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## The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



There is a statutory framework for the early years which sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. This reflects on every child deserving the best possible start in life to begin their journey to reach their full potential. As children develop quickly in the early years it is vital that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe as a child's experiences from birth to five have a major impact on their future.

The EYFS seeks to provide:

- **quality and consistency** in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind;
- **a secure foundation** through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and are assessed and reviewed regularly;
- **a partnership** working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers;
- **equality of opportunity** and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

The Learning and Development requirements cover:

- **Areas of learning and development** to shape activities and experiences for children in all early years settings;
- **Early learning goals** that providers must help children to work towards;
- **Assessment arrangements** for measuring progress.

The safeguarding and welfare requirements of the framework cover the steps that must be taken to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

The overarching principles which shape practice in the early years settings are:

- Every child is a **unique child** who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, 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 practitioner and parents and/or carers;
- Children **develop and learn** in different ways and at different rates. The EYFS covers the education and care of all children in early years provision including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape our educational programme. All areas of are important and inter-connected. 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. The prime areas are:

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

The settings will also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. These are:

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

Here at Little Eagles and in-line with the EYFS Framework. We consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development for each child in our care to help us plan challenging and enjoyable experience for children in all areas of learning and development. This is achieved through planned and purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity in order to achieve the characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing and Exploring – investigate, experience and 'have a go';
- Active Learning – concentrate, persevere and enjoy achievements;
- Create and Think Critically – develop ideas, create links and develop strategies.

You can see the activities and experiences that happen at Little Eagles by accessing your child's 'story' via the Class Dojo app.

