



PHOENIX HOUSE MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL

27 Stamford hill, London N16 5TU

Telephone: 0208 880 2550.

Email: phoenixn16@yahoo.co.uk

The new EYFS Curriculum

Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework Exciting times ahead for you and your child

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is how the Government and early year's professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

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, and was developed with a number of early year's experts and parents.

In 2014 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; key workers take a leading role in this however staff members in your child's class will also support development in group planned activities.

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

Characteristics of Learning

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the prime and specific Areas of Learning and Development are all interconnected.

Characteristics of Learning include:

- Playing and exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and thinking critically.

The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically – underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

The prime areas begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences, and run through and support learning in all other areas. The prime areas continue to be fundamental throughout the EYFS.

The specific areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas, and provide important contexts for learning.

What does it mean for me as a parent?

The nursery empathizes on partnership with parents; we recognize parents as their first and lifelong educators. Partnerships begin from the time of the parent's first visit and are built upon during introductory visits. This grows in strength and trust throughout your children's time at The Nursery.

Ensuring my child's safety- Much thought has been given to making sure that your child is as safe as possible. Within the EYFS there is a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow. These include the numbers of staff required in a nursery and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

Quality

You can find out about the quality of your child's nursery and other early years providers in relation to the EYFS Framework by checking what the Government's official inspection body for early years, Ofsted, has to say about it. You can find this information at www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report.

How my child will be learning – the 7 areas of learning and development

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; and
- 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; and
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

The nursery emphasizes its Montessori Philosophy in line with the EYFS; we emphasize independence and use of self-corrected materials to support development. Montessori also covers practical life materials which prepares your child for life skills {PSED} Mathematical materials are used which are natural and touch tiled {MD} and literacy materials; using phonetic sounds and word building {CL / L}. We also cover cultural aspects of teaching through Montessori methods.

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. If you make the time every day 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.

Parents into Play

If you're looking for new ideas for things to do then you would be welcome to attend one of our 'Parents into play days'. All of our Nurseries offer 'messy play' activities which you and your child can join in with, and many of the activities they provide are free. Staff can also give you advice about the kinds of books or other activities your child might enjoy at different ages.

Progress Checks and Profiles

When your child is 2

At some point after your child turns 2, the professionals working with your child must give you a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

This is called **the progress check at age 2.**

This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and anywhere they might need some extra help or support – and how mums and dads and other family members or carers can work with the key person to help. You might find it useful to share the information from the check with other professionals such as health visitors (who can use it as part of the health and development review).

Where can I go for further information?

Our Nursery Managers and practitioners are more than happy to talk with parents further in relation to the EYFS and the children's individual development. We welcome you asking as many questions as you need to.

You can also find the Early Years Foundation Stage which includes the early learning goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation year's website also includes a range of resources and contacts.