



CAMBRIDGE

Introducing

# Cambridge Early Years

Cambridge  
Pathway 

# Ready for the world

We work with schools worldwide to build an education that shapes knowledge, understanding and skills. Together, we give learners the confidence they need to thrive and make a positive impact in a changing world.

As part of the University of Cambridge, we offer a globally trusted and flexible framework for education from age 3 to 19, informed by research, experience, and listening to educators like you.

With recognised qualifications, high-quality resources, comprehensive support and valuable insights, we help schools prepare every student for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Together, we help Cambridge learners be ready for the world.

# Introducing Cambridge Early Years

We are excited to introduce our programme for 3 to 6 year olds. Cambridge Early Years is the first stage in our Cambridge Pathway, which now gives students a clear path for educational success from age 3 to 19.



Cambridge Pathway

A clear path for educational success from age 3 to 19

## Cambridge Early Years

### Age 3+

A play-based programme, with:

- a holistic curriculum
- engaging resources
- support to measure progress

6 curriculum areas including Personal, social and emotional development

## Cambridge Primary

### Age 5+

- Clear, adaptable curriculum
- Flexible assessment options
- Support and resources
- Insight to understand potential

10+ subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Art & Design and Wellbeing

## Cambridge Lower Secondary

### Age 11+

- Clear, adaptable curriculum
- Flexible assessment options
- Support and resources
- Insight to predict performance

10+ subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Art & Design and Wellbeing

## Cambridge Upper Secondary

### Age 14+

- Broad, adaptable curriculum
- Fair, valid, reliable assessment
- Support and resources
- Insight to optimise achievement

Cambridge IGCSE™: 70+ subjects  
Cambridge O Level: 40+ subjects  
Cambridge ICE

## Cambridge Advanced

### Age 16+

- In-depth, adaptable curriculum
- Fair, valid, reliable assessment
- Support and resources
- Insight to predict performance

Cambridge International AS & A Level: 50+ subjects  
Cambridge AICE, Cambridge IPQ

Cambridge Professional Development for teachers and school leaders

Ready for the world



# Why choose Cambridge Early Years?

- ✓ It gives young learners the best start in life, helping them to meet key early milestones and thrive in and outside of school.
- ✓ It helps children develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need for the next stage in their education – whether they move on to Cambridge Primary or another programme.
- ✓ It offers everything you need for high-quality learning: a holistic, balanced curriculum, engaging classroom resources, professional development and assessment approaches to help you measure your learners' progress. We believe that Cambridge Early Years works best when you use all elements of the programme together.
- ✓ It is a child-centred, play-based programme that helps young learners to develop at their own pace. It encourages them to act independently, make their own choices and discover feelings of self-worth.
- ✓ It supports learners, whatever their level of English when they begin the programme. We provide guidance and support to help you offer a bilingual or multilingual approach if learners have a home language other than English.
- ✓ Our flexible approach allows you to decide what works best for your setting. You can tailor the programme to each child's needs, skills and interests.







# Our approach

We developed Cambridge Early Years in collaboration with trusted early years experts, so it reflects the very latest educational thinking. Our approach is built around these key principles:

## 1 Experience

Learning should complement the social and cultural factors (like experiences of home and community) that shape a child's learning and development.

## 2 Active

Children should be actively involved in their own learning, and helped to develop competence, responsibility, confidence and self-worth.

## 3 Balance

Learning should balance physical, cognitive, language and communication, and social and emotional development.



## 4 Play

Learning should be age appropriate, play based and child centred. It should include both child- and adult-led activities.

## 5 Transition

Early years education should help children transition successfully to primary school, moving from informal, play-based learning to teaching that is more formal.

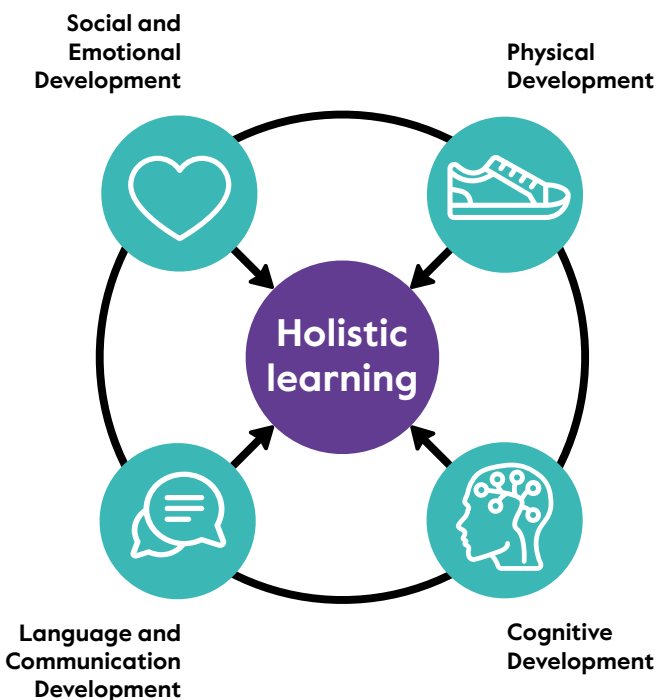
You can find out more about how we developed our approach, and the research behind it, on our website:

