

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.

How will my child be learning?

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their overall 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. Children play and learn independently, alongside others, 1-1 with an adult or in small groups.

Our Curriculum at Eastway

At Eastway our Early Years curriculum is child centred and follows the children's interests. Your child's learning is planned around topics but also around children's interests and needs. When appropriate to our age group we also following whole school topics, for example Healthy Week. Every term we will send out an overview of the topic we are covering and what you can do at home to support your child's learning in school.

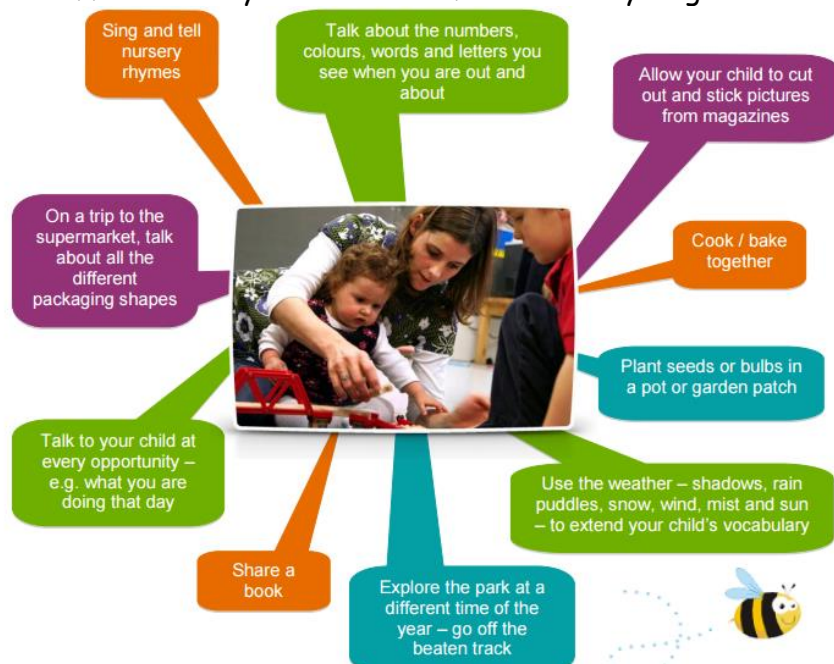
How will my child be assessed?

Your child will be assessed against the EYFS Framework under the seven areas of learning mentioned on the previous page. Your child will have their own individual target card to ensure that we are assessing them accurately and moving their learning forwards to the next step. We will also make observations of your children, take photographs of their learning and collate all of this in their Learning Journey 'Scrap Book' which you can ask to see at any time.

There are 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)" and your child will be assessed against these at the end of their Reception year.

How you can help your 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. 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.



If there is anything else that you wish to discuss, please feel free to speak to us. We hope to see you at McMillan coffee morning followed by 'Meet the Teacher- Stay and Play'

on Friday 27th September 10.30am - 11.30am

Eastway Primary School



Year Group Information Foundation Stage

This booklet provides information for parents and carers on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum that we cover and key information on how we assess children at this important phase of early education.

It also contains information about how you can support your child at home to ensure that they are meeting their end of year expectations and preparing them for Key Stage 1 and raised expectations of the new National Curriculum