

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is statutory from September 2008. It is a single quality framework for all children 0-5, and brings together Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, Birth to 3 Matters and the care standards. The framework should ensure that provision is a richer and broader experience than the six areas of learning and development, and brings care and learning together in one document. It recognises that parents and other professionals have a significant role to play in ensuring that every child's needs are fully met. It is a principled approach based on effective practice, building on what practitioners already do well to enable children to achieve the 5 ECM outcomes.

Each of the four themes

- A unique child
- Positive relationships
- An enabling environment
- Learning and development

are underpinned by four principles and then four commitments, 16 in total that expand a particular theme. There is nothing in EYFS that was not already in existing guidance.

The six areas of learning and development, and their aspects are: -

Personal, social and emotional development (Dispositions and attitudes; self-confidence and self-esteem; making relationships; behaviour and self-control; self-care; sense of community)

Communication Language and literacy (Language for communication; language for thinking; linking sounds and letters; reading; writing; handwriting)

Problem solving reasoning and numeracy (Numbers for labels and for counting; calculating; shape, space and measure)

Knowledge and Understanding of the world (Exploration and investigation; designing and making; ICT; time; place; communities)

Physical development (Movement and space; health and bodily awareness, using equipment and materials)

Creative development (Being creative-responding to experiences, expressing and communicating ideas; exploring media and materials; creating music and dance; developing imagination and imaginative play)