

References

Foundation Years, 2012. *Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework*. [online] Available at: http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/EYFS_Parents_Guide.doc [Accessed 2nd July, 2013].

Thank you to the parents who allowed Babraham Nursery to use pictures of their children in the making of this leaflet.

About Babraham Nursery

Babraham Nursery opened in 1990 and is part of The Babraham Institute. It was opened primarily for the use of employees of The Institute but has grown over the years and welcomes many families from both other companies onsite and the wider community.

We hope you enjoy your time with us; if you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact us.



Babraham Nursery

All about the Early Years Foundation Stage and its implementation at Babraham Nursery



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About this leaflet

This leaflet is aimed at introducing parents to the Early Year's Foundation Stage and discusses both the legal framework and how Babraham Nursery implements this. It aims to guide you on events that take place throughout the year and give new parents an overview of the nursery and our ethos.

We hope you will find this leaflet informative; If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and early year's professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5 (including Reception year at school).

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

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early year's experts and parents.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.

It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your 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.

Safeguarding

Babraham nursery takes the safeguarding of children very seriously. All practitioners are thoroughly checked both by The Institute and CRB/DBS. All staff regularly attend safeguarding training sessions. Students that are working within the nursery while training are never left alone with the children and are not counted in ratios.

Only parents and staff within the nursery have access to the building using an internally managed security card system and we have security officers on-site.

The staffing ratios form part of the Statutory Requirements. The current legal Requirements are described as:

Babies and toddlers under two years - one adult to three children

Children aged two - one adult to four children

Children aged three and above - one adult to eight children (where an Early Years Teacher/Professional and a Level three Nursery Nurse is working directly within this age group the legal minimum requirement is one adult to thirteen children).

Policies and Procedures

Babraham Nursery regularly reviews and updates its policies and procedures. We have many differing policies, which are the spine of how we work together for the same goals. If you would like to look or have a copy of any of our policies please ask at Reception, base room or office.

Mobile Phone policy Parents are asked not to use their mobile phones within the nursery. Parents are asked before their child starts at the nursery for permission to be photographed for observation or display board purposes. Parents are able to take pictures of their own child during special events. If you are unhappy for your child to be photographed please contact the office.

Wider Community and activities

The EYFS promotes parent partnerships suggesting successful relationships between parents and educators can have long-lasting and beneficial effects on children's learning and well-being. Within the nursery we work in partnership with the parents as much as possible, inviting parents to join us in charity events throughout the year including BBQ'S, dragon hunts, Xmas parties to name a few. In addition we offer parents the opportunity to join in with sports day events and open evenings as well as consultation evenings.

Consultation evenings Each individual child will receive a summative assessment before the consultation evening. This is an opportunity for parents and practitioners to discuss the assessment as well as discuss any concerns, new interests/progression etc. Consultation evening is held in July each year. A letter will be handed out beforehand and notices will go on the doors of each room where the parents can select an appropriate time for their appointment.

Sports day Sports day events are a chance for the parents and practitioners to work in partnership and get together to create a fun afternoon for the children. Newsletters will go out to inform parents when this event will be held and all children and parents within the nursery will be invited. Parents are asked to bring puddings and an afternoon tea/buffet is supplied for all.

Fundraising events Fundraising events are open for all children and their families and is a chance for practitioners and families to work in partnership to create a fun day for all. Every September the nursery holds an annual BBQ on a Saturday. Newsletters are given out to all parents to inform them of when this event is being held.

The nursery recognises the importance of giving the parents of children that attend the nursery a voice and some years ago founded a parent's sub-committee. Any parent is welcome and encouraged to join this committee. The committee will meet throughout the year to discuss and arrange fund raising events and other nursery matters.

The Babraham Institute is the registered provider of Babraham nursery. Babraham Institute has appointed a Nursery Management Committee to manage and oversee the operation of the Babraham nursery. This committee is made up of parents and other onsite departments to ensure it operates to the highest standards and fully reflects the needs of the families who attend the setting at all times.

- 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 the reception year; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals (ELGs)"

There is also guidance for staff around supporting your child on planning the learning activities, and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.



What does it mean for me as a parent?

Ensuring my child's safety

Much thought has been given to making sure that your child is as safe as possible. Within the EYFS there is a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow. These include the numbers of staff required in a nursery and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

Quality

You can find out about the quality of the nursery and other early years providers in relation to the EYFS Framework by checking what the Government's official inspection body for early years, Ofsted, has to say about it. You can find this information at www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report.

How my child will be learning

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

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

How Babraham Nursery implements this Framework

As a nursery we plan activities to meet the needs of the individual children in our care. To achieve this each child is allocated a key person and a planned observation and next step is carried out each week as well as spontaneous observations. An assessment of each child's progress is carried out every four months. These are called summative assessments; they are sent home for parents to read and comment on and give parents the opportunity to contribute their views on a regular basis.

