

EYFS progress ranges explained

Children grow and learn in different ways and at different speeds. The “Development Matters” ranges help us to understand what children might be learning and demonstrating at different stages. This is a guide to support in understanding the levels reported within the report.

RANGE 1

Your child may:

- Begin to show awareness of others in their environment
- Use some sounds and gestures to communicate
- Start to recognise and respond to some familiar adults
- Explore using their senses (touching, mouthing, looking closely at objects)
- Show early level gross motor skills when moving around a familiar environment

How can you help at home:

- Talk, sing and respond to your child's sounds with enthusiasm and excitement
- Offer lots of opportunities for connection
- Provide safe objects to explore – they don't need to be expensive. House hold objections can be really interesting and engaging
- Play hide and seek games with favoured items. Play ready, steady, go games
- Copy your child's play behaviours.

RANGE 2

Your child may:

- Use single words or short phrases to communicate, including symbols and gesture
- Start to understand simple instructions and show their understanding through their response.
- Show their own choices (e.g. “I want that”)
- Enjoy playing with toys/ favoured objects and exploring them (in some cases for prolonged periods)
- Have strong feelings and may need help to co-regulate.

How you can help at home:

- Talk to your child during everyday activities- exposure to lots of language is important
- Use simple, clear language
- Give time for your child to respond
- Help name feelings (e.g. “You look sad”)
- Use routines to help feelings of predictability and security

RANGE 3

Your child may:

- Talk in longer sentences
- Begin to play alongside or with other children
- Enjoy pretend play (e.g. role play, small world)
- Follow simple routines with support
- Show growing independence e.g. collecting their own belongings, dressing into coats/ shoes, reduced support needed for toileting etc.

How you can help at home:

- Keep conversations simple and clear
- Use pictures, gestures, or visual supports if needed
- Encourage turn-taking through play – use the phrase my turn, your turn
- Praise effort, not just success – “Great try xxx, you were really determine to make xxx work”
- Keep routines consistent – supports predictability

Please note, your child may not fit exactly into one range and they maybe working above range 3. In this case, teachers will share information specifically about this level of working.

Working together

You know your child best. Sharing information with your child's class teacher helps them support your child in the best way possible.

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RANGE 4

Your child may:

- Use simple sentences and a growing vocabulary- they may start to experiment with new words they've heard.
- Show interest in books, songs, and rhymes.
- Begin to engage in imaginative and pretend play- with toys and household objects.
- Shows some physical skills such as running, climbing, and using simple tools.
- Show some understanding of routines and follow simple instructions.
- Show awareness of emotions and begin to express feelings.

How you can help at home:

- Talk regularly about everyday experiences and encourage conversation.
- Share books daily and sing nursery rhymes together.
- Provide opportunities for active play indoors and outdoors.
- Encourage independence with simple tasks such as tidying toys or dressing- high and consistent expectations
- Offer opportunities for pretend play using household items. Perhaps practice using different intonations etc.

RANGE 5

Your child may:

- Speak in longer sentences and can share ideas and experiences.
- Show enjoyment of stories and begin to recognise familiar print and symbols.
- Develop friendships and cooperate with others during play.
- Use mark-making and begins to show early writing skills.
- Demonstrate improved coordination, balance, and fine motor control across a range of activities
- Begin to solve simple problems and ask questions about how things work.

How you can help at home:

- Encourage conversations and ask open-ended questions.
- Read stories together and discuss characters and events – re-enact stories together. Leave pauses for familiar and repeated phrases in the book.
- Provide drawing, painting, and mark-making opportunities.
- Play games that involve taking turns and following rules.
- Explore numbers, shapes, and counting through everyday activities such as cooking and shopping.
- Encourage outdoor play to build physical confidence and coordination.

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