Mathematics in EYFS

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 demonstrates which statements from the 2020 Development Matters are prerequisite skills for mathematics 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 mathematics.

The most relevant statements for mathematics are taken from the following areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Mathematics

Mathematical Vocabulary			
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Communication and Language		 Use a wider range of vocabulary. Understand 'why' questions, like: "why do you think the caterpillar is so fat?"
Reception	Communication and Language		Learn new vocabulary.Use new vocabulary throughout the day.
ELG	Communicati on and Language	Speaking	 Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.

Number and Place Value

Counting	Counting			
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics		 Recite numbers past 5. Say one number name for each item in order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle'). 	
Reception	Mathematics		Count objects, actions and sounds.Count beyond ten.	
ELG	Mathematics	Numerical Patterns	 Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. 	
Identifying, Rep	Identifying, Representing and Estimating Numbers			
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics		 Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising'). Show 'finger numbers' up to 5. Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5. Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. 	
Reception	Mathematics		 Subitise. Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value. 	

ELG	Mathematics	Number	• Subitise (recognising quantities without counting) up to 5.	
Reading and W	Reading and Writing Numbers			
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics		 Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5. Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. 	
Reception	Mathematics		 Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value. 	
Compare and	Order Numbers			
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics		 Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'. 	
Reception	Mathematics		Compare numbers.	
ELG	Mathematics	Numerical Patterns	 Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity. 	
Understanding Place Value				
Reception	Mathematics		 Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers. Explore the composition of numbers to 10. 	
ELG	Mathematics	Number	 Have a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of each number. 	
Solve Problems				
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics		 Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5. 	

Addition and Subtraction				
Mental Calcul	Mental Calculations			
Reception	Mathematics		 Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0-5 and some to 10. 	
ELG	Mathematics	Number	 Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. 	
Solve Problems				
ELG	Mathematics	Numerical Patterns	 Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed evenly. 	

Measurement		
Describe, Measure, Compare and Solve (All Strands)		
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics	 Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity.

Reception M	Mathematics	 Compare length, weight and capacity.
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Telling the Time		
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics	 Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words, such as 'first', 'then'

Properties of Shapes		
Recognise 2D	and 3D Shapes and their Properties	;
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics	 Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners', 'straight', 'flat', 'round'. Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for a building, a triangular pattern for a roof, etc. Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle, etc.
Reception	Mathematics	 Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills.
Compare and Classify Shapes		
Reception	Mathematics	 Compose and decompose shapes so that children can recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can.

Position and Direction			
Position, Direct	Position, Direction and Movement		
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics	 Understand position through words alone – for example, "The bag is under the table," – with no pointing. Describe a familiar route. Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'. 	
Reception	Understanding the World	Draw information from a simple map.	
Patterns	Patterns		
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics	 Talk about and identify the patterns around them. For example, stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs', etc. Extend and create ABAB patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf. Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern. 	
Reception	Mathematics	 Continue, copy and create repeating patterns. 	

Statistics		
Record, Present and Interpret Data		
Three and Four-Year- Olds	Mathematics	 Experiment with their own symbols and marks, as well as numerals.