

Good Level of Development (GLD)

A parent and carer guide to the end of Reception assessment

What is a Good Level of Development?

At the end of Reception, teachers complete the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile. Children are assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs). For each goal, the teacher decides whether the child is at the expected level or is still emerging.

A child has reached a Good Level of Development (GLD) when they are at the expected level in all 12 ELGs that make up the five GLD areas shown below.



The 5 areas that make up GLD

Communication & Language

Listening, attention and understanding • Speaking

Physical Development

Gross motor skills • Fine motor skills

Mathematics

Number • Numerical patterns

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Self-regulation • Managing self • Building relationships

Literacy

Comprehension • Word reading • Writing

Also assessed

Understanding the world and Expressive arts & design are also assessed as part of the full EYFS Profile, but they are not included in the GLD measure.

How is my child assessed?

There is no GLD test and children do not sit an exam. Teachers use their professional knowledge of what children know, understand and can do in everyday learning. Judgements are based on the Early Learning Goals and on learning that is secure and demonstrated across normal activities and routines.

Helping your child grow, learn and thrive

Easy ways to help at home

Talk & listen

Chat about the day. Ask open questions. Encourage your child to explain ideas, retell events and listen carefully when others speak.

Read every day

Share stories, rhymes and information books. Talk about characters and events. Practise sounds and blending in a relaxed way.

Build independence

Encourage dressing, using cutlery, tidying away, managing belongings and asking for help when needed.

Play with number

Count objects, spot numbers, compare amounts, make simple patterns and talk about more, fewer, altogether and how many are left.

Strengthen hands & bodies

Draw, colour, paint, cut, thread and build. Run, climb, balance, throw and catch to develop gross and fine motor control.

Play, imagine & explore

Make models, role-play, investigate outdoors, notice changes, create pictures and give your child time to follow ideas through.

What if my child is “emerging”?

Emerging simply means your child has not yet reached the expected level for that particular Early Learning Goal. It does not mean they have failed. Children develop at different rates, and school will use the information to plan the right support as they move into Year 1.

What about SEND or additional needs?

Children with SEND are assessed against the same Early Learning Goals. Teachers make sure children can show what they know using the adaptations and reasonable adjustments they normally use. A child may be expected in some goals and emerging in others.

When will I know the outcome?

The EYFS Profile is completed in the final term of Reception. School will provide you with your child's EYFS Profile results and give you an opportunity to discuss them with the teacher. The information is also shared with Year 1 to support a smooth transition.

The most important thing

GLD is a useful end-of-Reception measure, but it is not a label for your child. We value the whole child: their confidence, curiosity, relationships, communication, independence, creativity and enjoyment of learning.

Little learners make BIG progress! | Every Moment Matters

If you have any questions about your child's learning or development, please speak to their Reception teacher.