

Useful Information about the EYFS and the Welfare Requirements

What is the EYFS?

The EYFS is the statutory framework for all early years' providers who care for children between the ages of birth and 5.

The EYFS contains -

- Learning and development requirements
- Assessment requirements
- Safeguarding and welfare requirements

Learning and development requirements

There are 3 prime areas of learning -

- **Communication and language** - which contains the information your setting needs to support your child's listening, speech and language development.
- **Physical development** - which contains the information your setting needs to support your child's gross (large body) and fine (hand) motor skills and learning about health, safety and wellbeing
- **Personal, social and emotional development** - which contains the information your setting needs to help your child learn to make friends, work in a group, develop independence, share and express themselves appropriately.

The prime areas are the skills that children need so they are ready to start school.

There are 4 specific areas of learning

- **Literacy** - reading and writing
 - **Mathematics** - numbers, shape, size, measure and much more
 - **Understanding the world** - learning about the world around us and technology
 - **Art and design** - exploring art and crafts, music, dance and using imagination.
- The specific areas provide your child with the building blocks for life-long learning.

How will my child learn?

Your childcare will use a combination of -

- Observation
- Ongoing summary assessment
- your child's learning styles and characteristics
- Individual planning... to support your child's learning and development.

Observation - your childcare will ask you for information about what your child can do and say when they first start in our provision. Alongside your comments they will make ongoing observations of your child's

interests, learning styles and abilities and plan activities that will support their ongoing learning.

Summary assessment - your childcare will assess your child's learning using the Early Years Outcomes guidance document from DfE. It is important that you keep your childcare updated with things that your child is doing and saying at home so they have a full picture of your child and what they enjoy doing.

Learning styles and characteristics - your childcare will note your child's learning characteristics - the ways your child learns - with your input using the Development Matters guidance.

Individual planning - your childcare will use what they know about your child to plan exciting and challenging learning experiences for them. For example, if your child enjoys growing plants with you at home, they might grow some tomatoes or herbs to complement their learning... if your child is into dinosaurs, they might make a dinosaur world for them to play with... if your child goes to the zoo with you at the weekend they might plan some zoo activities.

Assessment requirements

There are 2 statutory assessments -

- The progress check at age 2
- The assessment at the end of the EYFS

You also need to be aware of -

- The Early Learning Goals

Progress check at age 2

All child minders/settings must work with parents and other settings children attend (if relevant) to prepare a written progress check for children between the ages of 2 and 3 years. The progress check should ideally be written at the same time as your child's 'Healthy Child' Health Visitor check at 27 months and you should give a copy of the Progress Check to your Health Visitor. (**See additional information**)

The assessment at the end of the EYFS

The assessment at the end of the EYFS is the responsibility of the child's reception class teacher at school.

Early Learning Goals

Your child's teacher will be continually assessing your child to make sure they are making good progress towards the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Your childcare will use the Early Years Outcomes guidance to support your child's progress towards the ELGs as well.

The safeguarding and welfare requirements

The EYFS requirements cover the following areas of provision -

- **Child protection and safeguarding** - how your childcare must keep your child protected and safe from harm - and what they must do if they are concerned your child is being abused or mistreated.

Your childcare use the Government guidance document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' -

you will find a useful summary of this guidance on **the NSPCC website**.

- **Suitable people** - this section covers information about DBS checks and notes the people who are not considered suitable to work with children. All people living or working on child minding premises over the age of 16 must have CRB or DBS checks. All staff including parent helpers, students and volunteers at The Workshop have a DBS check
- **Staff qualifications, training, support and skills** - this section covers what qualifications and training your childcarer must have to care for your child. All the staff at The Workshop have level 2 or level 3 Diplomas in childcare or are in training. All our staff has been trained in Paediatric First Aid and Pippen training.
- **Key person** - every child must have a key person - Their main roles are to support your child's care, learning and development and to work closely with you and other settings your child attends.
- **Staff / child ratios** - the ratios your childcarer must comply with to ensure they are working within the law and what they must do if they exceed usual ratios in exceptional circumstances to provide continuity of care.
- **Health** - how your childcarer must protect your child's health and wellbeing, including arrangements for medication administration.
- **Managing behaviour** - how your childcarer must support your child to develop appropriate behaviour so they are ready for school. This section also contains information about physical intervention - which is when your childcarer might have to act to stop your child hurting themselves or another child. Your childcarer must always record physical intervention.
- **Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment** - this section notes the ways your childcarer must ensure the setting, garden, equipment and resources are safe and suitable for use by children. It includes the requirement to offer daily outside play opportunities for all children.
- **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** - your childcarer must commit to being inclusive and welcoming to all children and their families. There is a new SEND Code of Practice with which they must comply and they must be aware of their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure all children are supported to reach their full potential, making reasonable adjustments where necessary to enable them to succeed.
- **Information and records** - this section details the information your childcarer must ask for from you and the records they must keep about you and your child. Your childcarer is required by their insurance company to retain safeguarding and welfare records about your child until they are 21 years and 3 months old. Learning and development information will be given to you when your child leaves the setting