



PARENTS GUIDE TO THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework is a legal document which all registered early years providers must deliver. It is how the government and early year's professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and 5 years.

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. At Little Swans we believe that from when a child is born, their early year's experiences should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

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 year's experts and parents.

In 2012 it was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter the 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 reception year; these expectations are called the 'Early Learning Goals (ELG'S)'.

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, this is of paramount importance at Little Swans. Within the EYFS there are a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow. These include the number of staff required in the nursery (ratios) and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

Quality

You can find out about the quality of Little Swans in relation to the EYFS framework by checking what the government's official inspection body for early years, Ofsted, has to say about us. You can find this information at www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report.

How will my child be learning at Little Swans?

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 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 during their time at nursery and staff will ensure 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 is 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 find out how my child is getting on?

It is important that staff caring for children work closely with parents. We want to create an environment where you feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child.

These conversations will be exchanged with your child's key person. 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

We regularly share information with parents about their child's care, development and learning.

Try and speak to your child's key person as often as possible about what your child has been doing, what they have enjoyed, what they need to be doing more and what you can do at home.

It is a legal requirement that professionals caring for your child give you written information about how he or she is doing (at the age of 2, and again at age 5).

When your child is 2

At some point after your child turns 2, staff working with your child must give you a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning; **this is called the progress check at age 2**. This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and any areas where they might need extra help or support - and how mums and dads and other family members or carers can work with the key person to help. You may 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. The school will give you a report of your child's progress, including information from his/her EYFS Profile.

Where can I go for further information? If you would like more information please speak with your child's key person or Miss Tranter and Jenny who lead on planning at nursery. You can also find more information at www.foundationyears.org.uk