

Understanding The Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage forms a crucial part of your child's education, for it provides a secure preparation for successful entry into Year One of school, delivered through a fun, engaging and effective play-based approach. In these formative early years your child needs to be happy, active, excited about learning and to feel safe and secure. At DBF we will support your child's development, surround your child with care and attend to your child's unique needs to ensure effective learning. We are asked many questions about the Foundation Stage of learning and so have prepared below, the answers to some of the questions we are most commonly asked by parents. We hope you find this information helpful.

What is the EYFS Framework?

The EYFS Framework supports all professionals working in the Early Years Foundation Stage to help your child. It was developed by a number of early years experts and parents.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. The framework emphasizes the importance of your role in helping your child develop, so it is completely in keeping with the parental involvement philosophy that we endorse at DBF.

How will my child be learning?

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

The **3 prime areas** are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

An emphasis upon these 3 prime areas is essential for your child's healthy development and learning. As your child grows, special attention to the prime areas of learning will help your child to develop skills in the following specific areas.

The **4 specific areas** are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

All 7 areas are considered when your child's teacher plans a learning program for your child and all of the specialist teachers too will make sure that all activities offered are suited to your child's unique needs. This is similar to following a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but to be suitable for very young children, the EYFS Framework is designed to be very flexible to allow teachers to respond to your child's unique needs and interests.



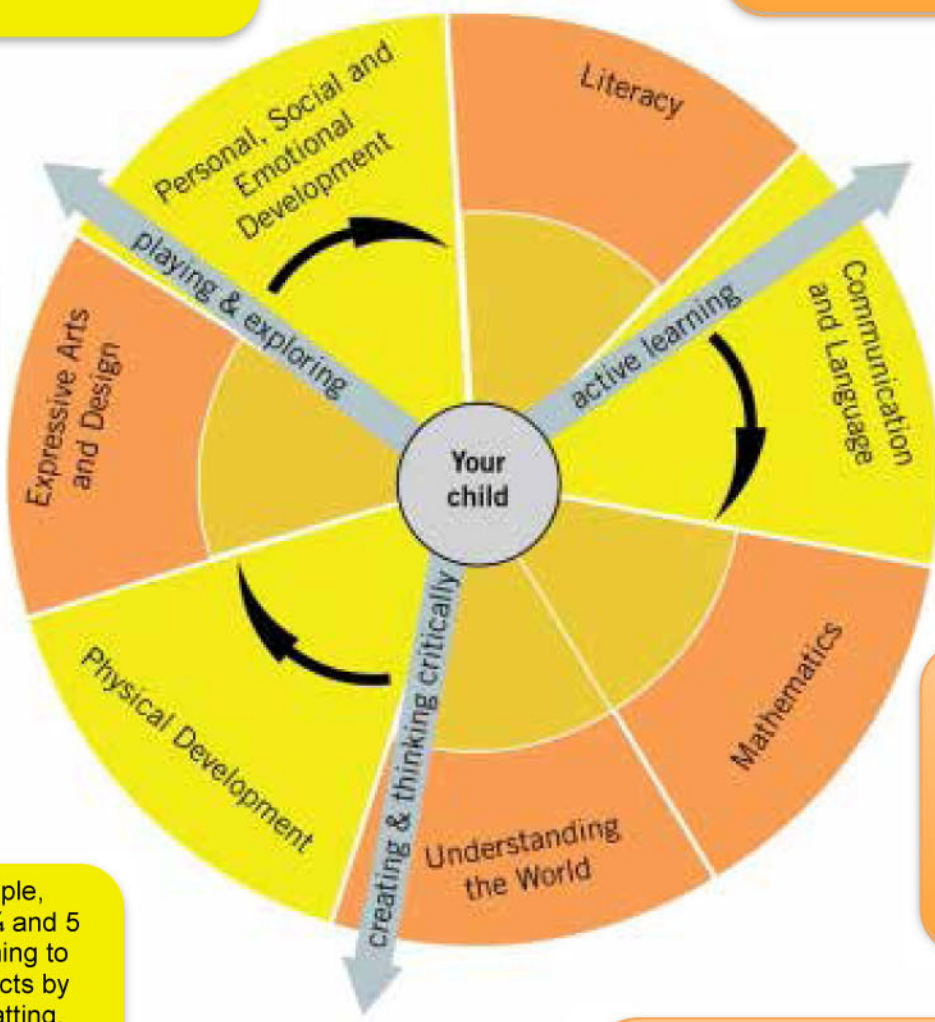
The diagram below gives examples of the areas of learning and development and shows the links between the way in which your child learns and what they learn.

For example, between 2 ½ and 4 years: learning to be confident in talking to other children when playing, and to talk freely about own home and community

For example, in reading between 2 ¼ and 4 years: learning how to suggest an ending to a story

For example, between 1 ¾ and 2 ½ years: developing an understanding of simple concepts such as big/little

For example, between 2 ½ and 4 years: learning how to explore what happens when they mix colours



For example, between 1 ¼ and 2 years: enjoying filling and emptying containers in the bath

For example, between 3 ¼ and 5 years: learning to control objects by pushing, patting, throwing, catching or kicking

For example, between 2 ¼ and 3 ¾ years: learning about special times or events for family or friends and being able to describe them. Being able to talk about some of the things they have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects.



As a mum or dad, how can I help support my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting learning and development and spending quality time with your child will have a very positive impact on your child's learning. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference and will help your child to be successful.



At the end of the EYFS, in the summer term of FS2 – teachers complete an assessment, known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is carried out by the class teacher and is based upon what has been observed about your child's achievements over a period of time.

Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year – year 1 – will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a little extra support, what that support should be. At the end of the academic year you will receive a report of your child's progress.

Where can I go for further information?

You can find the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which includes the early learning goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.