

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework 2021

The Department for Education has published the updated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework for 2021. This document sets out the standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5. The new statutory framework applies from 1 September 2021.

Read it here: [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)

Or you can read a [summary of the EYFS changes here](#).

The government says the changes will improve outcomes for all children, but particularly the language and literacy outcomes for disadvantaged children and reduce teacher workload.

What is changing?

The DfE says that the proposals are intended to:

- make all 17 ELGs clearer, more specific and easier for teachers to make accurate judgements
- focus on strengthening language and vocabulary development to particularly support disadvantaged children
- strengthen literacy and numeracy outcomes to ensure all children have a good grasp of these areas of learning in preparation for year 1
- ensure the ELGs are based on the latest evidence in childhood development
- ensure they reflect the strongest predictors of future attainment.

Educational programmes

The DfE said that it would make a number of changes to the reformed education programmes including:

- PSED will include additional information on self-care and healthy eating.
- Physical Development will be strengthened to include a greater focus on development from birth to reception and on the link between gross and fine motor skills.
- Literacy will include a stronger emphasis on pre-reception literacy learning, and the link between language comprehension and later reading and writing.
- Mathematics will include a greater detail on the importance of shapes, spatial reasoning and measure as part of early maths learning, and how children can foster a love of maths.
- Understanding the World will include wider experiences for children.
- Expressive Arts and Design will include a wider variety of ways children can develop their creative skills.
- The Communication and language programme will remain as originally proposed.

Changes to the Early Learning Goals:

- Communication and Language will include focus on adult-child interactions
- Mathematics will include greater clarity to counting and comparing quantities in the Numerical Patterns ELG. Practitioners and teachers will still be required to teach children about shape, space and measures, as part of a well-rounded curriculum
- Understanding the World will include a change in relation to the Past and Present ELG to further clarify the expectation of children understanding the concept of 'past'

- Expressive Arts and Design will include reference to a greater variety of use of tools, materials and techniques that children will need to demonstrate for the Creating with Materials ELG.

The ELGs for Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development; and Literacy will remain as proposed.

Additional changes:

- The “exceeding” judgement criteria will be removed
- A need to include oral health alongside the requirement to “promote the good health of children” will be added to the EYFS framework.

Protected characteristics:

The DfE says that it will work with sector experts to review the EYFSP Handbook and ensure that it is clear on how practitioners should complete the Profile for children with SEND, EAL and who are summer-born, including signposting to additional advice and support where appropriate.

Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

If your child is starting Reception in the 2021-2022 academic year, they will be participating in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting Reception.

The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a new measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between Reception and Year 6 / the end of key stage 2.

[Click here to view a copy of the *Reception baseline assessment: information for parents*](#) leaflet. It includes information about:

- why schools are doing the assessment
- what happens during the assessment
- access arrangements
- how the data is used

If you have any questions about the updated EYFS Framework or the Reception Baseline Assessment, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher or our Early Years Lead, Miss Rajan-Weare.