

Herstmonceux Pre School

Information letter re:

The Early Years Foundation Stage framework

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a framework for all children from birth until the end of the academic year when they have their fifth birthday (usually in the reception year). It has built on the curriculum/frameworks and statutory requirements and standards already in existence, these being the *Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, Birth to Three Matters framework, Every Child Matters agenda, The Children Act 2004* and includes elements of the 14 *National Standards for Under 8s Day-care and Childminding*.

The EYFS principles which guide the work of all early years practitioners are grouped into four distinct but complementary themes, (1:10,p8):

A Unique Child

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. The commitments are focused around development; inclusion; safety, health and well-being.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person. The commitments are focused around respect; partnership with parents; supporting learning; and the role of the key person.

Enabling Environments

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning. The commitments are focused around observation, assessment and planning; support for every child; the learning environment; and the wider context – transitions, continuity, and multi-agency working.

Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework DfES pg 9 2007

So the framework aspires to meet the overarching aim of improving outcomes and reflects that it is every child's right to grow up safe; healthy; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; and with economic well-being

From September 2008 it will be mandatory for all schools and early years providers registered with Ofsted to deliver the EYFS. We have had the EYFS packs since last year so we have been able to review and plan ahead before the mandatory date.

As most of you will have seen in your child's folders we have already altered and implemented the new assessment documents to demonstrate the children's progression in all areas of learning and development. All members of staff are very positive about the new framework but like all 'new' things we recognise the importance of monitoring and evaluating and then making changes as and when necessary. We continue with our ethos and aims to offer the highest level of care and education possible, very much in partnership with the most important adults in every child's life, you!

Please feel free to speak to me or any member of the staff if you have any questions; I regret to say that the government have not reduced the age of the Education Entitlement to two years yet, but who knows with an election (possibly) in the near future anything could happen! Currently, it remains that all children in the term after their third birthday are eligible to 5 x 2.5 hours free per week. I hope this has been helpful and informative to you all.

Kind regards Karen H