

# Early Years Newsletter



## The Early Years Statutory Framework Reforms ~ Getting ready for September 2021~

From September 2021, all Early Years childcare and education providers must adopt the updated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework. Following responses from the Early Adopter pilot groups, the final Statutory Framework for the EYFS was published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, ready for mandatory adoption in September 2021.

These reforms are designed to:

- Improve outcomes at 5 years old
- Improve language development, with a focus on children from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Reduce teacher and practitioner workload

The key changes to the EYFS Statutory Framework 2021 are summarised below:

### Section 1 – The Learning and Development Requirements

- The Educational Programmes form a key part of the new framework and these provide a 'top level' view of what should be taught with examples of things practitioners can do with children. The whole team should have a thorough understanding of the Educational Programmes.
- Revision of the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) to strengthen language development and number sense and prepare children for Key Stage 1 (KS1) transition.

### Section 2 – Assessment

- Practitioners are encouraged to use their professional judgement and reduce reliance on recording unnecessary evidence. A 'best fit' approach should be used.
- The only statutory assessment that practitioners working with children aged birth to 3 need to carry out is the 2-year-old progress check.
- Introduction of a new national Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) which provides a starting point to measure progress within primary school.
- The 'exceeding' criteria has been removed from the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) to reduce workload, however, practitioners must continue to provide stretch and challenge for children.

### Section 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

- The promotion of oral health has been included to help reduce tooth decay and hospital admissions.
- Ratio amendment for maintained schools or non-maintained special schools where 2-year-olds are pupils.

*It is important to note that the four guiding principles of the EYFS, seven areas of learning and the Characteristics of Effective Learning all remain unchanged.*

## What tools are currently out there to support providers?

### Development Matters (Updated version)

The revised Development Matters document was published in September 2020. Many of you may, by now, have had chance to familiarise yourself with this tool.

This non-statutory guidance looks rather different to its predecessor and essentially comes in 4 key parts:

- The introduction with the seven key features
- Birth to three years
- Three to four years
- Children in Reception

Development Matters sets out the pathways of child development in broad ages and stages to support practitioners to assess each child's level of development. This then supports with making informed decisions about a child's next steps. It should not be used as a tick list for generating lots of data; you can use your professional knowledge to support each child to make progress.

There are some new welcome additions to the new Development Matters, such as the section on English as an additional language. This section will support your thinking around language and the teaching of vocabulary. There is also the addition of the observation check points which will support you in knowing what to look for in practice.

You can access the new Development Matters [here](#).

### Birth to Five Matters

Alongside the updated publication of Development Matters, there is an additional piece of non-statutory guidance, which has been produced by a coalition of early years experts and organisations. Birth to Five Matters is guidance for the sector, by the sector and was also published on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The guidance is rooted in the EYFS principles and gives information on how you can bring these principles to life in your provision and develop your own pedagogy.

Birth to Five Matters is a rich resource, grounded in the latest child development theory, which will support knowledge of how children learn. You can use this guidance to help make professional judgements around meeting the needs of the children you work with.

You can access the new Birth to Five Matters [here](#).

## How can we prepare for the upcoming changes?

- Attend the upcoming EYFS reforms briefing session (email to follow).
- Familiarise yourself with the new EYFS Statutory Framework and supporting non-statutory guidance.
- Sign up to our latest training which will support your knowledge of the EYFS reforms and changes to be implemented. Courses are as follows:
  - *Developing and Implementing a Creative Curriculum*
  - *Rethinking effective transition for children during changing times*
  - *Supporting children and those with special educational needs to be school ready in changing times*
  - *Securing a great start: powerful and effective communication and language development from birth to three*
  - *Making every moment count: developing and supporting communication and language development for children aged three to five years*

You can book onto the above courses [here](#).

**More information about the EYFS reforms will be shared over the coming weeks and in the upcoming briefing session, so keep an eye on your inbox.**