

THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (2017)

On 3 March 2017, the Department for Education published a revised [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#), which will come into force on 3 April 2017. This document sets out the key changes to the revised framework to support early years providers.

1. Summary pages of the EYFS:

- The summary section of the EYFS includes a new paragraph to clarify which provisions in the EYFS document are requirements (provisions indicated by the word “must”) and where providers must have regard to other provisions (provisions indicated by the word “should”).

2. Section 1 of the EYFS (learning and development):

- Footnote 5 (paragraph 1.1) has been amended to clarify the position for providers who exclusively offer ‘out of school hours’ care for children younger than those in the Reception class age range.
- Paragraph 1.5 includes a new footnote with a link to the Chief Medical Office guidance on physical activity.

3. Section 3 of the EYFS (safeguarding and welfare):

- Paragraph 3.7 (“child protection”) includes references to new and updated government advice and guidance (e.g. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, and the Prevent Duty Guidance 2015), which has been published since the EYFS was last updated in 2014.
- Paragraph 3.23 (“staff qualifications, training, support and skills”) includes a new footnote setting out the literacy and numeracy qualification requirements for level 3 early years educator (EYE) staff. As set out in the [government response to the L3 consultation](#), to count in the ratios at level 3, staff holding an EYE qualification must also have achieved a suitable level 2 qualification in English and maths.
- Paragraph 3.25 (“staff qualifications, training, support and skills”) includes a new Paediatric First Aid (PFA) requirement. As set out in the [government’s response to the PFA consultation](#), all newly qualified entrants to the early years workforce with full and relevant level 2 and/or level 3 qualifications must also have a PFA certificate before they can be included in the statutory staff:child ratios in early years settings. The full PFA and emergency PFA course content has been set out in Annex A of the EYFS.
- Paragraph 3.37 (“ratios”) includes a new footnote for schools that have provision run by the governing body (under section 27 of the Education Act 2002). This change was communicated to Ofsted and all local authorities in autumn 2015.
- Paragraph 3.42 (“childminders”) now includes a further example of when an exception to the usual ratios can be made (namely to maintain continuity of care).
- Paragraph 3.45 (“medicines”) has been amended to make it clearer that prescription medicines must not be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.
- Paragraphs 3.10, 3.41, 3.63 and 3.77 include minor amendments as a result of section 76 of the [Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015](#), which allows childminders and domestic childcare providers registered with Ofsted or a childminder agency to operate from suitable non-domestic premises for up to half their time (without registering separately). This measure came into effect on 1 January 2016.