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## St Michaels Family Centre

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(Registered as a charity)

Saddlebow Road/Church Lane/Terrington St Clement  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk



# Parent's Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets out the learning and development stages for children as they grow from birth to five years. For those working in the early years the EYFS outlines what they need to do to support your child. It also sets out requirements as to how your child should be kept safe and cared for and how we can all make sure that your child achieves the most that they can in their earliest years of life.

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## Play and the EYFS

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

### Personal, social and emotional development

Making Relationships  
Sense of self  
Understanding emotions



### Communication and language

Listening and attention  
Understanding  
Speaking



### Physical development

Moving and handling  
Health and self-care

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

Reading  
Writing

### Mathematics

### Understanding the world

People and communities  
The world  
Technology

### Expressive arts and design

Creating with Materials  
Being imaginative and expressive



We use these 7 areas to plan your child's learning and activities. We make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. Like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, this framework is suitable for very young children and is designed to be flexible for your child's changing needs and interests.

### **Characteristics of Effective Learning**

The Characteristics of Effective Learning underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

#### **Playing and exploring – engagement**

Finding out and exploring

Playing with what they know

Being willing to 'have a go'

#### **Active learning – motivation**

Being involved and concentrating

Keeping trying

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

#### **Creating and thinking critically – thinking**

Having their own ideas

Making links

Choosing ways to do things



### **Two Year Check**

Shortly after your child turns 2, your keyworker will write a report about how your child is progressing within the prime areas, this will be discussed and shared with you.

This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and anywhere they might need extra help or support.

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).

### **Transition to School**

To support your child's transition to school the children's key-worker will write a report to show how your child is progressing across all the areas of learning. This will be shared with you and a copy will be sent to the school your child will be attending.

We also have visits from the Reception Class Teachers, share photo books and stories, information with the children.



### **Opportunities to share learning**

There are daily opportunities for your talk with your child's keyworker. We also have opportunities for you to come to parents meetings twice yearly. These are an opportunity for you to discuss your child's learning story (Tapestry) and your child's progress with their keyworker.

### **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 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 activities with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.

- Sing nursery rhymes, songs and share stories
- Talk about the numbers, colours and words and letters you see when you are out and about
- Cook/bake together
- Talk to your child at every opportunity e.g. about what your doing that day.
- Making comments about what your child is doing e.g. " you've got the red car"
- Use opportunities such as the weather to extend your child vocabulary e.g. talking about shadows , rain puddles, snow, wind, mist.

For other useful information go to the parent section on:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk>

