

The 7 areas of learning and 3 characteristics

As named in the EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers, effective 1 September 2026.

PRIME AREAS

Particularly important for learning and forming relationships

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

SPECIFIC AREAS

Strengthen and develop the prime areas

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

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

How children learn

- Playing and exploring: children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’.
- Active learning: children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically: children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

WORTH KNOWING

Assessment, paragraphs 2.2 and 2.5

- Assessment should not involve long breaks from interaction with children or require excessive paperwork.
- There is no requirement to keep written records of day-to-day observation.