



A Parents Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Everton Nursery School and Family Centre

An Outstanding Nursery School and Children's Centre



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

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to support your child in their earliest learning years.

The framework was developed with a number of early years experts and parents across the country.

In 2021 the framework was revised to make information more clear and easier to use with more focus on the learning that matters most. The revised framework has a greater emphasis on developing children's communication and language skills.



THE EYFS Framework sets out:

- **The legal welfare requirements** that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare;
- **The seven areas of learning and development** that guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge;
- **Assessments** that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS;
- **Age-related expected levels** that your child should reach by their fifth birthday (usually the end of their reception year). These expectations are called the 'Early Learning Goals (ELG's)'.

There is also guidance for the professionals supporting your child on planning the learning

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

This is a document that Nursery and Reception Teachers as well as other early years educators use to describe the time in your child's life between birth and five years.

Nurseries, reception classes, pre-schools and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child 'get ready' for school and enables young children to grow in the skills, abilities and knowledge for their future learning and successes.

From when your child is born through to the age of five years, their early years experiences should be happy, active, exciting and fun.



What does it mean for me as a parent / carer?

Ensuring my child's safety

Much thought has been given to making sure that your child is as safe as possible. Within the EYFS there is a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow.

Quality

You can find out about the quality of your child's nursery/school and other early years providers in relation to the EYFS Framework by checking what the Government's official inspection body for early years (Ofsted) has to say about any early years providers. You can find this information at:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-reports



Children in the EYFS learn by **playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking** – all of which takes place both indoors and outside. We believe that this is very important at Everton Nursery School and Family Centre and should be recognised in all nursery schools, primary schools, pre-schools and by all other early years providers.

How will my child 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 **seven areas of learning and development**.

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

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

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills within and across **four specific areas**. These are:

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



These seven areas of learning and development are used to plan for your child's learning experiences.

The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools but is suitable for very young children and is designed to be very flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

As a Parent/Carer – how can I help with my child’s learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are crucially important in supporting their cross-curricular learning and development, and have a very long-lasting effect on your child’s learning as they progress through nursery school and into primary school.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet using words, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas.

If you make the time every day to do some of the following activities with your child, this will make a real difference to your child’s confidence as a young learner.

If you’re looking for new ideas for activities to do, then find out what is on offer in our Children’s Centre. Many of the activities we provide are free – please see the latest timetable for more information. We additionally encourage all parents and carers to engage in sessions such as ‘Terrific Tuesday’ and ‘Fun Friday’ once your child has settled in to their new class.



How can I find out how my child is developing?

Working together is important when educating and caring for your child. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing a range of areas that will benefit your child. These conversations will either need to be with your child's class teacher and / or key worker.



As a parent / carer, you should be able to receive information about your child's development at any time from your child's class teacher and / or key worker.

In addition to this, there are two stages (at age two and again at age five) when the professionals caring for and educating your child must give you written information about how she or he is doing.

Try to speak to your child's class teacher and / or key worker as often as possible about what your child has been doing, what they have enjoyed, what they need to be doing more of and what you can do at home to support and enhance their learning and development.

When your child is five years old

At the end of the EYFS (in the summer term of your child's reception year in school), your child's class teacher will complete an assessment, which is known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is based on what they and other staff caring for your child have observed over a period of time in line with the seven areas of learning and development, which will then inform your child's Year 1 teacher of their progress, learning and development as well as the area/s that she or he may need some additional support in.

Another important part of the EYFS Profile is to acknowledge your thoughts and opinions about your child's learning and development – so do let your child's class teacher know what your child does with you such as how confident your child is writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people your child is not so familiar with, and / or their understanding of numbers.

The school will give you a report of your child's progress including information from his / her EYFS Profile.



Where can I go for further information?

The most important place to find out more is your child's primary school so please do ask as many questions as you need to.

Please also don't forget to come back and see us at Everton Nursery School and Family Centre – either to engage with our Children's Centre or simply let us know how well your child is progressing.

Wishing you and your child all the very best of luck in their next stage of education as they transition to Reception Class.

All of the staff at Everton Nursery School and Family Centre.

