



Woodstock Under Fives Association

Woodstock Under Fives – Parent/Carer guide to the EYFS

To further develop links between Pre School and home we have created this document which I hope you will take the time to read. In brief it will cover the Early Years Foundation stage, Children's Next Steps and Wow Moments. All of which are an integral part of your child's ongoing development here at WUFA.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Children are born ready, able and eager to learn. They actively reach out to interact with other people, and in the world around them. Development is not an automatic process, however. It depends on each unique child having opportunities to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments.

Characteristics of effective learning are: Playing & Exploring, Active Learning Creating and thinking critically.

During these foundation years, children's health, parenting styles, learning activities and early education are all influencing factors that can make a big difference to your child's future. An Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework is in place in England which describes the things a nursery, pre-school, childminder or reception class in a school, should be doing. It describes what children should learn and what levels of development they can be expected to reach at certain ages and stages.

This is a very important stage as it prepares children for future learning and successes and helps them get ready for school. 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 needs.

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

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working within the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents. It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep you child safe and promote their welfare
- The 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and 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 reception year; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals" (ELGs)

How my child will be learning

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Staff also use these to plan activities to promote learning in all the areas.

The prime areas of development:

<p>Communication and Language</p> 	<p>This area of learning and development relates to how your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listens and attention• Understanding• Speaking
<p>Physical development</p> 	<p>This area of learning and development relates to how your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moving and handling• Health and self-care
<p>Personal, social and emotional Development</p> 	<p>This area of learning and development relates to how your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making relationships• Self-confidence and self-awareness• Managing feelings and behaviour

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

<p>Literacy</p> 	<p>This area of learning and development relates to how your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Writing
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>This area of learning and development relates to how your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbers• Shape, space, measure

<p>Understanding the World</p> 	<p>This area of learning and development relates to how your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and Communities • The World
<p>Expressive arts and design</p> 	<p>This area of learning and development relates to how your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring using media and materials • Being imaginative

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Children are not tested on their stages of learning. They are observed and encouraged to achieve their Early Learning Goals and it is our job at Woodstock Under Fives to use their areas of interest to enable them to achieve their potential.

[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 be with your child's "key person". The Key Person has responsibility to:

- Be your main point of contact within the setting
- To help your child to become settled and feel happy and safe
- Take responsibility for your child's care, development and learning
- Take a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you
- Give you ideas about how you can help your child at home

The more information you can share with your key person about your child's experiences and achievements outside nursery, the better. We can sometimes call these "WOW" moments.

At WUFA we will also aim to give your child/ren a secondary key person. This is so that when your child's primary key person is on holiday or has a day off, your child has a specific point of contact to be overseeing all of their needs.

[Learning Journeys at Woodstock Under Fives](#)

As mentioned earlier we are all continually assessing and observing your children, we log all this information in what we call a "Learning Journey". This may also have photos, children's special drawings but most importantly it allows us to assess where your child is developmentally. Periodically throughout the Term we will gather all of this data and make an Assessment (this can sometimes be referred to as Tracking). It allows us as Child Care Professionals to put plans and next steps in place to further their

development, it can also flag up where they may need additional work. We also appreciate your input and children may do things at home that they don't do with us and vice versa. So please do observe and send anything in to us at any time!

To further improve our links with you, your children will be coming home with a Next Steps sheet on a regular basis (Termly). On here you will see what we are working towards, each document is individual to your child. Once we believe they have completed their "Next Step" and the learning is embedded your child will bring something home to stick on the sheet you have. If we decide to add a Next Step your child's Key person will contact you. With regular termly parent/carer evenings we hope this will give you a great insight into your child's learning journey at WUFA.

"Wow Moments"

"WOW" Moments – It is so important that we listen to our children and encourage special moments and developmental milestones. These can be anything, new babies, doing up shoes, using the toilet, sleeping through the night, drawing a circle, listening, sitting at the table nicely. We would really appreciate it if you could share these with us. We will send something home for you to record it, date it and send it in. These will go up on a board for all to see and acknowledge!

How can I help with my child's learning?

Some of the most beneficial things you can do for your child are the simplest. Even when they cannot speak make sure that you talk to them about what is happening in their day. Talk about your daily routine, talk about shapes and colours in the environment around them, talk about numbers and letters as you go about your day; how many apples you are buying, how many ducks are on the pond, what colour the cars are and talk about the seasons or the weather that day. The list is endless! Cooking and gardening are excellent activities to do with your child. It will not necessarily be the most efficient or neatest process but they will gain so much from the activity.

Reading to your child and looking at picture books is a wonderful way of supporting their development. Remember to talk about what is going on in each picture and not just to rush through the story. Your key person can give you tips on the kind of stories that they will enjoy.