



History Learning in the Early Years

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The aim of this document is to help practitioners to understand how the skills taught across EYFS feed into national curriculum subjects. This document demonstrates which statements from the 2020 Development Matters are prerequisite skills for history within the national curriculum. The table below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS statutory framework and the Development Matters age ranges for Three and Four-Year-Olds and Reception to match the programme of study for history.

The most relevant statements for history are taken from the following area of learning:

• Understanding of the World

History in the Early Years		
Three and Four Year Olds	Understanding of the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.
Reception	Understanding of the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comment on images of familiar situations in the past. ✓ Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.
ELG (Early Learning Goal)	Understanding of the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Talk about the lives of people around them and their roles in society. ✓ Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. ✓ Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.