

### **What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. It sets the standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old and ensures that your child will learn and develop well and be kept healthy and safe. It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning. From September 2021 the EYFS was revised.

### **What Will My Child Be Learning?**

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programmes. The headings for these have not changed. There are **three prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning are:

- Communication and Language (C&L)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Physical Development (PD)

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

- Literacy (Lit)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the World (UW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EA&D)

We will consider your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences. You can help us to do this by sharing your observations of your child's interests at home.

There are also three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

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

These tell us about how each child learns not what they are learning.

## **Tapestry**

The new curriculum gives us the opportunity to spend more time interacting and playing with your children. This does mean that we will know your children very well. We will not be completing as many written observations and putting them in a Learning Journal as much as before. Rather, we will be using Tapestry throughout Nursery and Reception to record any key observations or WOW moments; these will be shared with you at home. There is also the opportunity on Tapestry for you to share observations of what your children have been doing at home.

## **Assessment in the reception year**

**Baseline** - The reception baseline assessment, or RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with your child's class teacher and will measure your child's progress from reception to year 6. The data from the baseline will not be shared with you and will only be accessed by the Department for Education (DFE). The teacher will be able to spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and identifying if they need any further support in certain areas. If you wish to read further on the reception baseline, then you can find a useful parent booklet here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessmentinformation-for-parents>

**EYFS Profile** - Your child will work towards the final assessment at the end of the Reception year, using the new ELGs (Early learning goals). These goals are short statements that teachers assess your child against at the end of the year.

## **What can you do to help your child in Nursery or Reception?**

- Chat and play with them
- Read to and with them to develop their life-long love of books
- Play with them; physical activities, board games, puzzles, etc.
- Encourage them to be independent

There is a new focus on early language and extending vocabulary. You can help us do this by:

- Having quality learning conversations and interactions with your child
- Reading a range of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts
- Teaching your child new words and vocabulary
- Sharing what you are doing with your child at home