

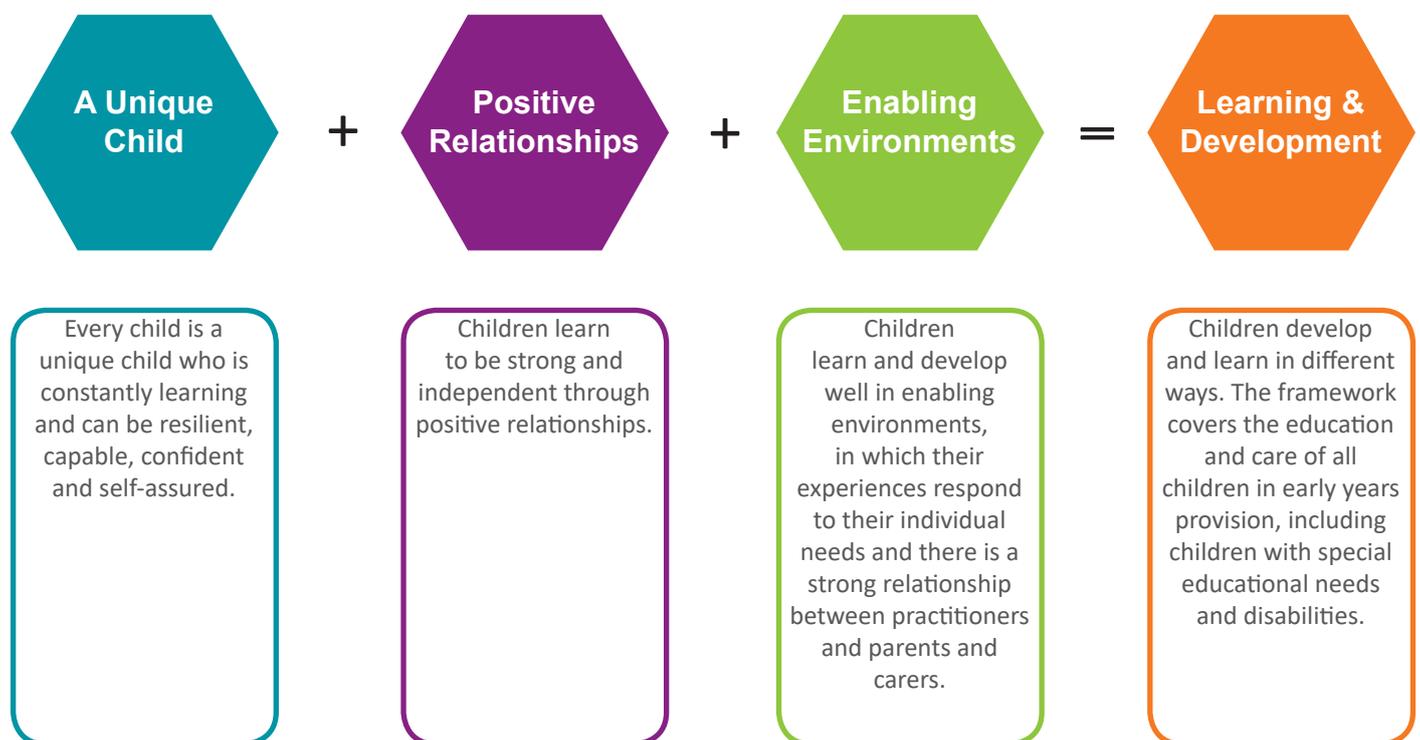


# The Early Years Foundation Stage

**The early years foundation stage (EYFS) is a comprehensive framework which sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old.**

The EYFS is a distinct stage and is important both in its own right and in preparing children for later schooling. Young children learn best through 'playing' and 'doing' and the Early Years Foundation Stage offers a broad and purposeful curriculum that is delivered through planned and supported play activities. This helps to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and experience the best possible start to their education.

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. The Early Years Foundation Stage is based around four themes as follows.



**The Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of seven different areas of Learning and Development (three Prime and four Specific) along with the Characteristics of Effective Learning.**

**The three prime areas are:**

- 1. Communication and Language**
- 2. Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- 3. Physical Development.**

They are fundamental and develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences. They run through and support learning in all other areas of the curriculum.

**The four specific areas of learning are:**

- 1. Literacy**
- 2. Mathematics**
- 3. Understanding of the World**
- 4. Expressive Arts and Design**

These areas include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society and they develop from the prime areas.

**The Characteristics of Effective Learning:**

These are the ways in which each child engages with other people and their environment. They underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to become an effective and motivated learner.

- 1. Playing and Exploring - Engagement**
- 2. Active Learning - Motivation**
- 3. Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking**

**Altogether the seven areas and the characteristics make up the skills, knowledge and experiences appropriate for young children as they grow, learn and develop.**

During their time in the foundation Stage (nursery and Reception year) children progress through each area guided by the 'Development Matters in the EYFS' to work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals.

