

## **What is the EYFS?**

Here at Little Angels, we deliver learning and development through the EYFS, which is the national statutory curriculum for the education and care of young children from birth until the end of Reception year.

EYFS stands for the Early Years Foundation Stage and it provides the underpinning knowledge and skills needed for your child to progress from nursery to big school. In fact, the EYFS lays the groundwork for all future learning and success, including literacy, maths, and science.

We recognise parents as their child's first and most important teacher so we strive to build strong links between nursery and home. Understanding how the EYFS works will help you to support your child's learning and development at home which will further enhance their attainment whilst at Little Angels.

The EYFS is made up of seven areas of learning. The first three, known as the prime areas, are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

They're called the prime areas because healthy development in each area is essential to overall learning. If a child does not feel safe, settled and secure in the classroom (PSED), has speech issues (C&L), or physical needs (PD), they will not fully be able to fully engage in further learning opportunities until we are able to meet their needs with extra support and organisation of the classroom.

From about two years of age, your child will also begin to explore the specific areas of learning, which are:

Literacy

Maths

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Your child's key person will use these seven areas of learning to plan exciting, fun and educational activities tailored to meet your child's individual needs and interests.

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

Children in the EYFS learn by **playing and exploring**, **being active**, and engaging in **creative and critical thinking** during a broad range of learning opportunities both indoors and out. These are the **characteristics of effective learning** and help us to observe how your child learns best and whether your child is getting the most out of their early years education. And yes, often these activities mean we are going to get messy! It means we've had a very busy day.

## Assessment

Periodically, you will receive a written report of your child's progress across the seven areas of learning (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design). If your child is under the age of two years, then we concentrate on the first three areas. At around two years of age, your child will start to explore the other four areas, as well.

Your child will be assigned an age band (0-6months, 6-12m, 12-18m, 18-24m, 24-36m, 36-48m, 48-60m) for each area of learning which shows where they are in relation to normative development. These are just guidelines as all children develop at their own pace and in many different ways. Do not worry if it shows a delay in an age band or two as there are so many different considerations with regards to development. If we ever have any concerns, we will always speak to you directly. Likewise, if you have any concerns about your child's development, please let us know.

Alongside the age bands, you will find the letters E, D or S. These stand for Emerging, Developing or Secure. It offers us better insight into individual development. Some children may be in the same age band for several terms and it would seem, at first glance, that there has been no progress when in fact, your child has moved from Emerging in a new skill to Developing or from Developing to Securing that skill. This is very important information because it shows us that your child is making progress.

All Next Steps set by your child's key person (located at the bottom of the report) will be to address any gaps in development or in areas where your child needs extra support. You will be offered an opportunity to provide feedback on the report, as well.

I hope that this has been helpful. If you have any further questions, please speak to your child's key person or feel free to ask for Tatia, our Head of Early years, and she will be happy to discuss it with you further.

Each of the seven areas is broken down further into aspects. Below is a key to help you understand the abbreviations on your child's report:

#### Personal, Social and Emotional (PSED)

- Making relationships (MR)
- Sense of self (SOS)
- Understanding emotions (UE)

#### Communication and Language (CL)

- Listening and attention (L&A)
- Understanding (U)
- Speaking (S)

#### Physical Development (PD)

- Moving and handling (M&H)
- Health and self-care (H&SC)

#### Literacy (L)

- Reading (R)
- Writing (W)

#### Maths (M)

#### Understanding the World (UW)

- People and communities (P&C)
- The world (TW)
- Technology (T)

#### Expressive Arts and Design (EAD).

- Creating with materials (CWM)
- Being imaginative and expressive (BI&E)