

Reading in EYFS

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The aim of this document is to develop an understanding as to how the skills taught across EYFS feed into national curriculum subjects. This document demonstrates which statements from the 2020 Development Matters are prerequisite skills for reading within the national curriculum. The information below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS statutory framework and the Development Matters age ranges for Three and Four-Year-Olds and Reception to match the programme of study for reading. The most relevant statements for reading are taken from the following areas of learning:

- **Communication and Language**
- **Literacy**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**
- **Understanding the World**

Reading: Word Reading - Phonics and Decoding

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Literacy

Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can:

- spot and suggest rhymes
- count or clap syllables in words
- recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother.

Reception

Literacy

- Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them.
- Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of letter-sound correspondences.
- Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them.
- Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words.

ELG

Literacy - Word Reading

- Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.
- Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending.
- Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

Common Exception Words

Reception

Literacy

- Read a few common exception words matched to the school's phonic programme.

Fluency

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Understand the five key concepts about print:

- print has meaning

- print can have different purposes
- we can read English text from left to right and from top to bottom
- the names of different parts of a book
- page sequencing

Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can:

- spot and suggest rhymes
- count or clap syllables in words
- recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother

Reception

- Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of letter-sound correspondences.
- Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words.
- Re-read books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment.

ELG

Literacy - Reading

- Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

Comprehension - Understanding and Correcting Inaccuracies

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Communication and Language

- Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.
- Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"
- Be able to express a point of view and debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.
- Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.

Reception

Communication and Language

- Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding.
- Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words.
- Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound.
- Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

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Literacy - Comprehension

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
- Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.
- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.

Comparing, Contrasting and Commenting

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Communication and Language

- Be able to express a point of view and debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.

Reception

Understanding the World

- Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.

ELG

Communication and Language - Listening, Attention and Understanding

- Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.

Speaking

- Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

Words in Context and Authorial Choice

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Communication and Language

- Use a wider range of vocabulary.

Literacy

- Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.

Reception

Communication and Language

- Learn new vocabulary.
- Use new vocabulary throughout the day.
- Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words.
- Use new vocabulary in different contexts.
- Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

ELG

Communication and Language - Speaking

- Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

Literacy - Comprehension

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.

Inference and Prediction

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Communication and Language

- Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"

ELG

Communication and Language - Speaking

- Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

Literacy - Comprehension

- Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.

Poetry and Performance

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Communication and Language

- Sing a large repertoire of songs.
- Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar.
- Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses, etc.
- Remember and sing entire songs.
- Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').
- Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down and down and up) of familiar songs.
- Create their own songs, or improvise a song around one they know.

Reception

Communication and Language

- Engage in story times.
- Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words.
- Learn rhymes, poems and songs.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.
- Develop storylines in their pretend play.

ELG

Literacy - Comprehension

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.

Expressive Arts and Design - Creating with Materials

- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

Being Imaginative and Expressive

- Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with their peers and their teacher.

- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time to music.

Non-Fiction

Reception

Communication and Language

- Engage in non-fiction books.
- Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

ELG

Communication and Language - Speaking

- Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

Literacy - Comprehension

- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play