

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The Early Years Foundation Stage took effect in September 2008. It aims to help young children achieve the five “Every child Matters” outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe,
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The Early Years Foundation Stage is based on:

- a play -based curriculum
- a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities
- a good access to indoors and outdoors facilities
- observations used to assess and extend learning
- observations carried out on children's every day activities

The Early Years Foundation Stage encompasses four guiding themes and principles that underpin effective practice. They are supported by 16 commitments:

Themes and commitments

A Unique Child

- Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships

- Children can learn to be strong, independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and /or a key person.

Enabling Environments

- The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and Development

- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates; all areas of learning and development are equally important and inter-connected.

The Early Years Foundation Stage consists of the Welfare Requirements and the Learning & Development Requirements:

The Welfare requirements

1- Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare

The steps taken to promote children's welfare and their good health and the way in which their behaviour is managed.

2- Suitable people

The steps taken to ensure that adults looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so; - qualifications and training; adult: child ratio.

3- Suitable premises, environment and equipment

The safety and suitability of outdoors and indoors spaces, furniture, equipment, toys.

4- Organisation

The planning and organisation to ensure that all children receive an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience and that their individual needs are met.

5- Documentation

The records, policies and procedures that is required for the safe and effective management of the provision to meet the needs of the children.

The Learning & Development Requirements

"The Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of six areas of Learning and Development. All areas of Learning and Development are connected to one another and equally important."

(EYFS 2007)

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication , Language and Development
- Problem solving, Reasoning and Numbers
- Knowledge and Understanding of the world
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

The Learning and Development Requirements cover the Early Learning Goals, the educational programme, and the assessment arrangements:

1- The Early Learning Goals

The Knowledge, skills and understanding that young children should have acquired by the end of the academic year in which they reach the age of 5.

2- The educational programmes

The matters, skills and processes that are required to be taught to young children

3- The assessment arrangements

The arrangement for assessing young children to ascertain their achievements