

The Early Years Foundation Stage at Harbertonford Primary School Information for Parents and Carers



From September 2012 there has been a new statutory Early Years Foundation Stage for all early years child care and education providers e.g. Nurseries, playgroups, pre schools, childminders and Reception classes.

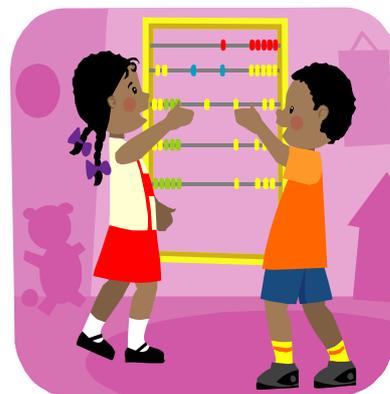
The EYFS is a framework for children's development from birth to the end of the Reception year of Primary School. The overarching principles in the early years are

- ◆ every child is a **unique child** who is constantly learning and can be resilient, 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; and
- ◆ **children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates.**
The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

These themes are used to underpin the learning and development that your child will take part in during their time in the EYFS. Children learn in a variety of ways: watching others, talking, asking questions, listening, exploring and investigating.



Play is the foundation of development and learning for young children and your child will continue to take part in many indoor and outdoor play experiences that will help them to learn and have fun!



The EYFS curriculum

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape educational programmes in early years settings.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

Three of these areas, the *prime* areas, are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Your child will also be supported in four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and Design

This does not mean that all of the children's learning is divided up into areas. In one activity they can be developing knowledge, understanding and new skills across several areas of learning at once. For example, in making and playing with playdough, they may go to the shop to buy ingredients (Understanding the World), look at a recipe and talk about the instructions (Literacy), count out spoonfuls of flour (Mathematics), mix and roll out dough (Physical), and then use their imagination to make snakes, animals, cakes etc (Expressive arts and Design).

Communication and Language

Communication and Language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language Environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.



Personal, Social and Emotional development

This area of learning helps children to feel good about themselves and others so they are able to develop positive relationships. It supports them to become independent, excited and motivated learners.



You can help by encouraging your child to use the toilet independently, wash their hands, put on and fasten their coats. Playing games which encourage sharing and turn taking, will also help your child to build their social skills.

Physical

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Your child will participate in structured PE and dance sessions, improving their skills of co-ordination, control and movement. There will be many opportunities for your child to develop fine motor skills e.g. through using scissors, glue, paintbrushes and pencils.



Parents and carers can help by giving children time to run, jump, climb and play outdoors and also by encouraging children in activities such as building, drawing, threading beads, or filling and emptying containers in the bath - all of which develop manipulative skills.

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

To support children in their early reading and writing they are encouraged to mark make, enjoy stories, books and rhymes and link sounds and letters.

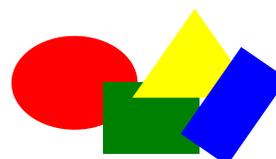
You can help by reading stories, encouraging your child to join in and talk about books, singing songs and nursery rhymes, taking time to listen to them talking about things they've done and answering their questions.



Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

Parents and carers can help by talking about the shapes around them, comparing things which are heavy and light or long and short, pointing out numbers at home and in the environment, singing counting songs and rhymes, counting anything and everything - socks, cars, shopping!



123...

Understanding the World

Understanding the World involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.



You can help by talking to your child about the places they go and things they see in the world around them or on television, answering and asking questions - what if...? why do you think...? how did you...? - and by letting children join in with everyday activities such as washing up, cooking, shopping, helping in the garden...

Expressive arts and Design

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

Creativity is an important part of successful learning; it enables children to make connections between experiences, solve problems and be inventive.



You can help by talking to your child about their imaginative play and joining in if possible, encouraging them to be flexible in their thinking and use of materials and praising them for their efforts or ideas as well as the end product.

A happy start to working in school

You can help your child in many ways:-

- Talk to them and answer their many questions!
- Enjoy sharing a variety of books together
- Encourage your child to talk about the pictures and tell you the stories in their books
- Let them see you enjoying reading - sit and read a book, magazine or newspaper in their company
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes
- Encourage your child to draw and write with a variety of materials
- Let your child use catalogues, cards or leaflets to cut out, paste, colour and paint

Our aim is for both you and your child to have a happy and confident beginning to their Pre-School and School life at Harbertonford.