As your child's primary educator your knowledge about your child's learning and development is invaluable. We welcome all input you are able to offer: such as interests in mark making, individual interests, favourite books and social interactions. The nursery invites you to do this verbally or in writing offering each child a communication book where information regarding your child and their interests/progress can be shared. In addition parents are welcome to read their own child's learning journey/development record where information from home is welcomed i.e. any new interests or progression that has taken place when the child is not attending the setting.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development.

Where can I go for further information?

The most important place to find out more is at your child's nursery - please ask as many questions as you need to. The team within Babraham Nursery welcome speaking with you.

You may want to find out what is on offer at **your local children's centre**.

Seedlings Children's Centre

The Bellbird Primary School, Link Road, Sawston. CB22 3GB.

Tel: 01223 706373

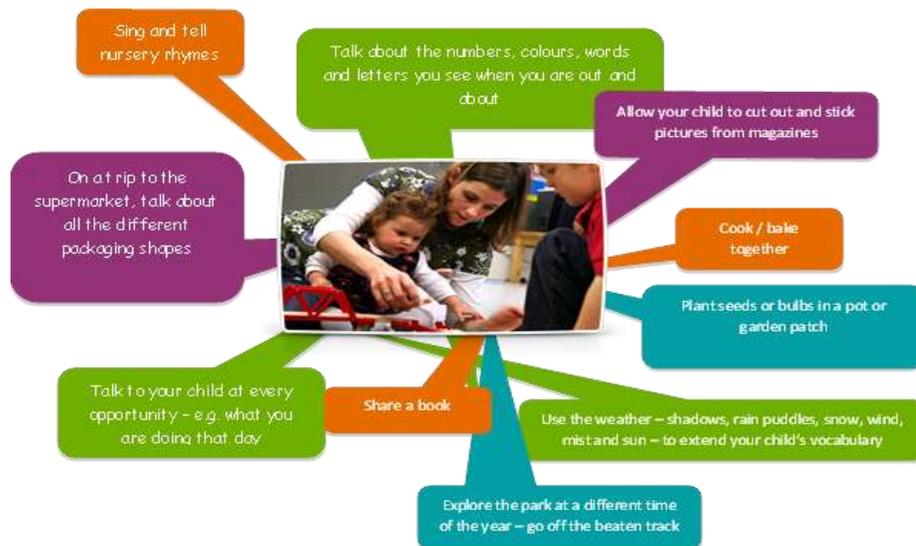
www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

You can find the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which includes the early learning goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation year's website also includes a range of resources and contacts

As a mum or dad, how can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.



The local children's centre offers planned activities for children aged 5 and under for parents to attend with their children and join in with. They also offer advice and drop-in sessions on a range of topics. Our local children's centre is: **Seedlings Children's Centre, The Bellbird Primary School, Link Road, Sawston. CB22 3GB. Tel: 01223 706373.** Contact Lynne.howorth@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. There are also many others within the community. Staff here at the nursery can also give you advice about the kinds of books or other activities your child might enjoy at different ages.

How can I find out how my child is getting on?

We feel at Babraham Nursery that it is important that parents, staff and the wider community work together in partnership to meet the needs of each individual child we care for. We strive for a family centred community, where we all work together and partnerships with parents are central to this.

All children on joining the setting are appointed a **key person**:

This is the person who:

- Is your main point of contact within the setting
- Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe
- Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning
- Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving your ideas as to how to help your child at home

A key component of our nursery community is that all staff know all the children in our care; We employ permanent roving staff and have consistent base room staff teams to ensure stability for children and parents who attend the nursery

You are welcome at any time to look at your child's own learning journey and will receive regular written assessments. The nursery is legally required to provide information on your child's development between the ages of 24 – 36 months.

When your child is 2

Between the ages of 24-36 months, the professionals working with your child must give you a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

This is called the **progress check at age 2**.

This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and anywhere they might need some extra help or support - and how mums and dads and other family members or carers can work with the key person to help. You might find it useful to share the information from the check with other professionals such as health visitors (who can use it as part of the health and development review).

At Babraham Nursery we invite the parents of each child to have a meeting with their key person to discuss their child's progress/interests and patterns of play prior to completing this check. A letter is given to parents soon after their child turns two, upon moving to the Squirrels Den. Each parent is given a choice of three terms over a 12 month period for a meeting to be mutually arranged to discuss their child's learning and development. This meeting is used to help formulate the two year check progress report.

When your child is 5

At the end of the EYFS - in the summer term of the Reception year in school - teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time. When children leave Babraham Nursery each individual child's final report is sent to the school they will be attending (with the parent's permission). In addition some schools will visit the children in the setting, Babraham school links with the nursery and we regularly have planned visits to the school for children who will attend there to help with this transition.

The diagram below gives examples of the areas of learning and development and shows the links between the way in which your child learns and what they learn.

