

Parent Guide



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We are excited to share this content with you. If you are interested in finding more resources made especially for Parents, then check out these links to different areas of the **Twinkl Parents** hub.

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What is this resource and how do I use it?

Part of a detailed series of resources on 'Supporting Your Child's Learning in Reception', this parent guide gives an overview of the early years framework, with a focus on what your child will learn in reception. It includes information on learning and assessment in reception that you may find useful.

What is the focus of this resource?

EYFS Framework

Supporting Your Child

Reception

Further Ideas and Suggestions

Twinkl Parents Hub has a wealth of resources to help you support your child with their learning, development and wellbeing. Browse our range of **Parent Guides**, including specific **Phonics** guides for more information to help support your child in reception.

Parents Blog



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Early Years Framework

What is the early years framework?

The early years framework sets out the legal requirements and standards for learning and development, safeguarding and assessment for children from birth to five years old in Ofsted registered settings. You might hear people refer to the EYFS when they talk about the framework or the curriculum that your child works with in their setting - this stands for 'Early Years Foundation Stage'. Children from birth to five years old are all working within the EYFS, just as children aged five to seven years old work within KS1 (key stage 1). Nursery settings (including preschools) generally cover children from birth to age four. Primary schools usually focus on the reception year (ages four to five).

What is in the early years framework?

Within the early years framework, there are requirements for children's health and safety as well as the standards expected for learning.

There are seven 'areas of learning' that shape the provision and curriculums children work within in early years - three 'prime areas' and four 'specific areas', shown below. Whilst they are all connected and important, the prime areas are particularly so. Without developing these skills, your child may find it hard to access learning and make progress in the specific areas. Your child should be given opportunities to develop their skills in all seven areas of learning throughout their reception year.

How are children in reception assessed?

At the start of their reception year, your child will take part in the Reception Baseline Assessment. They will be asked to do some short tasks with an adult (usually the class teacher but it may depend on your child's school). The tasks will be based in mathematics, language, communication and literacy. The adult will record your child's results and this will later be used when they are at the end of year six to look at the progress of the school. The tasks are practical and schools often spread the tasks out over the first six weeks of reception so it's not too overwhelming for children.

At the end of reception, you will likely receive a report (whether verbal or written) which states if your child has met the 'early learning goals (ELGs)'. There are 17 ELGs your child is expected to achieve by the end of their time in the EYFS. It's important to remember that all children develop at different rates and that your child's teacher makes a 'best fit' judgement on the ELG statements in order to make this assessment; it's not about your child sitting down for a test. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, speak with their class teacher.

Early Years Framework

The Prime Areas

Literacy

Mathematics

**Understanding
the World**

**Expressive Arts
and Design**

Comprehension

Number

Past and
Present

Creating with
Materials

Word
Reading

Numerical
Patterns

People, Culture
and Communities

Being
Imaginative and
Expressive

Writing

The Natural
World

**Communication and
Language**

Physical Development

**Personal, Social and
Emotional
Development**

Listening, Attention
and Understanding

Gross
Motor Skills

Self-Regulation

Speaking

Fine
Motor Skills

Managing
Self

Building
Relationships

Early Years Framework

How will my child learn in reception?

Each school will have its own approach to teaching and learning. Some may set topics to engage your child in their learning, others might follow children's interests whole-heartedly. Regardless of the school's approach, your child will be learning through a balance of child-led play and play guided by an adult. The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of play in your child's development and all Ofsted registered settings will need to adhere to this. Through play, EYFS practitioners will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills.

Your child will probably talk about phonics a lot more once they start reception! Schools usually follow a scheme for phonics. Whilst your child will have access to phonics-based activities in play, they will probably also have timetabled time for phonics teaching, too.

The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

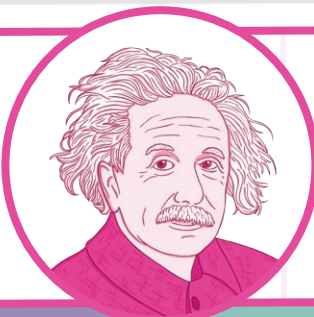
- playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things and 'have a go'
- active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things

You can support your child with developing these skills at home too, through discussions, encouragement and challenges.

How can I support my child at home?

Play! Providing opportunities for your child to play, explore, practise and discover both with you and independently is so important to help them develop. Try to go with their interests and their development where you can. If you can, try not to make school tasks a chore. For example, don't make their reading book something they have to do - is there a way you can naturally blend it into the day? In addition, the **Early Years** area on the Parents Hub is full of resources and guides to help you support your reception child at home.

Have fun supporting your reception child at home and remember:



"Play is the highest form of research."

Albert Einstein

Disclaimer: We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.