



Happy Days Childminding

The Early Years Foundation Stage:

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a regulatory framework for the provision of learning, development and care of children from birth to five years. One of the main conditions of Ofsted registration is that all childcare providers, including childminders, must practice this framework within their provision.

The framework consists of four 'principles':

- A unique child – Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Positive relationships – Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.
- Enabling Environments – The environment plays a key role in the supporting and extending children's development and learning.
- 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. (DfES, 2007)

Of these four themes, there are four principles under each theme which detail what the provision must adhere to work to the framework. These include:

A Unique Child:	Positive Relationships:	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.1 Child Development	2.1 Respecting Each Other	3.1 Observation, assessment and planning	4.1 Play and exploration
1.2 Inclusive Practice	2.2 Parents as Partners	3.2 Supporting every child	4.2 Active Learning
1.3 Keeping Safe	2.3 Supporting Learning	3.3. The learning environment	4.3 Creativity and critical thinking
1.4 Health and Well-being	2.4 Key Person	3.4 The wider context	4.4 Areas of Learning and development



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The EYFS framework concentrates on ensuring every child's care is at the centre of their learning and development rather than the latter being the core target within childcare practices.

Although, as parents, physically you will see much of the learning and development aspect of the EYFS within your child's care through the presentation of learning journeys, photos, paintings, drawings etc you can be assured that every aspect of the EYFS framework is being implemented every time your child is looked after by me.

For example:

A Unique Child:

- Every child is treated as an individual. Not every child is treated the same, their own individual needs are catered for within a secure and loving environment.
- They have their own boxes where they can keep their personal items.
- Their own bedding, flannels and hand towels are provided for them to promote healthy practices.
- Planning of activities and experiences is based around what they would like and enjoy as well as their age and stage of development ensuring they are kept safe in everything that they do, but encouraging them to challenge their own skill boundaries.
- Information is gathered on each individual child on initial contact through an all about me sheet and this is encouraged ongoing through the use of a travel book.
- Meals, snacks and drinks are bought and planned around individual children and actively promote their health and well-being.



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Positive Relationships

- Each child is respected and loved to create a secure relationship with them in which they can confidently feel safe and supported within different environments knowing that I am their key adult when their parents have left them in my care.
- Activities and experiences are planned to encourage children to work together, develop friendships and be respectful of each other, and I will support each child individually to enjoy and achieve within my care.
- My role as a childminder is viewed as a professional role in which professional boundaries are set with both children and parents. Particularly when it is most needed.
- Parents are seen as the children's first educator and carer and therefore the relationships development with parents is paramount to the high quality care that I aim to provide for all children. Tools such as the travel book, newsletters and learning journeys are used to communicate effectively between settings and home.
- One of the most important parts of my practice is that I try my hardest to cater for all children and this also means ensuring that their family's needs are also catered for. Including access to services and resources which is appropriate for the individual needs of the family.

Enabling Environments:

- While children are in my care I will plan activities and experiences for individual children and through this I will use my training and experience to observe and assess what is best for the child, thinking of the child as whole, so what they enjoy, are interested, can do and learn.
- I understand that the environment is not just about the resources we have inside and outside and how the children access these. Although this is an important part when ensuring that children can have fun and learn it is also important to ensure that the emotional i.e. atmosphere within my home is always positive and welcoming so that children are relaxed and feel secure while in my care.
- The environment also comprises of the wider community and children will have access to public amenities such as the park, library and children's centres where they may attend groups such as singing, music and dance etc.



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Learning and Development:

- Children are encouraged to play, explore, be creative and problem solve which in turn will encourage them to learn and development in a way which is fun and enjoyable.
- All children are encouraged to learn through active experiences rather than sitting down and being 'taught'.
- My key role in children's learning and development is to plan, prepare and provide. I am the observer who learns about each individual child and what is important to them as individuals as well as their learning and development. This means I become involved in their play only when prompted, while I am involved in activities we do only as a stimulator whom asks open ended questions, provide a wider range of resources when needed and extend upon what they have available to them.
- As an observer of children's learning and development I will record what I observe through written observations and photos and this will become the child's learning journey. The learning journey will be linked to the six areas of development:
 - Communication, language and literacy
 - Personal, social and emotional development
 - Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy
 - Knowledge and understanding of the world
 - Physical development
 - Creative development
- I understand that every child develops differently and at different rates and therefore any planning of activities and experiences will take this into account with differentiating resources and focuses so that all children can take part together.