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# Kea Community Primary School

# Parents’ Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

## Exciting times ahead for you and your child

Children in the Foundation Class at Kea School are eager to attend school and enthusiastic about learning. They work hard to develop the skills that they will need in the future and they play an active and dynamic role in their learning. In the Foundation Stage the children learn in a highly stimulating, organised and welcoming environment that fully reflects the children’s backgrounds and wider community. The children themselves are highly motivated through inspirational and innovative teaching. Highly effective partnerships between staff, parents, children, other providers and agencies help to enhance the children’s wellbeing, meet their needs and assure their protection.

# What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which 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.**

Nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

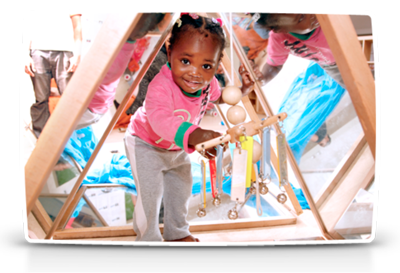
# What is the EYFS Framework – why do we have one?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents.

In 2021 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)”**

There 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.

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# What does it mean for me as a parent?

## Ensuring my child’s safety

Much thought has been given to making sure that your child is as safe as possible. Within the EYFS there is a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow. These include the numbers of staff required in a nursery, how many children a childminder can look after, and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

## 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**.

Children 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:

* Literacy;
* 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.

The diagram below gives examples of the areas of learning and development and shows the links between the way in which your child learns and what they learn.

For example, in reading between 2 ¼ and 4 years: learning   
how to suggest an   
ending to a story

For example, between 2 ½ and 4 years: learning to be confident in talking to other children when playing, and to talk freely about own home and community

# Pie-chartAs a mum or dad, how can I help with my child’s learning?

For example, between 2 ½ and 4 years: learning how to explore what happens when they mix colours

For example, between 1 ¼ and 2 years: enjoying filling and emptying containers in the bath

For example, between 1 ¾ and 2 ½ years: developing an understanding of simple concepts such as big/little

For example, between 3 ¼ and 5 years: learning to control objects by pushing, patting, throwing, catching or kicking

For example, between 2 ¼ and 3 ¾ years: learning about special times or events for family or friends and being able to describe them. Being able to talk about some of the things they have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects.

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.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. 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.



Talk about the numbers, colours, words and letters you see when you are out and about

Sing and tell nursery rhymes

Allow your child to cut out and stick pictures from magazines

Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch

Cook / bake together

Use the weather – shadows, rain puddles, snow, wind, mist and sun – to extend your child’s vocabulary

Explore the park at a different time of the year – go off the beaten track

Talk to your child at every opportunity – e.g. what you are doing that day

Share a book

On a trip to the supermarket, talk about all the different packaging shapes



If you're looking for new ideas for things to do then find out what is on offer at your local children’s centre. Many offer ‘messy play’ activities which you and your child can join in with, and many of the activities they provide are free. Staff can also give you advice about the kinds of books or other activities your child might enjoy at different ages.

# 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 usually be with your child’s class teacher. This is the person who:

* Is your first point of contact within the school
* 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

**Tapestry**

The ‘Tapestry’ online program allows you to view the observations and photographs that we complete at school that we link to your child’s ‘Early Years Foundation Stage Profile’ (the document we use to track your child’s progress across the course of their Foundation Year at School.) It is a very useful tool for keeping you informed of your child’s achievements, linking each observation to the age band that your child is working within – and also a useful means for you to share information with your child’s teacher. Once your child has started school, we will provide you with login details.





When your child is 5

At the end of the EYFS – in the summer term of the reception year in school – teachers complete an assessment which is known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.

Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child’s learning and development, so do let your child’s class teacher know about what your child does with you: such as how confident your child is in writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people your child is not so familiar with or their understanding of numbers. Your will be able to use your Tapestry account for this.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year – year 1 – will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support, what that support should be and if they are already getting it.

The school will give you a report of your child’s progress, including information from his or her EYFS Profile.

# Where can I go for further information?

It is important that you and school staff work together. You need to be comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations ideally need to be with your child’s class teacher, or class teaching assistant if the teacher is unavailable. You can also communicate via the school office, or write a note in your child’s reading record (we check these daily). We operate an open door policy in Foundation and would much rather you raise any issues or concerns straight away so we can act on them.



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