

How can I find out how my child is getting on?

It is important that you and the professionals caring for your child work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will either need to be with your child's teacher or teaching assistant. These are people who:

- Are your main point of contact within school
- Help your child to become settled, happy and safe
- Are responsible for your child's care, development and learning
- Take a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas about how to help your child at home

You should be able to get information about your child's development at any time and there are two stages (at aged 2, and again at the end of Reception) when the professionals caring for your child must give you written information about how he or she is doing.

When your child is 5

At the end of the EYFS, in the summer term of the reception year in school, teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.

Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let your child's class teacher know about what your child does with you. It may be how confident your child is at writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people they are not so familiar with or their understanding of numbers.

All of the information collected is used to assess how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year, Year 1, will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support, what that support should be and if they are already getting it.

The school will give you a report on your child's progress and their Characteristics of Effective Learning (how they learn), including information from his or her EYFS Profile.

Where can I go for further information?

You will receive information throughout the year from school. You may want to find out what is on offer at your local children's centre. You can find the Early Years Foundation Stage which includes the early learning goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

Marine Park First School



Early Years Foundation Stage

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which is how the Government and Early Years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage for your child's learning. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning.

Nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

What is the EYFS Framework - why do we have one?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of Early Years experts and parents.

The framework now has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.

It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child **safe** and promote their welfare
- The **7 areas of learning** which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and acquire knowledge
- Assessments that will tell you about **your child's progress** through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the Reception year; these expectations are called the 'Early Learning Goals' (ELGs)

There is also guidance for the professionals supporting your child on planning the learning activities, and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

What does it mean for me as a parent/carer ?

Ensuring my child's safety

Much thought has been given to making sure that your child is as safe as possible. Within the EYFS there is a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow. These include the numbers of staff required in a nursery and in school, and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

Quality

You can find out about the quality of your child's nursery and other Early Years providers in relation to the EYFS Framework by checking what the Government's official inspection body for Early Years, Ofsted, has to say about it. You can find this information at

www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report

How my child will be learning

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

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

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**

These are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is our curriculum, suitable for very young children. It is designed to be flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

How can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

At Marine Park First School we ask you to:

- Encourage your child to contribute to their Learning Journey which will come home on a Friday. Share with them what they have been doing at school and include things they have been doing at home. Then we can share their Learning Journeys on a Monday
- Share books from school and the local library
- Talk and talk and talk
- Go to the park / beach / shops and talk about what they are doing
- Encourage your little one to 'have a go' and be as independent as possible