

# The Early Years Foundation Stage Principles

The Early Years Foundation Stage Setting the Standards for Learning, Development and Care for children from birth to five

Every Child Matters  
Change For Children

## A Unique Child

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.



Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

## Positive Relationships

## Enabling Environments

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.



## Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.



### 1.1 Child Development

- Child development
- A skilful communicator
- A competent learner

### 1.2 Inclusive Practice

- Equality and diversity
- Children's entitlements
- Early support

### 1.3 Keeping Safe

- Being safe and protected
- Discovering boundaries
- Making choices

### 1.4 Health and Well-being

- Growing and developing
- Physical well-being
- Emotional well-being

### 2.1 Respecting Each Other

- Understanding feelings
- Friendships
- Professional relationships

### 2.2 Parents as Partners

- Respecting diversity
- Communication
- Learning together

### 2.3 Supporting Learning

- Positive interactions
- Listening to children
- Effective teaching

### 2.4 Key Person

- Secure attachment
- Shared care
- Independence

### 3.1 Observation, Assessment and Planning

- Starting with the child
- Planning
- Assessment

### 3.2 Supporting Every Child

- Children's needs
- The learning journey
- Working together

### 3.3 The Learning Environment

- The emotional environment
- The outdoor environment
- The indoor environment

### 3.4 The Wider Context

- Transitions and continuity
- Multi-agency working
- The community

### 4.1 Play and Exploration

- Learning through experience
- Adult involvement
- Contexts for learning

### 4.2 Active Learning

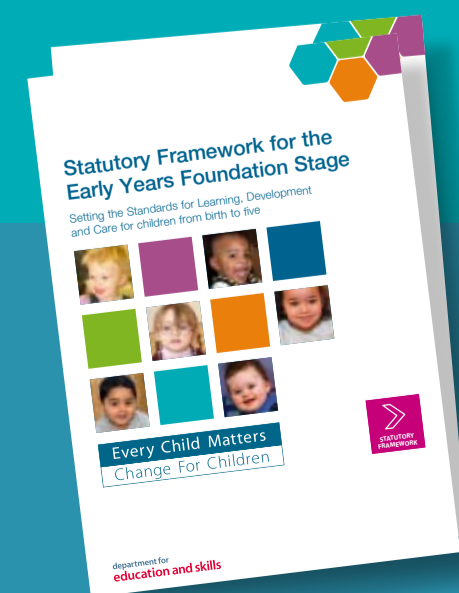
- Mental and physical involvement
- Decision making
- Personalised learning

### 4.3 Creativity and Critical Thinking

- Making connections
- Transforming understanding
- Sustained shared thinking

### 4.4 Areas of Learning and Development

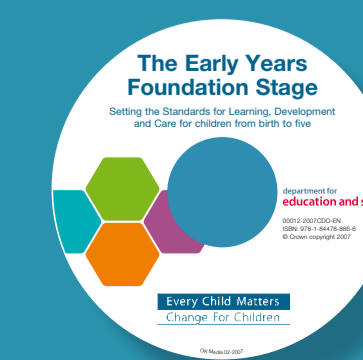
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development



There are two Early Years Foundation Stage booklets: **Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage**, which contains legal requirements and statutory guidance and **Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage**, which contains additional advice as well as the areas of Learning and Development.



Resources in the Early Years Foundation Stage Package include Principles into Practice cards which give easy-to-use information about effective practice across the Themes of the EYFS. Additional cards introduce broad stages of child development and areas of Learning and Development.



The Early Years Foundation Stage CD-ROM contains in-depth information on the EYFS including video material, examples of effective practice, research, resources and information about supporting every child's development.

department for  
children, schools and families

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