



English as an Additional Language

May 2025

English as an additional language (EAL) refers to learners whose first language is not English.

We recognise that some children that attend YMCA Childcare are learning English as an Additional Language.

(EAL).

- Some are bi-lingual from birth because their parents use both languages
- Some speak some English at times but are not fluent
- Some speak conversational English but are not able to express more complex thoughts
- Some are at a much earlier stage of learning English. Some EAL children may have been born in England, yet have had very little exposure to English.

At YMCA Childcare we celebrate the home languages, dialects and accents of all children, staff and others associated with our settings.

YMCA Childcare nurtures an ethos and environment where everybody is valued and where views are taken into consideration and no child is left behind. We strongly believe that every EAL child should be able to develop alongside their peers and develop the skills required to be ready for their transitions to school.

We recognise that most EAL children needing additional support do not have SEND needs. Similarly, we recognise that there may be EAL children who are more able or talented even though they may not be fluent in English.

At YMCA Childcare we recognise the important role of parents and we strive to maintain quality partnerships with parents and carers to ensure every possible support is provided. We are aware that children's first language is a base for any new languages they learn later. Children will learn English more easily if their first language is developing well and we communicate this clearly with parents.

As part of ongoing assessment processes the assessment of the English language is undertaken and appropriate next steps are planned in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage.





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This policy was reviewed on:	Reviewed by:	Date for next review:
08.05.2025	A.Spence	07.05.2026
Signed on behalf of YMCA Trinity Group:	K. Streater	

