

Introduction

Overview of Get Set Early Years

Get Set Early Years is a comprehensive and engaging scheme for use with children in their Reception year (aged 4 to 5). It links directly to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework (2017) with a particular focus on the specific areas of Understanding the world, Mathematics and Literacy. For each of these specific areas, there is a teacher's guide full of practical activity ideas that cover all the expected Early Learning Goals, and corresponding activity books for parents or carers to complete with their child at home.

The scheme aims to bridge the gap between play and formal learning, helping all children to be school-ready by the end of Reception. Play and exploration are crucial to learning and development for children at this age and are at the core of all EYFS practice. As children near the end of the EYFS, it is also important that there is a gradual shift towards more structured learning activities, group games, vocabulary building and fine motor activities that help them to prepare for the transition to Key Stage 1. The **Get Set** teacher's guides provide a wealth of exciting activity ideas and practical resources based around play, exploration and discussion that slowly build in more formal elements of learning.

Home–school links are integral to this scheme, encouraging a strong partnership between school staff and parents. The units in the teacher's guides correspond closely with the activity books, covering the same key curriculum areas. The activity books provide fun activities, vocabulary and tips, as well as facilitating communication between teachers and parents, and supporting parents to continue their children's learning at home.

EYFS framework

The EYFS framework sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. Although the EYFS framework is statutory only in England, many international schools choose to follow it as well because of the quality of its content.

Characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the EYFS

In any early years setting, practitioners should aim to foster the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning. These are:

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically.

These characteristics underpin learning and development across all areas of the EYFS curriculum. They are at the heart of **Get Set Early Years**, enabling every child using the scheme to be an engaged and motivated learner. The activities in the scheme create opportunities for children to explore their surroundings, to have a go, to persevere and succeed, to be inventive, and to become critical thinkers and problem-solvers.

Prime and specific areas of learning and development in the EYFS

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning that children are to explore during the EYFS. These are divided into prime and specific areas, all of which are important and interconnected. The tables on the following page show the structure of the EYFS curriculum.