HAPPY FEET
Nursery & Pre-School

Happy Feet Nursery – Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – Parent Guide

This guide explains how Happy Feet Nursery & Pre-School delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in line with the current statutory framework issued by the Department for Education.

What is EYFS?

The EYFS sets the standards that early years providers must meet to ensure children:

- learn and develop well
- are kept healthy and safe
- have the knowledge and skills they need to start school

Our approach follows the current EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers, effective from 1 September 2026.

The EYFS covers both learning and development and safeguarding and welfare. Happy Feet's supporting policies and procedures reflect these requirements, including current requirements relating to children's safety, health and wellbeing, safer sleep and appropriate screen use.

Our EYFS Principles

At Happy Feet Nursery & Pre-School we are guided by four key principles:

- Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning
- Children learn through positive relationships
- Children learn best in enabling environments
- Children develop and learn at different rates

Areas of Learning and Development

Children learn through seven areas of learning.

Prime Areas

These are particularly important for building the foundations of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development – helping children build confidence, relationships and emotional resilience
- Communication and Language – developing listening, understanding and speaking skills
- Physical Development – supporting movement, coordination and healthy choices

Specific Areas

These build on the prime areas:

- Literacy – early reading, phonics and writing
- Mathematics – numbers, patterns, shapes and problem-solving
- Understanding the World – people, communities and the environment
- Expressive Arts and Design – creativity, music, movement and imaginative play

Learning Through Play

Children learn through a balance of child-led and adult-guided experiences. Practitioners use their professional knowledge of each child to plan meaningful opportunities based on:

- what they notice about each child's learning and development
- children's interests and emerging needs
- age-appropriate development and the EYFS educational programmes

Assessment and Progress

We understand children's progress through ongoing observation, professional knowledge and assessment as part of everyday practice. Assessment is proportionate and supports children's learning without creating unnecessary paperwork.

This includes:

- practitioners noticing children's learning, interests and development
- progress information and summaries shared with parents and carers
- the statutory progress check between the ages of two and three, where applicable

Partnership with Parents

We recognise parents and carers as children's first and most important educators. We work closely with families by:

- sharing information about learning and progress
- encouraging appropriate learning links between nursery and home
- supporting transitions into nursery and on to school

Equality and Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity and inclusion for all children. Support is tailored to individual needs, including SEND, in partnership with parents and carers and, where appropriate, relevant professionals.

Safeguarding, Welfare and Healthy Development

Alongside learning and development, the EYFS sets statutory safeguarding and welfare requirements. Happy Feet implements these through our nursery policies, procedures and day-to-day practice. This includes safeguarding, attendance, staff suitability, first aid,

health and safety, food and allergies, safer sleep and appropriate use of screens and technology.

Screen use, where used with children, is limited, purposeful and linked to appropriate learning or individual needs. It does not replace play, physical activity or high-quality interaction with adults and other children.

Inspection and Oversight

Happy Feet Nursery & Pre-School is registered with Ofsted. Our EYFS provision is subject to Ofsted inspection, and we work with the relevant local authority in relation to early years requirements and support.