

Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs. Nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

What is the EYFS Framework – why do we have one?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents. In 2014 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.

How will my child be learning?

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. 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:

Communication and language

Physical development

Personal, social and emotional development.

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

Mathematics

Understanding the world

Expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

How can I find out how my child is getting on?

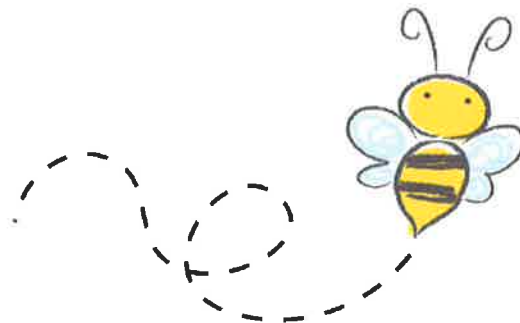
It is important that you and the professionals caring for your child work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will need to be with your child's "**key person**". This is the person who:

Is your main point of contact within the setting?

Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe

Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning.

Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home



Where can I go for further information?

You can find the Early Years Foundation Stage which includes the early learning goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

Developing early reading and writing skills in Nursery.

As you know, the ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience.

Speaking and listening are the foundations for reading and writing. Even everyday activities such as preparing meals, tidying up, putting shopping away and getting ready to go out offer you the chance to talk to your child, explaining what you are doing. Through these activities, children hear the way language is put together into sentences for a purpose.

Books are a rich source of new words for your child; words you would not use in everyday conversations appear in books. Children need to have a wide vocabulary to understand the meaning of books, so read aloud and share books as often as you can. They will enjoy it and it will be useful to them when they come across these words in their own reading later on.

Children develop understanding that spoken words are made up of different sounds (*phonemes*) and they learn to match these phonemes to letters (*graphemes*). Phonics is about children knowing how letters link to sounds (*graphemes to phonemes*), for example, **c** as in 'cat', **ll** as in 'fell', **ee** as in 'sheep'.

In Nursery your child will begin to develop these early skills using Phase One Letters and Sounds activities. These are arranged under the following seven aspects:

Aspect 1: General sound discrimination – environmental sounds

Aspect 2: General sound discrimination – instrumental sounds

Aspect 3: General sound discrimination – body percussion

Aspect 4: Rhythm and rhyme

Aspect 5: Alliteration

Aspect 6: Voice sounds

Aspect 7: Oral blending and segmenting



Ways you can support your children at home

Play **'What do we have in here?'** Put some toys or objects in a bag and pull one out at a time. Emphasise the first sound of the name of the toy or object by repeating it, for example, 'c c c c – car', 'b b b b – box', 'ch ch ch ch – chip'.

Say: 'A tall tin of tomatoes!' 'Tommy, the ticklish teddy!' 'A lovely little lemon!' This is called alliteration. Use names, for example, 'Gurpreet gets the giggles', 'Milo makes music', 'Naheema's nose'.

Teach them **'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers'**.

Learning how to 'sound-talk'

Separate the sounds (*phonemes*) all through the word and say them aloud, then merge them together into the whole word. The merging together is called *blending* and is a vital skill for reading. – c-a-t = cat

Children will also learn to do this the other way around – cat = c-a-t. The whole word is spoken aloud and then broken up into its sounds (*phonemes*) in order, all through the word. This is called *segmenting* and is a vital skill for spelling.

This is all oral (*spoken*). Your child will not be expected to match the letter to the sound at this stage. The emphasis is on helping children to hear the separate sounds in words and to create spoken sounds.



Ways you can support your children at home

Sound-talking

Find real objects around your home that have three phonemes (*sounds*) and practise 'sound talk'. First, just let them listen, then see if they will join in, for example, saying:

'I spy a p-e-g – peg.'

'I spy a c-u-p – cup.'

'Where's your other s-o-ck – sock?'

'Simon says – put your hands on your h-ea-d.'

'Simon says – touch your ch-i-n.'

