

# EYFS Principles

**There are four overarching principles in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).**

Every child is unique and individual and will make progress at different rates. In order to thrive, learn and develop, they need to have opportunities to create positive relationships with others and explore environments that stimulate their curiosity.

These principles underpin all aspects of teaching and learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage.



## A Unique Child

Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

### What can practitioners do?

- Understand and observe each child's development and learning, assess progress, plan for next steps.
- Support babies and children to develop a positive sense of their own identity and culture.
- Identify any need for additional support.
- Keep children safe.
- Value and respect all children and families equally.

+

## Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

### Positive relationships are:

- warm and loving, and foster a sense of belonging;
- sensitive and responsive to the child's needs, feelings and interests;
- supportive of the child's own efforts and independence;
- consistent in setting clear boundaries;
- stimulating;
- built on key person relationships in early years settings.

+

## Enabling Environments

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

### Enabling environments:

- value all people
- value learning

### Enabling environments offer:

- stimulating resources, relevant to all the children's cultures and communities;
- rich learning opportunities through play and playful teaching;
- support for children to take risks and explore.

=

## Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways. The statutory framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Practitioners teach children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the prime (Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development) and specific (Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design) areas of learning and development.

### They foster the characteristics of effective early learning:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically