



Manland Primary School

A Guide to the EYFS in Reception Classes at Manland

From September 2012 a new EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) framework applies to our reception classes.

The information below is drawn from that found on the DFE recommended website:
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We have endeavoured to share the parts that are pertinent to Reception Classes.

1 What is the EYFS Framework – why do we have one?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child. It was developed with a number of early-years experts and parents.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.

It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare
- The 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge
- Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals (ELGs)"

There is also guidance for the professionals supporting your child on planning the learning activities and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

2 Which areas of learning will my child be involved in?

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

- **Communication and language**
- **Physical development**
- **Personal, social and emotional development**

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the world**
- **Expressive arts and design**

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. We endeavour to make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs whilst broadening their interest in a wide range of learning activities. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

3 As a mum, dad or carer, how can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long-lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. By making the time every day to continue to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner. Sometimes people think that once children are in school these activities are not as important as previously – this is not true. You spend more time with your child than anyone else and your role in their learning development remains essential.

Here are some ideas that you can try...

- Sing and tell nursery rhymes – **we cannot stress how important this is even when your child is 4 or 5**
- Talk about the numbers, colours, words and letters you see when you are out and about
- Allow your child to cut out and stick pictures from magazines
- Cook / bake together
- On a trip to the supermarket, talk about all the different packaging shapes
- Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch
- Use the weather – shadows, rain puddles, snow, wind, mist and sun – to extend your child's vocabulary
- Talk to your child at every opportunity – e.g. what you are doing that day
- Share a book / read stories / model reading for interest yourself
- Explore the park at a different time of the year – go off the beaten track
- Follow up school learning
- Share home learning with school

4 How can I find out how my child is getting on?

You will be able to meet for a formal consultation with the class teacher in the autumn and spring terms. A written report will be shared in the summer term. Staff will be available at the start and end of most days to share messages especially focusing upon how the children are settling in in the first instance. If you have any questions please ask us.

5 Assessment at the end of the EYFS

At the end of the EYFS – in the summer term of the reception year in school – we will complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff teaching your child, have observed over a period of time.

Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let us know about what your child does with you. You will have chances through the year to do this.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year – year 1 – will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support, what that support should be and if they are already getting it. We will give you a written report of your child's progress, including information from his or her EYFS Profile.