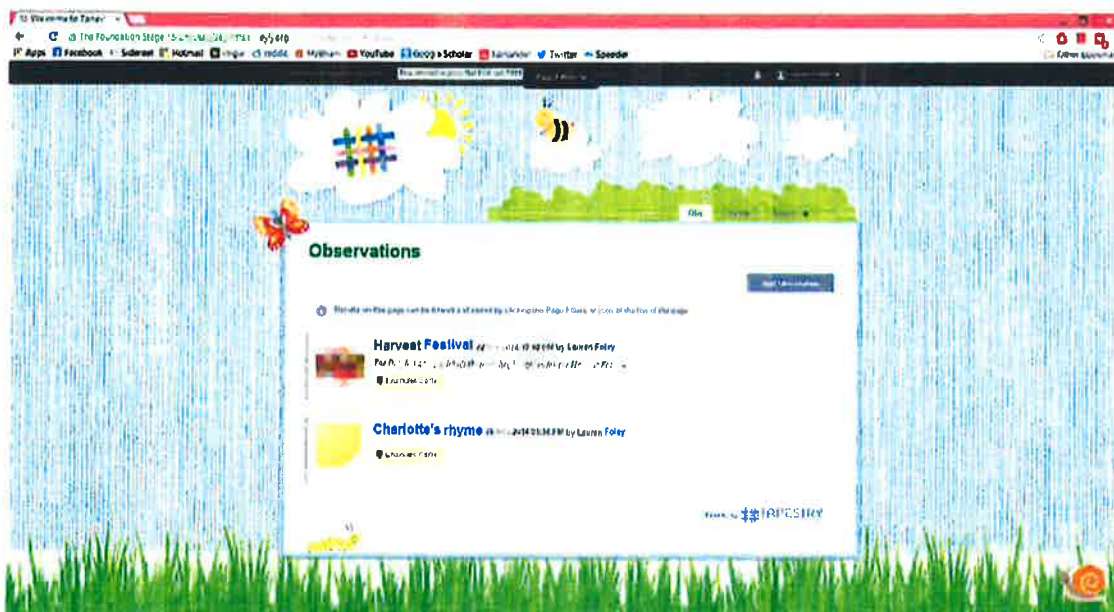
Hello! Welcome to Tapestry! This is a quick walk through guide to the browser version.

Okay so first of all; logging in. If you were sent an email activation by your child's Setting, you can just use that link to log in for the first time. However, for future times, or if you were assigned a password, you will need to go to this URL to log in: <https://eylj.org/login/>. Alternatively you can search for Tapestry through Google.

This is what the log in page will look like. For the purposes of this tutorial, I will be J Carter, relative of Charlotte Carter.



Once you have successfully logged in. You will be taken to the home page. Here you will be able to see your child's observations in chronological order. It is likely that the first time you log in there won't be very many, but this list will grow throughout your child's time at their Setting.

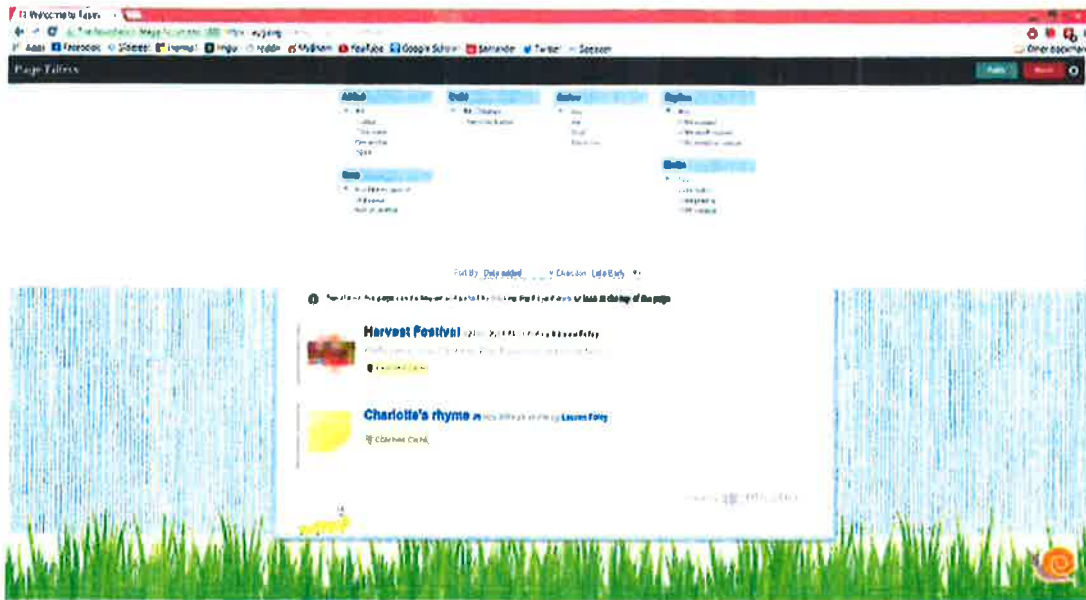


If you want to narrow down the sort of observations you are seeing, you can use the Page Filters.

