

How will my child be learning?

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the three prime areas first. 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 four specific areas. These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities ensuring that they are suited to your child's unique needs and interests.

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.

Where can I find more information?

1. Arrange a meeting with Mrs Kendrew-Jones or your child's key person where you can ask questions about any aspect of the EYFS or your child's learning and development.
2. Visit www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents
3. Download 'What to Expect, When?' A parents' guide to the Foundation Years
<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/>

How can I help my child at home?

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.

If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.

- Sing and tell nursery rhymes
 - Share a book
- Talk about numbers, colours, words and letters you see when you are out
 - Allow your child to cut and stick pictures from magazines
- On a trip to the supermarket talk about all the different packaging shapes
 - Talk to your child at every opportunity e.g. what are you doing today?
 - Cook, bake or prepare a meal together
 - Enjoy messy activities together such as playing in the garden