



Parents guide to the Early Years Foundation stage

This leaflet outlines the 7 areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation stage, as well as suggesting some ideas for how to support your child at home.

This area of learning relates to
how your child...



Interacts with others.

Deals with emotions.

Manages their own personal
hygiene.

Views their own behaviour and
that of others & recognises that
behaviours have consequences.



Activities at home...

Play games which encourage
turn taking and sharing.



Talk about feelings and how
things make others feel.

Encourage your child to dress
themselves and put their coat
on independently.



Personal, social and emotional development

This area of learning relates to how your child...

Communicates with the other children and adults, both verbally and non-verbally.

Listens effectively when appropriate.



Responds to what they have heard with relevant comments.

Follows instructions.



Activities at home...

Chat, speak and whisper to your child!

Explain new words which they haven't come across before to the children.

Make play phones from cups to encourage speaking and communicating.



Communication and language

This area of learning relates to how your child...

Shows control over their bodies in both small and large movements.



Handles equipment and tools, such as paint brushes and pencils.

Understands about keeping themselves healthy, including healthy eating and physical activity.



Activities at home...

Play ball games and other games which involve physical activity.

Take a trip to the park, so your child gets the opportunity to run, jump and climb.



Activities which involve cutting and sticking.

Make play dough (we can give you a recipe!)

Sewing.



Physical Development

This area of learning relates to how your child...



Can blend sounds in regular words to read them.

Show an understanding of what they have read or have had read to them.



Use their phonic knowledge to write words and begin to show an awareness of sentence structure.



Activities at home...

Share the books sent home from school with your child (not just once!)

Take trips to the library.



Encourage your child to write cards or messages to people.

Talk about stories, what the children like and dislike about them.

Talk about print in the environment, such as road signs & symbols.

Literacy

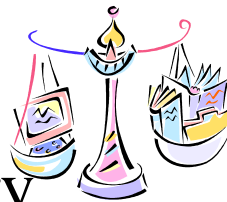


This area of learning relates to how your child...

Shows an understanding of shapes, both by naming and beginning to describe simple properties of them.

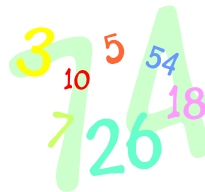


Recognises, counts and forms numbers to 20.



Understands the vocabulary involved in simple calculations.

Uses their maths in problem solving.



Activities at home...

Sing number rhymes, such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Play board games such as Snakes and Ladders to practice counting.

Ask your child to help you solve problems e.g. I have 2 apples, but there are 4 of us, what shall I do?

Cooking.



Look at numbers on doors whilst walking-can the children tell you what number it is?

Mathematics

This area of learning relates to how your child...



Shows an understanding of their environment and how it is similar or different to others.

Uses ICT.



Shows an understanding of similarities and differences between them, their family and others.



Explores the world around them.



Activities at home...

Talk to your child about your family, your religion and where you live.

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

Ask your children to help you when using equipment such as computers.



Understanding the world

This area of learning relates to how your child...

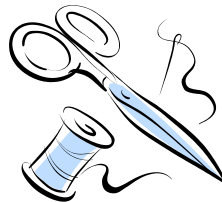


Explores and uses media, such as paint, crayons, collage etc.

Expresses themselves through music, gymnastics, role play and dance.



Experiments with colour, texture and form, using a range of media.



Activities at home...

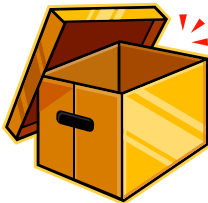
Make some shakers or other musical instruments using dried peas and plastic cups.

Play games such as musical statues.



Uses boxes to make models.

Keep old clothes, hats, shoes to make a box of dressing up clothes!



Expressive arts and design

Characteristics of effective learning

"The ways in which the child engages with other people and their 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."

Creating and thinking critically

Having their own ideas
Making links
Choosing ways to do things

Playing and exploring – engagement

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'

Having fun!!

Testing ideas the children have.

Encouraging perseverance with a self chosen challenge.

Active learning – motivation

Being involved and concentrating
Keeping trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Finding out answers to questions.

Lots of positive encouragement

"Adults who help children to play, are adults that help children to learn."