

Introduction to the EYFS Framework – Summary Handout

- Understand the core principles and structure of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

What is the EYFS?

- The EYFS is the statutory framework for early years education in England.
- It sets the standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five.

Three Main Sections of the EYFS

1. Safeguarding and Welfare – Ensures the safety and well-being of children.
2. Learning and Development – Supports how children grow, play, and learn.
3. Inclusive Practice – Promotes diversity and equal opportunities.

EYFS Principles

- A Unique Child – Every child is a capable learner with their own strengths.
- Positive Relationships – Secure, trusting relationships help children thrive.
- Enabling Environments – Spaces should support exploration and learning.
- Learning and Development – Children learn at different rates through play and interaction.

Seven Areas of Learning and Development

- Prime Areas:
 1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
 2. Physical Development
 3. Communication and Language
- Specific Areas:
 4. Literacy
 5. Mathematics
 6. Understanding the World
 7. Expressive Arts and Design

Characteristics of Effective Learning

1. Playing and Exploring – Trying new things and being curious.
2. Active Learning – Staying focused and not giving up.
3. Creating and Thinking Critically – Problem-solving and thinking independently.

Framework vs Curriculum

- The EYFS is a framework, not a set curriculum.
- It guides what children should be learning, but allows flexibility in how this is delivered.

Supporting Guidance

- Development Matters
- Birth to 5 Matters
- Progress Check at Two – Mandatory assessment between ages 2 and 3.

Final Thought

High-quality early years education builds the foundation for lifelong learning, well-being, and success.