[www.cambridgeinternational.org/earlyyears](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/earlyyears)

# The Cambridge Early Years curriculum

## Our Cambridge Early Years curriculum:

- ✓ follows a holistic approach that focuses on the whole child and connects their development with the world and people around them
- ✓ develops knowledge, understanding and skills through a spiral approach, by revisiting and engaging with topics and skills in more depth at each stage
- ✓ helps learners to meet internationally established milestones for early development. Although children develop at different rates, the curriculum provides a structure for teaching and learning that will help you to monitor and support each child's progress
- ✓ supports a bilingual or multilingual approach for learners with a home language other than English, as well as those with different experiences of English
- ✓ prepares learners to easily transition into Cambridge Primary, or the next stage in their education
- ✓ is built around four key areas of early development:



## Curriculum areas

Our six curriculum areas help you to guide and support progress across all areas of development.

Each area is important, and they are all connected so teaching and learning should take place in a holistic way.



## Communication, language & literacy

Speaking, listening, reading and writing are crucial to children's early development. Showing children the importance of language through fun activities and encouraging them to engage with a wide range of texts helps to ignite a lifelong curiosity for learning.



## Creative expression

Creative expression allows children to communicate their ideas and develop their imagination through art and design, music, dance and drama. This important curriculum area brings together skills and cognitive processes from across the whole curriculum.



## Mathematics

At an early age, it is important to help children recognise how mathematics impacts everyday life. Through games and activities, we can introduce children to mathematical language, thinking and concepts that they will need when they start their primary education.



## Physical development

Our curriculum encourages children to develop movement skills through play, helping them to develop positive attitudes towards exercise and laying the foundations for healthy, active lives.



## Personal, social & emotional development

This area is central to children's lives. It underpins their wellbeing and attainment in all other areas of their learning. This area helps them to develop social learning and friendships, regulate their emotional responses and respond to the needs of others, and develop self-esteem and confidence.



## Understanding the world

Children's natural curiosity must be encouraged, so that they are equipped to reflect, question, explore and interact, and be guided in their understanding of the world. This area of the curriculum lays foundations for a range of different subjects in primary education and beyond, including science, digital literacy, computing and humanities.

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# Teaching support

We give you all the support and guidance you need to implement Cambridge Early Years in your setting.

## This includes:

- how to implement the curriculum
- helping your learners transition into early years education and on to primary
- the teaching and learning approaches that are part of Cambridge Early Years, including active learning, a play-based approach to learning and a multilingual approach
- short, medium and long-term planning for Cambridge Early Years, including example templates and planning
- creating a safe and inclusive learning environment
- carrying out evidence-based assessments
- supporting learners with English as an additional language in an early years setting.

## Find all your resources in one place with our secure online School Support Hub

Once you become a Cambridge Early Years Centre, you will have access to our password-protected School Support Hub. This is where you will be able to browse and download all the teaching and assessment resources we offer. We will provide more details once you have registered.



## Support for parents

We know how important it is for parents to be invested in their child's education, especially in the early years. Parents often have questions about what their children will be learning, and how they can contribute to their development at home.

We provide you with resources to help you explain the Cambridge Early Years programme to parents, including a factsheet, video and PowerPoint presentation.







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Cambridge Early Years

The **progression pathway is clear**, well organised and meets learners' needs.

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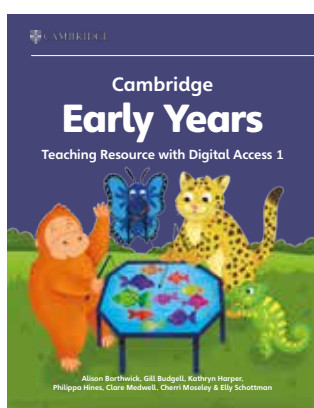
Practitioner



# Teaching and learning resources



Bringing together the best of play-based learning and observational assessment guidance, our resources support you and help young learners discover a curiosity for learning.



