



## Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

### What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a legal document that describes the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. At Westgate, we believe that your child's experience of these early years should be happy, active, fun, and secure, whilst also supporting their developmental, care, and learning needs. The EYFS offers a framework that ensures we are able to provide these experiences.

### What is the EYFS Framework? Why does Westgate have one?

The EYFS Framework exists to support both professionals working in the EYFS, such as our nursery nurses, *and* parents to help monitor the development of your child. The EYFS covers:

The **legal welfare requirements** that enable us to keep your child safe and promote their welfare at Westgate;

The **7 areas of learning and development** which guide our staff's engagement with your child's play to enable them to learn new skills and knowledge;

**Assessments** that inform you about your child's experiences as they progress through the EYFS, and;

**Expected levels** that your child should reach at the end of their EYFS journey (age 5).

### What does it mean for me as a parent?

**Ensuring safety** - One of our main concerns at Westgate is making sure that your child is as safe as possible. The EYFS contains a set of welfare standards that all our staff follow, including the numbers of staff required in each room (Ladybirds 1:3; Caterpillars 1:4; Butterflies 1:8), and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.

**Quality** - We pride ourselves on the high levels of quality care that your child receives at Westgate, and we are constantly striving to offer the best care

experiences possible. For more information about the quality of our care in relation to the EYFS Framework, have a look at what Ofsted has to say about us at: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/511540>

### How will my child be learning?

The EYFS framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development across 7 areas. At Westgate, we focus predominantly on the 3 prime areas in the Ladybirds and Caterpillars rooms, as these skills underpin future learning. These areas are:

**Communication and Language** - the ability to listen to others, focus attention and communicate needs.

**Physical Development** - the ability to move confidently, from climbing and running, to holding pens and manipulating playdough.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - the ability to make friends and believe in yourself.

We also introduce learning in the 4 specific areas: Literacy, Numeracy, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design; however assessment in these areas is limited until your child matures and joins the Butterflies Room (age 3).

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's experiences. At Westgate, we recognise that your child is unique; as such we aim to make all activities suitable to your child's specific interests and needs. Think of the EYFS like the National Curriculum in Primary and Secondary schools; but one that is suited to very young children!

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



## As a parent, how can I help with my child's learning?

All of the fun activities that you do with your child are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through life. If you make the time every day to do some of the following suggestions with your child, it will make a difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.

If you're looking for new ideas for things to do then have a look at the activities we offer at Westgate. Not only do we record your child's favourite activities on their day sheet, we also have plenty of resources that are available for the children to self-select. If in doubt, ask any member of staff for suggestions of fun, engaging activities too - they're our speciality!



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

At Westgate, we place a high value on our relationships with parents. We want you to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. For this reason Westgate offers each child a **key carer**; a staff member who:

Is your main point of contact at Westgate;

Develops a close relationship with your child to ensure that they are settled and happy;

Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning, and;

Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home.

At Westgate, we aim to share information about your child's development as often as possible. We encourage parents to share their child's **Learning Journey** - the document in which we detail your child's learning - at regular intervals; we also track progress each term. Additionally, we offer frequent informal updates about your child's progress, as well as a minimum of 2 formal written reports at both eighteen months and two-and-a-half years.

These written reports make up what is known as the Progress Check at Age 2, which highlights areas where your child is progressing well, and can also indicate any areas where they might need some additional support. In this case, your child's key carer will suggest how we can work with you to ensure that your child's needs are met.

If we have identified a need for your child, we will undertake an additional report at three-and-a-half years to ensure the need is monitored.

### How will the EYFS affect my child after Westgate?

There are no further formal reports at Westgate, however your child's experience of the EYFS will continue in their Reception year at Primary school. In the summer term of your child's first school year, teachers will complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This final EYFS report will be used to judge how your child is doing across the 7 areas of learning and development, and will inform the school of your child's strengths and any areas of need as they continue their learning journey into the Key Stage One curriculum.

### **Where can I go for further information?**

If you have any concerns or confusions about your child's learning at Westgate, please don't hesitate to ask us! Every member of staff is trained in using the EYFS and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

You can also visit [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk), where you can download and view the Early Years Foundation Stage for yourself.