

Changes to the EYFS Framework September 2025

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework must be followed by all early years providers. The framework sets the standards that providers must meet. This ensures that all children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. These changes from September 2025 are to improve safeguarding in the EYFS.

There are seven main changes to be aware of:

To promote safer recruitment, providers must obtain references for prospective staff and there are rules about which references are acceptable. Providers are expected to supply references too. Safeguarding policies must include procedures to help ensure that only suitable individuals are recruited.

Providers must follow up on absences if a child is away for a prolonged period or without notification from parents/carers. There should be an attendance policy and, where possible, providers should ensure that they hold additional emergency contact details.

Details of children's food requirements, including allergies and intolerances, must be gathered and shared with all relevant staff. Children must be seated safely when eating within sight and hearing of an adult. At least one adult in the room must hold a PFA (paediatric first-aid) certificate. Where possible, staff should sit facing children to prevent incidents (including choking) and to be aware of unexpected allergic reactions. There must be ongoing discussion with parents/carers about weaning and food provided to match each child's developmental needs. Providers must also have regard for the government's 2025 EYFS nutrition guidance.

There are clear criteria for safeguarding training and a setting's safeguarding policies must record details of how safeguarding training is delivered. This will include how practitioners are supported to put the training into place.

Early years students and trainees must have paediatric first-aid (PFA) training for them to be included in ratios at the level below their level of study.

There is new support for whistleblowers who raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and providers must have a whistleblowing policy.

Children's privacy during nappy changing and toileting must be considered and balanced with considerations for safeguarding.

