

**Norland
Know-Hows**

**Early Years
Foundation Stage
(EYFS)**

Early years foundation stage (EYFS)

The [EYFS](#) (early years foundation stage) framework lays down the standards for children's development, learning and care from birth to five years old. All registered (Ofsted or childminder agency) early years providers must follow the EYFS.

The EYFS framework is the core document for all professionals working in the early years. As such, it means that, regardless of the setting, a child benefits from the same statutory commitments and principles supporting their learning and development.

The framework applies to all children in early years provision, encompassing those with special educational needs and disabilities. There are three sections in the framework: learning and development requirements, assessments, and safeguarding and welfare requirements.

Learning and development

All registered providers must follow the EYFS and its four overarching principles:

- *Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.*
- *Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.*
- *Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.*
- *Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.*

There are seven areas of learning and development, each with a set of early-learning goals. Three of these are prime areas:

- *communication and language*
- *physical development*
- *personal, social and emotional development.*

The remaining four are specific areas through which the three prime areas are applied:

- *literacy*
- *mathematics*
- *understanding the world*
- *expressive arts and design.*

Assessments

A child's progress is measured against the EYFS when they are between two and three years old by their early years practitioner or a health visitor, and again when they are five years old and at school – the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) is produced to mark the end of this stage.

Safeguarding and welfare

This third section covers the steps that early years providers must take to keep the children they care for safe and to promote their welfare. It covers not just child but also adult protection: child ratios, food and drink, health and medicines, accidents and injuries, special needs, safety and suitability of premises, suitable people, disqualification, complaints, qualifications, training, support, and skills.

Other useful links

Ofsted's early years inspection handbook contains guidance for inspectors under the common inspection framework and so is a useful tool for childminders:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-inspection-handbook-eif>

The government's website for providers and parents on early years:

www.foundationyears.org.uk/

Early years website for Northern Ireland:

www.early-years.org

Early years website for Scotland:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/scottish-education-system/early-learning-and-childcare-elc/>

Early years website for Wales:

www.gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/earlyyearshome/building-a-brighter-future-earlyyears-and-childcare-plan/?lang=en

This information is intended to provide guidance only. It is not exhaustive and should not be seen as a substitute for updating or enhancing your knowledge by completing training or a CPD course on the subject.