# Pre-School Logo.jpgInformation for Parents

# What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child’s life between birth and age 5.

**This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.**

Dickleburgh Pre-School are registered to deliver the EYFS and we must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

# What is the EYFS Framework – why do we have one?

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.

It 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 7 areas of **learning and development** which 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
* Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the **“Early Learning Goals (ELGs)”**

C:\Users\Sue\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\YH5MFHCO\MC900232107[1].wmfThere is also guidance for the professionals supporting your child on planning the learning activities, and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

# What does it mean for me as a parent?

## Quality

You can find out about the quality of your child’s nursery 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 it. You can find this information at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report).

How my child will 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 **7 areas of learning and development**.

C:\Users\Sue\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\YH5MFHCO\MM900283672[1].gifChildren should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

* Communication and language;
* Physical development; and
* Personal, social and emotional 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 in **4 specific areas**. These are:

* C:\Users\Sue\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\YH5MFHCO\MC900059122[1].wmfLiteracy;
* Mathematics;
* Understanding the world; and
* Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child’s learning and activities. 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 it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside**. They may not always bring something home to show you at the end of the day as this is only a very small part of your child’s development in one of the 7 areas that we will be working on with them.**

As a mum or dad, how can I help with my child’s learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child’s learning as they progress through school.

# How can I find out how my child is getting on?

It is important that you and the professionals caring for your child work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will need to be with your child’s **key person.** This is the person who:

* Is your main point of contact within the setting
* Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe
* Is responsible for your child’s care, development and learning
* Takes a careful note of your child’s progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home

Try to speak to your child’s key person 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.

When your child is 2

At some point after your child turns 2, the professionals working with your child must give you a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning:

* communication and language;
* physical development; and
* personal, social and emotional development.

This is called **the** **progress check** **at age 2.**

This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and any where they might need some extra help or support – and how mums and dads and other family members or carers can work with the key person to help. You might find it useful to share the information from the check with other professionals such as health visitors (who can use it as part of the health and development review).



