

COLINDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

*Everything you need to know about the EYFS in
Reception*



ALL ABOUT THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE FRAMEWORK

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered in Reception helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The phase of children's learning from birth to five years old is called The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

The EYFS Framework explains how and what children will be learning to support their development. There are 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 **prime areas** first. These are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- 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
- Expressive arts and design

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

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Understanding the World

Young children are naturally very curious and ask many questions. Wanting to know how does it work? what happens if...? why does..? Etc. is typical of children of this age, and there are many activities that encourage early scientific skills of observation, prediction and experimentation.

Growing

- Plant cress seeds and watch them grow each day.
Sprout carrot tops and potatoes on saucers.



Natural Materials

- Make collections of pebbles, shells and leaves. Sort these objects using describing words such as smooth, hard, heavy and rough.
- Encourage your children to talk about the weather and how different weather conditions affect our lives.
- Work with water and let your child find out about bubbles or floating and sinking in a washing up bowl or in the bath.

People and Families

- Look at photographs of family and friends.
- Talk about how we change as we grow.
- Help your child understand about different people in our society.



Expressive Arts and Design

Children are naturally creative and love to use their imagination in all sorts of play situations.

- Encourage your child to participate in drawing, painting, and chalking activities.
- Sing songs and listen to music with your child.
- Provide opportunities for dressing-up and role play games.
- Praise your child's efforts in art activities, no matter what the end result.
- Encourage use of scissors, glue and sticky tape to create models.

Above all, try to make the all activities you do with your child active and practical. Young children learn best when they are actively involved in a task.

ALL ABOUT THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE FRAMEWORK

Literacy

Writing

- Children need lots of opportunities to make marks on paper. These marks have real meaning for children, and are the beginnings of writing.
- Children learn about writing by noticing print and watching others.
- Model writing as often as possible. E.g. writing a note, shopping list, letter.
- Try and give your child opportunities to 'write' for him/herself – lists signs, cards and invitation.
- Praise your child's mark making efforts to give him/her confidence in his/her writing skills.



Mathematics

There are lots of different ways you can help your child at home with mathematics.

- Use as many opportunities as you can to count with your child – stairs and steps, buttons, fruit etc. look for numbers around you and recite counting rhymes.
- Look for shapes around your home, use the correct names and encourage your child to talk about features of different shapes. [e.g. number of corners, sides etc]
- Look for patterns around you such as laying the table, in books and with their toys.
- Playing board games and card games are important ways to help children understand about addition and subtraction.
- Involve your child in shopping trips by counting money and talking about prices.
- Playing board games together at home such as Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Uno, Guess Who, finding pairs, Snap etc. will help to reinforce your child's mathematical skills, concepts and understanding.



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The seven areas of learning are split into strands as shown in the table below:

The Prime Areas of Learning								
Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)			Physical Development (PD)		Communication and Language (C&L)			
Making relationships	Self-confidence and self-awareness	Managing feelings and behaviour	Moving and handling	Health and self-care	Listening and attention	Understanding	Speaking	
The Specific Areas of Learning								
Literacy (L)		Mathematics (M)		Understanding the World (UW)			Expressive Arts and Design (EA&D)	
Reading	Writing	Numbers	Shape, space and measures	People and communities	The world	Technology	Exploring and using media and materials	Being imaginative

Prime Areas

Communication and Language

Children need to be able to express their needs and wants appropriately in order to feel secure and happy in any environment.

We aim to enable children to:

- talk with and listen to others in one to one conversations, in small groups and in large groups
- add to their vocabulary by learning the meaning of - and being able to use - new words
- use words to describe their experiences
- listen to and talk about stories



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Personal and Social Development

For children to be successful in all areas of learning, they need to feel secure and to develop a positive sense of themselves. Much of our provision is based on the need to provide opportunities for personal, social and emotional development.



We aim to enable children to:

- respect themselves and others and develop a positive self-image
- take turns and share
- feel confident to take risks and cope with mistakes
- make friends and co-operate in a group

Physical Development

Physical Development is vital in helping children to develop a positive sense of well-being. Children learn to improve their co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. They learn about self-care and healthy living.



We aim to enable children to:

- gain control over the large movements that they can make with their arms, legs and bodies, so that they can run, jump, hop, skip, roll, climb, balance and lift
- gain control over the small movements they can make with their arms, wrists and hands, so that they can pick up and use objects, tools and write with a pencil
- develop independence with dressing and self-help skills
- find out about the importance of exercise and a healthy diet

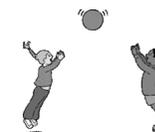


ALL ABOUT THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE FRAMEWORK

Physical Development cont....

