

EYFS 2021 Framework

A Guide for Relatives

Since 2012, Early Years have had a guidance document called '**Development Matters**' to use to help support the development of the children.

You may have been familiar with seeing **age bands**, such as 22-36 months or 40 to 60+ months, appearing in observations, linked to the **7 areas of learning** that are used in Early Years.

What to expect

Rather than seeing the age bands you might have noticed before with observations about your child, you may now see the observations are **flagged** with the Areas of Learning. This shows you which Area of Learning that observation falls in.

For example, if there is an observation of your child using tools to do some gardening, it may be flagged with the Physical Development and the Understanding the World areas.

The new framework was introduced in September 2021, and with it, new guidance to replace the previous Development Matters. The newer framework enables staff to continue to use their knowledge of your child, and of typical child development, to inform their professional judgement, ensuring each child is making expected developmental progress. They are providing experiences to meet your child's needs, based on what they know about your child – and you can help them with this...

...to help staff know what your child can do, and what they are interested in, you can provide observations from home. These could be of them helping others, talking about things they see when out on a walk or a photo of something they have created. This will support staff to build up a bigger picture of your child and develop the curriculum for them.

Remember – the setting will be continuing to monitor your child's development, with a focus on professional judgement combined with knowing your child and working in partnership with each family, so staff can meet children's individual learning needs.

