

A guide to the
Early Years
Foundation Stage

There are 7 areas of learning.

3 prime and 4 specific

A Good Level of Development (GLD) is reaching expected level in all 3 prime areas plus Literacy and Mathematics.

Characteristics of Effective Learning:

The ways in which the child engages with other people and the environment—playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically—underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

EYFS EARLY LEARNING GOALS

PRIME AREAS

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Listening and Attention

Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

Understanding

Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Speaking

Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Moving and Handling

Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements.

They move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Health and Self-care

Children know the importance for good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe. They manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Self-confidence and Self awareness

Children are confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others. They are confident to speak in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities. They say when they do or don't need help.

Managing Feelings and Behaviour

Children talk about how they and others show feelings, talk about their own and others' behaviour, and its consequences, and know that some behaviour is unacceptable. They work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules. They adjust their behaviour to different situations, and take changes of routine in their stride.

Making relationships

Children play co-operatively, taking turns with others. They take account of one another's ideas about how to organise their activity. They show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with adults and other children.

EYFS EARLY LEARNING GOALS

SPECIFIC AREAS

LITERACY

Reading

Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

Writing

Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

MATHEMATICS

Numbers

Children count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

Shape Space and Measures

Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

People and Communities

Children talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. They know that other children don't always enjoy the same things, and are sensitive to this. They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

The World

Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.

Technology

Children recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools. They select and use technology for particular purposes.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

Exploring and Using Media and Materials

Children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them. They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

Being Imaginative

Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

Communication and Language

This area of learning relates to how you child:

Talks and listens to others.

Makes up stories and retells them.

Understands and answers how and why questions.

Follows instructions.

Speaks clearly, talks about things they have done and explains their ideas.

Activities at Home

Chat, talk, speak to, sing with your child.

Act out stories.

Play games that involve following instructions.

Encourage them to talk about and explain what they are doing.

Physical Development

This area of learning relates to how you child:

Moves using large scale movements such as running, jumping and climbing.

Manipulates objects using small scale movements such as cutting, drawing, threading.

Uses pencils for writing.

Looks after their own health and hygiene.

Activities at Home

Play ball games.

Go to the park, adventure playground, woodlands so your child can run, climb and jump.

Talk about how your body changes/feels after running/jumping etc.

Craft activities that involve painting, gluing, cutting.

Using a pencil-grip and letter formation.

Play dough-rolling, squashing.

Talk to your child about being healthy-food, sleep, exercise.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning relates to how you child:

Deals with new challenges, situations and experiences.

Interacts with others.

Deals with their emotions.

Plays with other children.

Makes relationships with others.

Activities at Home

Play games to encourage sharing and turn taking.

Talk about how things make you and your child feel.

Encourage your child to be independent, having a go at things themselves.

Encourage your child to have a go at new things, have a try... you might like it.

Literacy

This area of learning relates to how you child:

Reads simple words and sentences.

Uses phonics to work out words.

Reads some 'tricky' words.

Write words and sentences that they and others can read.

Spells words.

Activities at Home

Share books with your child. Write it in your child's reading diary.

Read for a purpose e.g. follow a recipe together.

Visit the library.

Let your child help to write a shopping list, birthday cards etc.

Practise individual spellings.

Mathematics

This area of learning relates to how you child:

Counts using numbers to 20.

Orders and compares numbers.

Solves simple addition and subtraction problems.

Recognises and creates patterns.

Names and describe shapes.

Uses language for measuring and comparing.

Activities at Home

Singing number rhymes.

Go on a number hunt – especially for the teen numbers.

Play board games such as snakes and ladders to practise counting. Use two dice to practise adding at the same time!

Talk about patterns you see.

Name and describe 2d and 3d shapes.

Shape hunt, shape pictures, junk modelling.

Opportunities to measure and compare using language – tall/short/heavy/light/empty/full

Understanding the World

This area of learning relates to how you child:

Talks about events in their own lives.

Enjoys and participates in festivals, relating to their own other cultures.

Explores the world around them.

Notices patterns and change.

Makes observations about animals and plants.

Uses technology.

Activities at Home

Talk to your child about your family, culture, traditions.

Talk about what you see, hear, smell, taste and touch.

Look for similarities, difference and changes on the walk to school.

Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning relates to how you child:

Enjoys messy activities; exploring what happens.

Pretends and role plays things they have seen and experienced.

Participates in musical and dance activities.

Has their own ideas and uses drawing, painting, model making to show them.

Activities at Home

Keep old clothes, shoes, hats, gloves to make a dressing up box.

Join in with your child in their role play. Be a child at their school, a passenger on their train or a customer at their café!

Make musical instruments e.g. pots and dried pasta. Make up a song together.

Use empty boxes to make a model.

Draw and paint with your child.

Characteristics of Effective Learning



Characteristics of Effective Learning



Creating and Thinking Critically Thinking

