

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is a government document that all Ofsted-registered early years providers and schools in England must follow. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines **7 areas of [learning and development](#) and [educational programmes](#)**. The EYFS has been revised for September 2021 and puts additional focus on the importance of children's early communication, language and vocabulary and includes a new requirement to teach children about oral health and raise awareness within families

There are **three prime areas** of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

Communication & Language

Personal, Social & Emotional

Physical Development

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

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the world

Expressive Art & Design

All areas of learning are inter-linked. Early years practitioners also use your child's **needs and interests** to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences.

How Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework identifies **the essential role of play in your child's development**. It is through both child-led play and adult guided play that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others. Through play, Stepping Stones' practitioners will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills.

The EYFS framework identifies three **characteristics of effective teaching and learning**:

Playing & Exploring

Active Learning

Creating & Thinking Critically

A greater focus on teaching specific skills will occur once your child starts school, which will help them to prepare for year one (Key stage 1).

How Will I Know How My Child Is Doing?

Each child in the EYFS has a **Key Person** who will work in partnership with you, sharing information about your child and may use observations to share your child's key achievements. Stepping Stones' staff use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. If they have any concerns about your child's progress, they will discuss these with you.

Three formal assessments take place during the EYFS:

Early Years settings • [Two-Year Progress Check](#) - this will happen between the ages of 24 to 36 months and focuses on the 3 prime areas of development. It takes place with the Key person with consultation and involvement from parents and carers and helps to identify if a child needs extra help in any of these areas of their development.

School • [Reception Baseline Assessment](#) (at the start of the reception year) • [Early Years Foundation Stage Profile](#) (at the end of the EYFS)

Your child's Early Years Foundation Stage Profile will be shared with you at the end of the EYFS. This will inform you of your child's progress and whether they have met or are continuing to work towards their early learning goals (ELGs). There are 17 ELGs your child is expected to achieve by the end of the EYFS.