

## **What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?**

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year.
- It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.
- It is the same curriculum in Pre-Reception settings such as a pre-school as it is in the Reception class in school.

## **There are seven areas of learning and development:**

### **Prime areas:**

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

### **Specific Areas:**

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

All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

The prime areas are important for building the foundations; it is through the specific areas that the primes are strengthened.

Across the 7 areas of learning there are 17 Early Learning Goals against which each child is assessed at the end of the Reception year.

Area of Learning	ELG
<b>Communication and Language</b>	Listening, Attention and Understanding
	Speaking
<b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b>	Self Regulation
	Managing Self
	Building Relationships
<b>Physical Development</b>	Gross Motor Skills
	Fine Motor Skills
<b>Literacy</b>	Comprehension
	Word Reading
	Writing
<b>Mathematics</b>	Number
	Numerical Patterns
<b>Understanding the World</b>	Past and Present
	People Culture and Communities
	The Natural World
<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	Creating with Materials
	Being Imaginative and Expressive

Further information on the Early Learning Goals can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

## Characteristics of effective teaching and learning

There are three characteristics of effective teaching and learning which underpin the EYFS:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

The characteristics of effective teaching and learning tell us about *how* each child learns not *what* they are learning. We look for things such as what engages or motivates a child, problem solving, resilience, changing strategy etc.

Play is essential for children's development; it helps to build their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. Examples of really significant learning will be shared on Tapestry, along with group observations and we will use it to communicate important information.

As a school we have also created the EYFS Southwood Aspirations. The Southwood EYFS Aspirations are unique to our children at Southwood. Our Aspirations are what we hope all of our children to achieve by the end of year R. The Southwood EYFS Aspirations and further information on the 2021-2022 EYFS Curriculum can be found in EYFS Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact document.

## Further Reading

Development Matters

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1007446/6.7534 DfE Development Matters Report and illustrations web 2 .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007446/6.7534_DfE_Development_Matters_Report_and_illustrations_web_2_.pdf)