

Welcome to the Early Years  
Foundation Stage  
Curriculum Workshop

September 2018



# Aims of the Session

- What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?
- What is the EYFS Framework- why do we have one?
- What does it mean for me as a parent?
  - How my child will be learning
- How can I help with my child's learning?
  - How can I find out how my child is getting on?

# 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.
- 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 2014 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This 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.

# 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.

# Promoting Fundamental British Values within the Early Years Foundation Stage

At Amblecote we promote the Fundamental British Values of:

- ▶ Democracy,
- ▶ The rule of law,
- ▶ Individual liberty,
- ▶ Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

# 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.

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.



# How my child will be learning

- ▶ 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.

# 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.
- ▶ 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.



# Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be learning to:

- Become self-confident
- Know what their own needs are
- Develop positive relationships with adults and peers
- Tell the difference between right and wrong





# How can you help at home?

- Support your child to respond to different activities and events talking about their feelings.
- Play games which encourage sharing and turn taking which will help your child to build their social skills.
- Encourage discussions about achievements and goals.





# Physical Development

The children will be learning to:

- Move with control and co-ordination
- Dress and undress independently and manage their own personal care
- Handle a range of tools and equipment including pencils for writing
- Develop fine and gross motor skills

# Handwriting

- Letter formation will be taught using the Kinetic Letters programme.
- Remember to only use capitals for names and places.
- Children will learn how to write their name.





## How can you help?

- Give your child time to run, jump, climb and play outdoors. (Developing strong bodies.)
- Share stories about being healthy, choosing the right food, drinking water and getting plenty of sleep.
- Encourage your child to participate in activities such as building, drawing, threading beads, playing with water, malleable materials and construction.
- Encourage and support your child to independently use the toilet and to dress/ undress themselves.



# Communication and Language

- Listening and attention
- Understanding and speaking
- Talking confidently and clearly
- Enjoy listening to stories, songs and poems







# How can you help?

- Encourage your child to listen and respond appropriately.
- Encourage your child to engage in conversations with new people.
- Encourage your child to pose questions that use why , how, where, what, when and who.
- Take time to listen to your child talking about things they've done and answering their questions.





# Literacy

The children will be learning to:

- Link sounds to letters, naming and sounding letters of the alphabet
- Read and write familiar words





# How can you help?

- Share stories and books at home discussing the characters and sequence of events.
- Visit the library.
- Have fun with chinks, crayons, and whiteboards.
- Look out in the environment for familiar letters and words.
- Complete phonics homework activities.



# Mathematics



- Teaches children to count up to 20 and beyond.
- Encourages children to recognise, write and order numbers to 20.
- Teaches the skills and understanding for adding and take away.
- Encourages children to use mathematical words when talking about capacity, position, distance, time and money.
- Supports children's understanding of shape and size including 2D and 3D shapes.

# How can you help?

- Talk about the shapes you can see in the environment.
- Comparing things which are heavy and light or long and short.
- Look out for numbers in and out of the home.
- Singing counting songs and rhymes.
- Counting, adding and subtracting anything and everything - socks, cars, shopping, cutlery, fingers and toes!
- Cooking!





# Understanding the World

- Find out about the world around them, asking questions about it (plants, animals and materials.)
- Know about everyday technology and learn what it is used for.
- Find out about past and present events in their own lives and their families' lives.
- Find out about different cultures and beliefs.





# How can you help?

- Talk with your child about the places they go and things they see in the world around them.
- E-mail photographs to school or send in leaflets/ souvenirs.
- Answering and encouraging questions - What if...? Why do you think...? How did you...?
- Letting children join in with everyday activities - washing up, cooking, shopping, helping in the garden...
- Lots of opportunities to explore inside and outside in a variety of environments.



# Expressive Arts and Design

- The children will explore:
- Colours and shapes
- Making things
- Role play
- Making music





# How can you help?

- Talk with your child about their imaginative play and join in if possible!
- Have junk modelling sessions and see what you can create.
- Paint a picture and not necessarily on a piece of paper!
- Play musical instruments.
- Dance to your favourite music.



# 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 either need to be with your with your child's "key person/ class teacher". 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
  - ▶ You should be able to get information about your child's development at any time and there are two stages (at age 2, and again at age 5) when the professionals caring for your child must give you written information about how he or she is doing.

# 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).

# 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.
- ▶ 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.

# Early Learning Goals

- 17 goals in total
- Each point is assessed separately.
- Children work towards these goals throughout the year and are assessed in the Summer Term against each ELG and awarded 'emerging, expected or exceeding.'

# Observation based assessment

- We learn about the children through observation.
- We focus on their achievements across all areas of the curriculum.
- We identify next steps for learning.

# Interventions

- Throughout the Early Years, if a child's progress in any area gives cause for concern, practitioners discuss this with the child's parents and/or carers and agree how to support the child.
- Practitioners will consider whether a child may have a special educational need or disability which requires specialist support. They should link with, and help families to access, relevant services from other agencies as appropriate.

# How can you can contribute

- Send in *WOW* moments (aim for 3 or 4 each half term)
  - E-mail Photos
  - Bring in awards/certificates
- Write comments in reading diaries and homework books





# And Finally...

- If you have any concerns or questions please come in and see us and we will do our best to help you.
- We look forward to working with you and your child this year.