

## Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and Early Years Professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age five years of age. All early year's education at Keep Guard Day Nursery is underpinned by the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and Development Matters.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of five, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun, and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs, whilst giving the skills to become lifelong confident learners.

The Early Years Foundation Stage and Development Matters framework underpins 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 seven areas of learning and development.

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

<b>Communication and Language</b>	Keep Guard Day Nursery provides children with opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. Keep Guard Day Nursery proactively uses pictorial prompts to support communication and language further.
<b>Physical Development</b>	Keep Guard Day Nursery provides opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food and promoting good oral health.
<b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b>	Keep Guard Day Nursery proactively helps children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas.

These are:

<b>Literacy</b>	Keep Guard Day Nursery encourages children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write and ensures children are given access to a wide range of reading materials to support and encourage the use of linguistically complex language and access to mark making opportunities to ignite their interests further.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Keep Guard Day Nursery provides children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding, and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. Children's understanding of number is further supported through visual concepts, numicon and mathematical resources.
<b>Understanding the World</b>	Keep Guard Day Nursery guides children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology, and the environment.
<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	Keep Guard Day Nursery enables children to explore and play using a wide range of media and materials as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for imaginative play, sharing their thoughts, ideas, and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The practitioners teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but is suitable for very young children, and it is designed to be flexible so that practitioners can follow your child's unique needs and interests, allowing children to develop into inquisitive learners by having access to designated enabling environments allowing them to consolidate their learning.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, investigating, and experiencing, having a go, being active learners, develop their concentration, keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, become creative and critical thinkers, exploring their own ideas, making links and develop their own strategies for doing things and enjoying their achievements which take place both indoors and outside. These are known as the characteristics of effective teaching and learning.

The framework provides a holistic view to the developmental growth of each child.

We believe each child is an individual, by giving attention to the overarching principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The overarching principles are:

A Unique Child	Keep Guard Day Nursery recognises that every child is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.
Positive Relationships	Keep Guard Day Nursery encourages children to learn how to be strong and independent through developing positive relationships.
Enabling Environments	Keep Guard Day Nursery believe children learn and develop well in enabling environments, with teaching and support from adults who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them build their learning over time, benefiting from strong partnership between practitioners and parents/carers.
Learning and Development	Keep Guard Day Nursery recognises that children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

You can find the Early Years Foundation Stage which includes the early learning goals at <https://foundationyears.org.uk/>

To further support Development Matters we also promote Letter and Sounds - Phase One to support children's early phonological awareness alongside the fundamental British Values in all we offer the children.

*In our most recent Ofsted report, it was recognised that; 'Children in the Pre-School group enjoy using the equipment in the stimulating environment. They immerse themselves in purposeful activities both with staff and their friends. Children enjoy sensory play. Young children sit in the sand and enjoy the sensation on their skin. Staff are good role models, helping children to respect and listen to others. Staff encourage children to develop good hygiene routines. They teach children to sing a song to remind them how and why they need to wash their hands. Children develop a love of books and understand that text has meaning. Visual clues, such as pictures to help identify emotions are used with all children to help strengthen communication. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported in both their learning and emotional well-being. Children who speak English as an Additional Language are effectively supported.'*