

EYFS 2012 areas of learning and development

Prime areas of learning and development - the prime areas are the most important for children and help prepare them for school. The prime areas must be the focus for all babies and young children and, if a child is not developing well in the prime areas, strategies must be put in place to support them.

Personal, social and emotional development

Making relationships

This is about children's **social** development and how they interact with adults and other children and make friends.

Self confidence and self awareness

This is about children's **personal** development and how they develop an understanding of themselves as an individual.

Managing feelings and behaviour

This is about children's **emotional** development and their growing understanding of feelings, emotions and empathy. It includes, for example, learning to behave appropriately in different environments, using behaviour goals to support children's understanding, learning to wait rather than expecting instant gratification etc.

Physical development

Moving and handling

This is about children's fine (small) and gross (large) motor development including early mark making.

Health and self care

This is about how children learn to be healthy (hand washing, healthy eating, sleep, drinking, toileting etc) and stay safe (crossing roads, sun protection, stranger danger etc).

Communication and language

Listening and attention

This is about how children focus their attention and develop skills needed to concentrate. By school age, children need to be able to sit for a while and listen to what is going on around them, concentrating on a speaker.

Understanding

This is about how interactions between adults and children help them to develop an understanding of language including asking and answering questions and following instructions.

Speaking

This is about children's communication including their speech and language development, how they express themselves and use appropriate language.

Specific areas of learning and development - the specific areas are essential for teaching children about the world in which they live and for helping them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in a school environment.

Literacy

Reading

This is about children's exposure to a wide range of books, rhymes, stories, role play with puppets, magazines, comics and other written documents.

Writing

This is about children's developing phonic understanding which develops as they are exposed to the written word and start to give meaning to the marks they make.

Mathematics

Numbers

This is about children's understanding of numbers and calculations and their ability to solve problems.

Shape, space and measures

This is about children exploring a range of mathematical activities including time, money, space, distance, speed, weight, capacity, position, patterns etc.

Understanding the world

People and communities

This is about how children learn about the people and communities in which they live and their growing understanding of diversity in the world around them

The world

This is about living things (animals, plants, minibeasts, sea creatures), communities in the world around us and similarities and differences between the natural and man made world.

Technology

This is about children's early exploration of technology to learn about cause and effect - buttons and flaps, remote control cars etc, leading on to exploration of ICT - computers, cameras and digital media.

Expressive arts and design

Exploring and using media and materials

This is about children exploring the world around them through a wide range of art and crafts, including music and dance.

Being imaginative

This is about children using their imaginations to bring the world around them alive. It covers areas of provision such as role play, dressing up, drama, music and dance, technology, stories with puppets etc.