

# Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

## What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

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. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years' experience 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 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter 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 the reception year; these expectations are called the "**Early Learning Goals (ELGs)**"

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. Within the EYFS there is a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow. These include the numbers of staff required in a nursery, and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

## Quality

You can find out about the quality of *Greenacre Pre-school* and other early years providers in relation to the EYFS Framework by checking what the Government's official inspection body for early years, *Ofsted*, has to say about it. You can find this information at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report).

## How my child will 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**.

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 to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

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

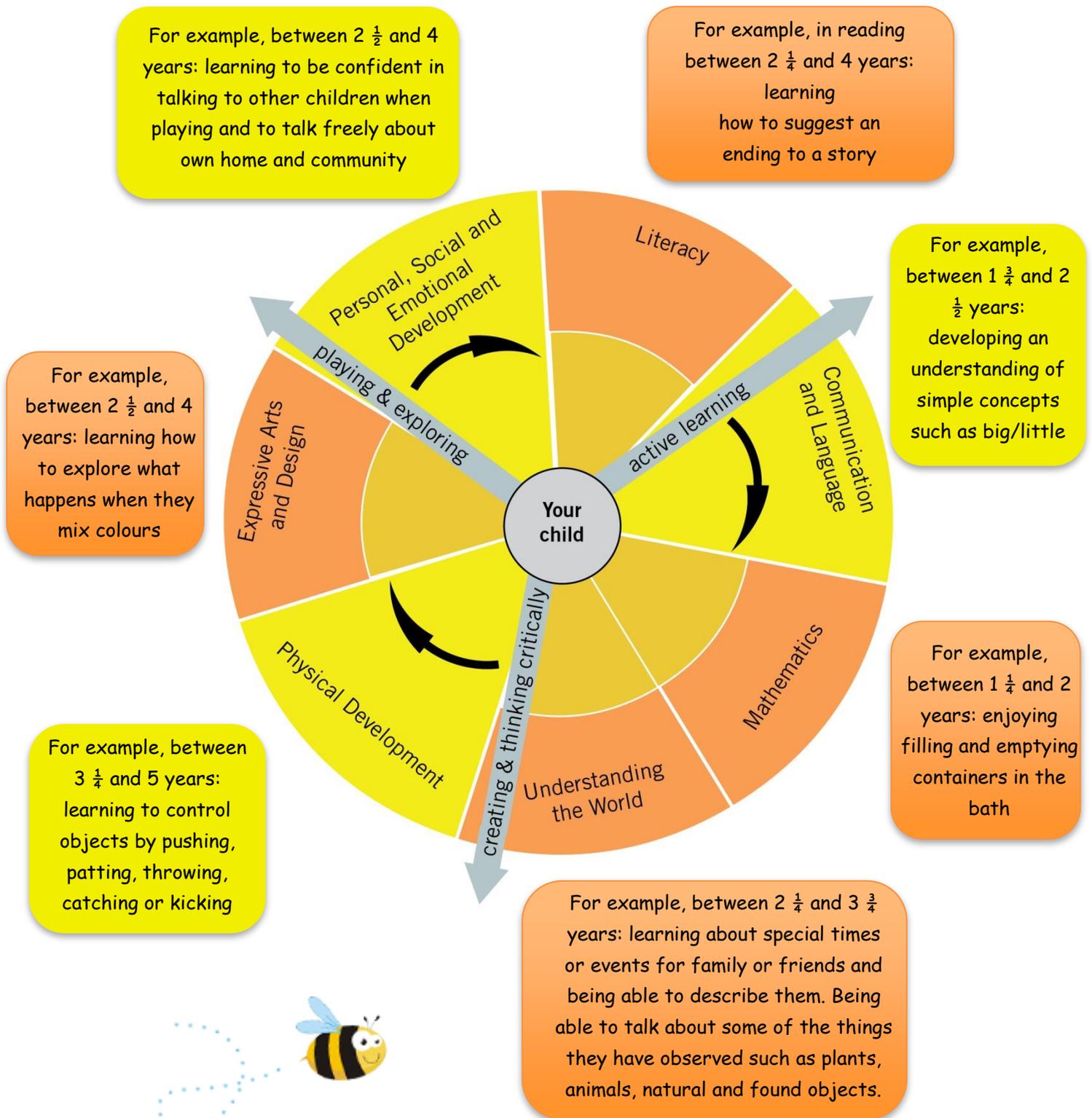


These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The staff at *Greenacre Pre-school* teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's 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.

# The characteristics of effective Learning

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.



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

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.

- Talk about the numbers, colours, words and letters you see when you are out and about
- Sing and tell nursery rhymes
- On a trip to the supermarket, talk about all the different packaging shapes
- Allow your child to cut out and stick pictures from magazines
- Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch
- Cook / bake together
- Use the weather - shadows, rain puddles, snow, wind, mist and sun - to extend your child's vocabulary

## How can I find out how my child is getting on?

It is important that you and the staff at Greenacre Pre-school work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child.

These conversations should be 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

A progress report will be carried out when your child is 2 and at the end of the EYFS when they are age 5. In the summer term of the reception year in school the 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.

## 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](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk). The foundation year's website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

