

# The Foundation Years: understanding the changes, being ready for September, building quality

*Ann Gross, Director, Foundation Years,  
Special Needs and Disability*



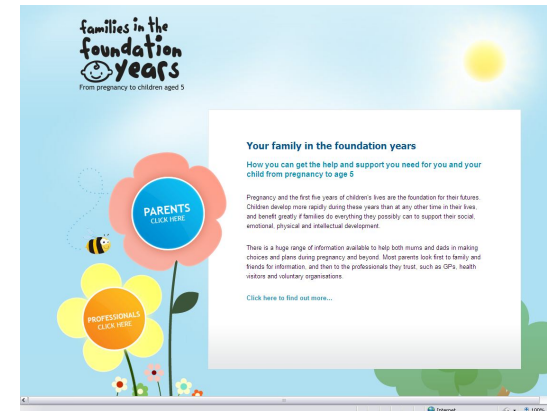


# Today's agenda...

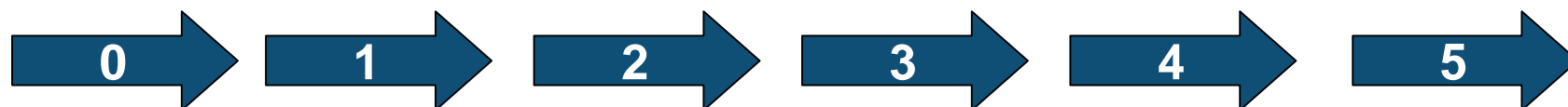
- Families in the Foundation Years
- Early Years Foundation Stage Reform
- Free entitlement
- Qualifications Review
- Next steps and challenges

## In July DfE and DH published:

- **Families in the Foundation Years – the Government's vision**
- **Supporting Families in the Foundation Years – about how commissioners and the workforce can deliver on the vision**
- **Evidence Pack**
- **A parent friendly website with resources and links on 4Children's companion website**  
[www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)



# The Government's Vision



Preparing for parenthood	Transition to parenthood	2 year olds	Free early education	Primary school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Midwives, GPs and health visitors</li> <li>▪Shared parenting</li> <li>▪Preparing for Birth and Beyond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪4200 extra health visitors</li> <li>▪High-quality delivery of Healthy Child Programme</li> <li>▪Family Nurse Partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪New 2 yr old entitlement to early education (2013)</li> <li>▪New requirement on providers to provide a summary of progress between 2 and 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Universal entitlement to 15 hours over 38 weeks</li> <li>▪New flexibilities from 2012</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Choice of school</li> <li>▪Reception classes will consolidate and extend children's learning before KS1.</li> </ul>
Sure Start and health services				



## The direction was set...

- Government approach based on:
  1. Ensuring a focus on **child development**;
  2. Recognising **parents and families** need to be at the heart of foundation years services;
  3. Promoting effective and evidence-based **early intervention**;
  4. Working to improve the **quality of the workforce**; and
  5. Establishing a **new relationship** between central government, commissioners and providers.
- Significant **further** progress has been made



# Delivering a new EYFS

- Dame Clare Tickell's review concluded:
  - EYFS has had a positive impact, supported increased professionalism and helped to raise standards.
  - It should be retained as a universal, integrated framework, to enable the sector to sustain its momentum in driving-up quality
  - But it needs to be simplified and made more accessible.
    - Reduce early learning goals from 69 to 17
    - Three prime areas of learning: personal social and emotional development; communication and language; and physical development
    - Four specific areas of learning, where the skills are applied: literacy, mathematics, expressive arts and design, and understanding the world
    - Reduce unnecessary bureaucracy - more time interacting with children



## Government response...

- Welcomed Dame Clare's recommendations, consultation during the summer attracted 2,300 responses and Government responded in December:
- Key issues:
  - School Readiness should be understood in a broad sense. It is all the things that children learn in the EYFS: listening, speaking and communicating, building relationships with other children and adults, play, good health and physical development are all key elements of school readiness.
  - Assessment at age 5 must be relevant to all children, including those with Special Educational Needs.
  - We remain convinced of the need for a slimmed down statutory framework. Additional information and guidance will be available to support practitioners. We are working closely with sector bodies to develop this.
- Further consultation on learning and development goals: we have looked again at literacy and maths.



## Free entitlement to early education

- Ongoing consultation on revised guidance on the free entitlement (and childcare for those aged over 5):
  - Streamlined statutory guidance – reduced from over 100 pages to 20
  - Greater flexibility in the free entitlement (7am to 7pm, rather than 8 am to 6pm and over a minimum of two days per week rather than three) – but not mandatory for providers;
  - A new basket of quality criteria to receive funding (at a minimum must be satisfactory if one or more other criteria are also met); and
  - No requirement for a three yearly sufficiency assessment: annual report to parents and elected Members in a format which meets local need.
- Consultation continues but will need to consult again on extended entitlement for two year olds.





## Extension of free entitlement for two year olds

- Already planning to improve access to early education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, narrowing the gaps in achievement so that 20% of two year olds would benefit:
  - Mirroring the free school meals criteria – a single, national measure of economic disadvantage;
  - Looked after children;
  - Option for local authorities to offer places to other groups
- Chancellor of Exchequer announced a further extension to cover around 260,000 children.
- Existing consultation stands but will consult again on this extended eligibility.



# Qualifications Review – Professor Cathy Nutbrown

- An independent review looking at how to :
  - Create a high-qualified, skilled, knowledgeable and professional workforce.
  - Ensure practitioners are child and family centred, as well as confident and ready to work with families.
  - Strengthen qualifications and career pathways for this workforce.
- Call for evidence published end of October, supported by consultation events around the country.
- The final report is expected to be published in summer 2012.



# Next steps and challenges

- Consultation on free entitlement closes 3 February.
- Aim to publish a revised EYFS later in the spring for implementation from autumn 2012.
- Aligning inspection regime with the EYFS – Ofsted consultation close 6 April.
- Qualifications review call for evidence closes 23 January.
- Further consultation on extended entitlement for two-year olds in due course.
- Delivery challenges ahead:
  - How do we build capacity for the extended free early education entitlement?
  - How can settings get ready for implementing the new EYFS this autumn?



**Thank you**

**Any questions?**

[www.education.gov.uk/familiesinthefoundationyears](http://www.education.gov.uk/familiesinthefoundationyears)