

Department  
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Policy paper

# Early years foundation stage

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## Early years foundation stage

The [early years foundation stage \(EYFS\)](#) sets the standards that all providers of education for children under 5 must meet. This includes all government-funded schools, independent schools and early years providers on the [Early Years Register](#).

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The EYFS aims to provide:

- quality and consistency across all early years providers
- a secure foundation for all children for good progress through school and life
- partnerships between different practitioners
- partnerships between parents or carers and practitioners
- equality of opportunity for all children

## EYFS profile

All early years providers must complete an [EYFS profile](#) for each child in the final term of the year in which they turn 5. For most children this is the reception year in primary school.

The EYFS profile allows providers to give an accurate assessment of individual children at the end of the EYFS. The profile describes each child's attainment against 17 early learning goals and gives a short narrative about their learning characteristics.

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