**Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

The EYFS framework sets the standards to make sure that children aged from birth to 5 learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

The framework is for all Ofsted registered early years providers in all settings, including:

* nurseries
* childminders
* pre-schools
* reception

**The framework:**

* Sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well
* Ensures children are kept healthy and safe
* Ensures that children have the knowledge and skills they need to start school

Please visit [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974907/EYFS_framework_-_March_2021.pdf) to read the full EYFS.

Here are Happy Kids our practice is shaped by the four guiding principles set out in the EYFS. There are:

1. Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured
2. Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**
3. 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 to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
4. Importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn at different rates. (See “the characteristics of effective teaching and learning” at paragraph 1.15). The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The EYFS framework sets out three prime areas of learning that underpin everything else in the early years:

1. Communication and language
2. Personal, social and emotional development
3. Physical development

These are the first and most important areas for a child’s development and what we focus on initially at Happy Kids. In addition to the prime areas the EYFS sets out four specific areas of learning:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the world
4. Expressive arts and designs

The non-statutory guidance **Development Matters** has been written to support early years practitioners working with children and offers a top-level view on how children develop and learn. The guidance, guides but doesn’t replace professional judgements when working with children. Here at Happy Kids we use this guidance to help meet the requirements within the EYFS.

At Happy Kids we aim to provide a balance curriculum which includes both teaching and spontaneous learning, cantered around the current interests of the individual children. This is achieved through our **in the moment planning** approach, where we observe, assess, and plan the children’s play and how best to support them further. During the assessment stage, practitioners are planning the best approach on how to extend the children’s learning further, sometimes this even involves not interacting and spoiling the moment! During this time, they are gaining an insight into the children’s current interest and abilities and gaining knowledge on how to adapt the learning environment to extend this. These moments are known as our **teaching** moments and influence our future interactions with these children.

It is important to remember children do not learn and develop in a linear way and they all develop and learn at their own rate. Here at Happy Kids we use the checkpoints set out within the Development matters guidance to ensure that no child is left behind or missed!

If there are concerns with your child’s development or learning, their keyworker will arrange a meeting and discuss strategies and support along with the SENCO.