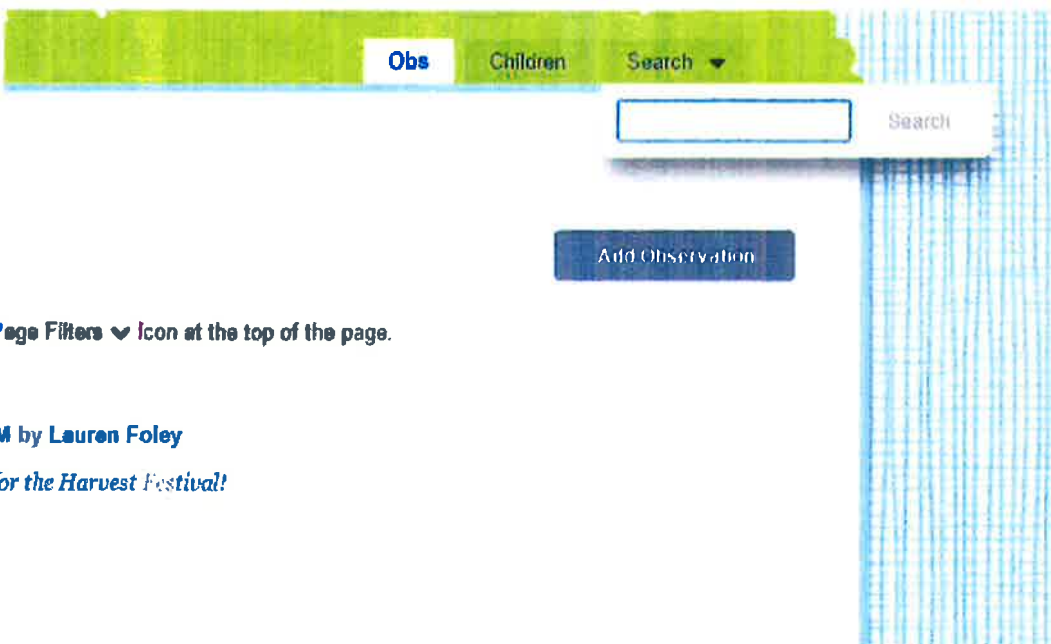
To get them to drop down, click on the black 'Page Filters' button at the top of the screen.



Once you click on it, it will expand to give you a variety of filter options (see below).



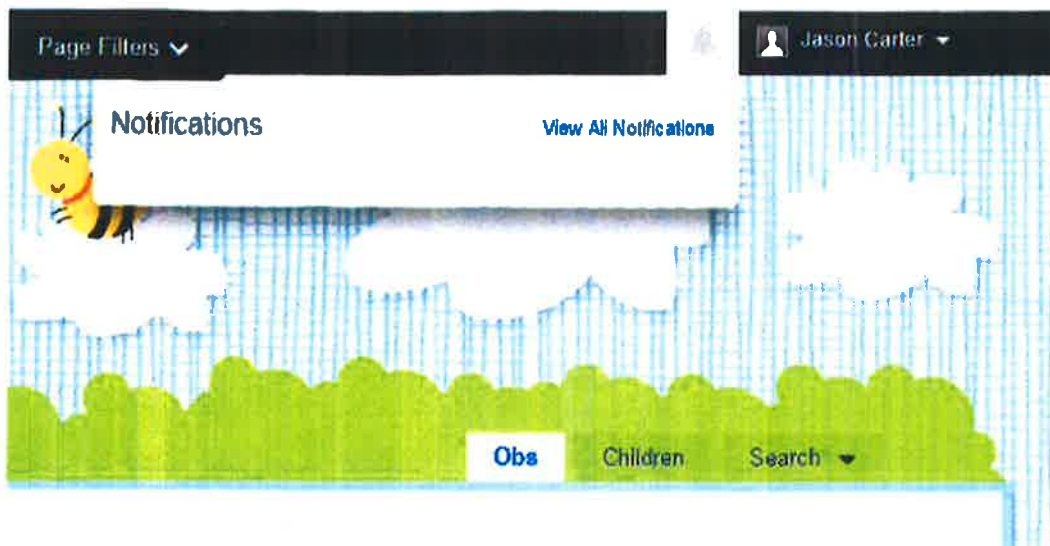
If there is a specific observation that you are looking for, you can search for a code word in the search bar.



'Page Filters' icon at the top of the page.

W by Lauren Foley
for the Harvest Festival!

At the top of the screen, next to the page filters, you will find your notification bell. If any observations/comments have been added since the last time you logged into Tapestry, they will show up there. You can see past notifications by clicking on 'View All Notifications'.



There will be times when you want to add observations to Tapestry. These can then be seen by your child's key person at their Setting and used to make assessments, or just as a contribution to the journal.

In order to add an observation, you first need to click on the blue 'Add Observation' button. This can be found on the home 'Obs' tab.

Once you have clicked on it, you will be taken to the page shown below. Here you will need to pick your child/children from the drop down list, add a title, and then you can add some notes and media.

Don't forget to press 'Save' at the end!



And that's everything! Hope you enjoy Tapestry!