Physical exercise

- Make sure your child has the opportunity to participate in regular physical activity including ball games, climbing, balancing, jumping, skipping and hopping.



Fine motor skills

- Encourage activities which help to develop your child's muscle strength and control in arms, hands and fingers such as building with Lego bricks, using scissors, threading beads, using a bat and ball.

Communication and Language

Speaking and listening

- Talk with your child as often as possible.
- Model good conversational skills: listening and paying attention to the speaker, asking questions, responding to questions.
- Help your child to learn new words and explain their meaning.

Literacy

Sharing Books and reading

Children who are read to and enjoy books from an early age are most likely to be successful readers in the future.

- Try and share a book with your child as often as possible.
- Try and find a quiet and comfortable place and sit so that you can both see the book.
- Encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages. You can point to the words as you read.
- Talk about the pictures and ask your child questions.
- If you speak different languages it is important that your child can share this with you when looking at books.
- Visit your local library.
- Read signs and shop names when out and about.



How you can help your child at home

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Sharing and Taking Turns

Sharing and turn taking are often difficult concepts for children to learn.

- Give lots of praise when your child shares with others to encourage this behaviour.
- Play games which involve taking turns.
- Talk about feelings and encourage your child to consider the feelings of others.

Tidying Up

- Please encourage your children to tidy away their toys. Everyone is expected to help with tidying at school!



Understanding Rules

- Talk about and explain why we need rules.
- Children need to understand why it is dangerous to run indoors, or to throw sand or bricks.
- Recognising that you have similar rules at home will help your child to integrate more quickly into our school, and make it a safe and happy place in which to learn and play.

Physical Development

Personal Care and Hygiene

- Before coming to school, children should be confident in going to the toilet by themselves.
- Please help and encourage your child to roll up their sleeves and wash their own hands.
- Let your child practise getting dressed independently, even if it does take a long time! A collection of dressing up clothes can help develop these skills in an enjoyable way. Dressing Dolls and teddies provides useful practice in fastening buttons and zips.

Specific Areas

Literacy

Children have many opportunities to read, share books and practice their emergent writing.



We aim to enable children to:

- share and read a range of quality books with adults and each other and learn how text works
- retell and talk about texts with confidence
- learn that words have meaning and develop sound discrimination skills
- communicate their ideas confidently through drawing, mark making and writing

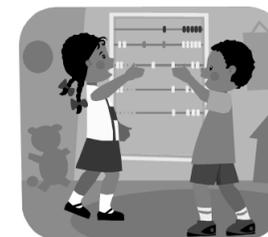


Mathematics

We develop children's mathematical understanding through play, songs, stories and rhymes as well as investigative and problem solving activities.

We aim to enable children to:

- use and recognise numbers
- count and order numbers
- develop an understanding of more and less
- recognise and name simple shapes and patterns
- understand and compare measures and learn about measuring time



Literacy and maths are taught daily in the Reception classes. The children will be taught phonics, literacy and maths skills and as a whole class, in small groups and on some occasions individually. Children practise their reading, writing and maths skills whilst working in a small group with the Class Teacher or Nursery Nurse.

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Understanding the World

Children find out about the world around them and to ask questions.



We aim to enable children to:

- find out and talk about different people and communities
- investigate how things work
- learn about living and non-living things
- use different types of technology for a range of purposes
- have opportunities for exploration, observation, problem-solving, prediction, critical thinking, decision making and discussion.

Expressive Art and Design

Throughout the EYFS, children need many and varied opportunities to develop creatively.



We aim to enable children to:

- use art, music, dance, words, stories and role-play to express their ideas and feelings
- experiment and work with a range of different techniques and materials to express their ideas
- explore making sounds with their bodies and with instruments
- respond with movement to music and songs
- develop their skills to use and explore a variety of tools and materials
- measure, join, cut, select and combine materials



ALL ABOUT THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE FRAMEWORK

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

The focus of the Characteristics of Effective Learning is on how children learn rather than what they learn. During their earliest years, children form attitudes about learning that will last a lifetime.

Characteristics of Effective Learning
Playing and exploring – engagement Finding out and exploring Playing with what they know Being willing to 'have a go'
Active learning – motivation Being involved and concentrating Keeping trying Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
Creating and thinking critically - thinking Having their own ideas Making links Choosing ways to do things

We support children to develop these characteristics to make sure they become effective learners.

Children are encouraged to:

- have a positive attitude towards learning new things
- explore their environment with enthusiasm and independence
- concentrate on their activities for longer periods of time
- keep on trying when they come across a problem
- use their imagination and talk about what they are thinking
- try different methods if things don't work the first time