

Learning in EYFS: What DT Subject Leaders Need to Know

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven Areas of Learning rather than subject areas. This document aims to help subject leaders understand how the skills and knowledge developed across EYFS form the foundations of the national curriculum subjects.

It shows which statements from the non-statutory guidance, Development Matters, are prerequisites for DT within the national curriculum. EYFS settings may choose to use other guidance instead of Development Matters and may decide on different statements as the prerequisites. The table below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS statutory framework and from the Development Matters age ranges for three and four-year-olds and reception to match the programme of study for DT.

The most relevant statements for DT are taken from the following Areas of Learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design

DT		
Three and Four-Year-Olds	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen or one which is suggested to them.
	Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks. Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.
	Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore how things work.
	Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park. Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make. Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them. Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.

Reception	Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace. • Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. • Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.
	Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. • Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. • Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.

ELG	Physical Development	Fine Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.
	Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. • Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.