

aims of the nursery - early years foundation stage

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Scheme

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provides the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The Nursery was graded as outstanding in all areas against these standards in April 2014.

More detailed information regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage can be found:

- On the Nursery notice board
- Document included in your child's Learning Journal
- Via your child's Key Person
- www.hants.gov.uk/childcare if you would like to obtain more information and you do not have access to a computer please see a member of staff

The EYFS seeks to provide:

- Quality and consistency in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind.
- A secure foundation through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and are assessed and reviewed regularly.
- Partnership working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers.
- Equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

The EYFS specifies requirements for learning and development and for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The learning and development requirements cover:

- The areas of learning and development which must shape activities and experiences for children in all early years settings

- The early learning goals that providers must help children work towards (the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five) and
- Assessment arrangements for measuring progress (and requirements for reporting to parents and/or carers)
- The safeguarding and welfare requirements cover the steps that providers must take to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

Overarching principles

Four guiding principles should shape practice in early year's settings. These are:

- Every child is unique, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between the practitioners and parents and/or carers
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. the framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities

Learning and development

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and interconnected.

Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- Playing and exploring - children investigate, experience things and 'have a go'
- Active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements
- Creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own Ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

The areas of learning and development

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape Educational programmes in Early Years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and are interconnected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

For additional information regarding this please speak to your child's Key Person.