



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (E.Y.F.S.) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. 'The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage' is used for planning and ongoing assessment and this is followed in all early years settings.

The EYFS Curriculum is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and exploration, active learning and creating and thinking critically.

The EYFS curriculum consists of **7 areas of learning which are all important & inter-connected**. 3 of these areas are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships & thrive. These 'prime areas' are particular target areas for development during the first few weeks of the autumn term of school.

Prime Areas of Learning

- * **Communication & Language** - Listening and attention skills, understanding & speaking skills.
- * **Physical Development** - moving and handling of equipment, health & self care.
- * **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - Self confidence & self awareness, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships with others.

Specific Areas of Learning

These are 4 of learning in which the Prime areas are strengthened and applied.

- * **Literacy** - Reading & writing.
- * **Mathematics** - Numbers (identifying, counting & using within calculations) & Shape, space & measures.
- * **Understanding of the world** - People & Communities, the world & technology.
- * **Expressive arts & design** - Exploring and using media & materials and being imaginative. (within Design & Technology, Art, Music, Dance, Role-Play & Stories)



Characteristics of Effective Learning

The Characteristics of Effective learning of 'Playing and Exploring', 'Active Learning', and 'Creating and Thinking Critically' are the ways in which your child learns, engages with other people and the learning environment both indoors and outdoors. They underpin learning and development across all areas of learning within the EYFS Curriculum and support the child to be an effective and motivated learner. FS staff will observe how a child engages with the learning environment and will use this important information when planning next steps and provision within the unit. Current interests of individuals are also taken into account as these will spark enthusiasm for learning and support children to become independent learners.

Playing and Exploring (Engagement)

This characteristic of effective learning involves:

Finding out and exploring

Showing curiosity

Using senses to explore

Engaging in open ended activities

Showing particular interests

Playing with what they know

Pretending with objects

Representing experiences

Role play

Acting out experiences

Being willing to 'have a go'

Initiating activities

Seeking challenge

Showing a 'can do' attitude

Taking risks



Active Learning (Motivation)

This characteristic of effective learning involves:

Being involved and concentrating

Maintaining focus for a period of time

Showing high levels of energy or fascination

Paying attention to details



Keeping on trying

Persisting with challenges

Showing belief that a more effort or a different approach will help

Bouncing back after difficulties

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Showing satisfaction

Being proud of their effort, not just the result

Enjoying challenge for its' own sake, not for extrinsic rewards

Creating and Thinking Critically

This characteristic of effective learning involves:

Having their own ideas

Thinking of ideas

Finding ways to solve problems

Finding new ways to do things

Making links

Noticing patterns in their experience

Making predictions

Testing their ideas

Developing ideas of cause and effect

Choosing ways to do things

Planning, making decisions, solving problems and reaching a goal

Checking how well their activity is going

Changing strategy when needed

Reviewing how well their approach has gone