## Teaching resources

Feel supported in the early years classroom with accessible teaching resources. Features include:

- guided-play ideas, safety information, and advice on promoting child-initiated play that supports the curriculum learning statements
- fun activity ideas with a focus on practical exploration, and advice for guiding learning based on observations
- additional resources such as downloadable activity sheets and song lyrics, photocopiable puppet cards, stickers, projectable stories and more
- 'Listen and observe' assessment guidance to help monitor learners' development, address misconceptions and see where children need more support or challenge
- language guidance, including highlighted key vocabulary and flash cards, to support English as a second language learners
- 'Home-link' activities to share with parents for further learning outside the classroom

## Learner's books

Encourage young learners to explore, play, discover and develop with learner's books from Cambridge!



### Communication and Language

Support your learners on their first steps towards developing English language skills. Our story-led Communication and Language Learner's Books feature international fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as engaging activities that build important reading and writing skills.



### Mathematics

Numbers, shapes, fun! Our Mathematics Learner's Books help learners develop their mathematical abilities through play-based activities including counting and measuring.



### Let's Explore

It is time for an adventure! From 'Understanding the world', to physical, personal, social and emotional development, children learn through activities such as matching, drawing and more in our Let's Explore Learner's Books.



Find out more about our resources  
[cambridge.org/education/early-years](https://www.cambridge.org/education/early-years)

# Measuring progress – observational assessment in the classroom

Assessing young learners' progress against key milestones is a crucial part of early years education. It helps you to understand where your input has been most successful and effectively plan future learning. Our approach is based around continuous formative assessment, including observations of children in the learning environment and evidence gathered during learning.

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Cambridge Early Years includes tools and resources that help you to assess and evaluate each child's development against the learning statements within the Cambridge Early Years curriculum framework.

## Our assessment resources:

- give you guidance on the key principles of early years assessment – from observation of learning (when evidence is gathered), and evaluation (when evidence is analysed), to planning for next steps (when evidence is acted on)
- help you to make effective judgements about the development of your young learners
- explain how baseline assessments like Cambridge Early Years Check Together can complement your judgements within a three-stage assessment process.

If your centre registers to offer our programme, we will provide support and training to help you use our assessment resources with confidence.



School Leader

"I find the programme incredibly flexible and can adapt it to meet the learner needs and diversity in my class."





# Cambridge Early Years Check Together

As part of Cambridge Early Years, we recommend you use Check Together, a digital baseline assessment tool, alongside your ongoing observational assessment in the classroom.

## Why use Check Together?

Check Together objectively demonstrates each child's individual starting point of ability at the start of year two of Cambridge Early Years. This can help you to plan for each child and make your interactions with them more effective. Check Together allows each child to demonstrate abilities that may not be apparent through observational assessment alone.



Watch a demo of Check Together  
[https://bit.ly/check\\_together](https://bit.ly/check_together)

## How does it work?

### Check Together:

- is an engaging, story-based digital assessment that is completed one-to-one with each child. It usually takes about 20 minutes to complete
- uses adaptive functionality so that learners see a personalised set of questions that are suited to their ability without limiting their potential
- covers early literacy, early numeracy, and personal, social and emotional development
- is automatically marked online. Practitioners receive detailed feedback reports aligned to the Cambridge International curriculum about each child's ability at the start and end of the academic year. These reports can easily be shared with parents.

# Professional development

Good-quality professional development and reflective practice are a core part of Cambridge Early Years.

Our free **Getting to know Cambridge Early Years webinar** will give you a great overview of what is available in the programme and where to find further support.

Before starting to teach, we strongly recommend you attend our **Introduction training**, which will help you to understand and confidently teach Cambridge Early Years.

Once you have at least one year of experience with the programme, you can access other courses like '**Assessment for Learning in Early Years**' and '**Focus on creating an environment for child-led play**'. Our experienced trainers will share ideas, encourage you to reflect on your practice, and help you to develop practical strategies you can use with learners.

We also offer a Cambridge Professional Development Qualification (PDQ) in Early Years Good Practice at Certificate and Diploma level. The Cambridge PDQ is a practice-based qualification for early years practitioners. It focuses on creating confident, innovative and reflective practitioners through a collaborative programme run by other Cambridge Early Years centres.



View our professional development calendar  
[cambridgeinternational.org/early-years-training](https://cambridgeinternational.org/early-years-training)



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# Get started with Cambridge Early Years

We are here to support you at every stage of your journey. From the very start of the registration process, through to implementing and teaching the programme successfully, you can rely on us to provide all the resources, training and guidance you need.

## For centres that are new to Cambridge

If you would like to offer Cambridge Early Years, you need to follow four simple steps to register.



### Step 1: Express your interest

We will aim to contact you within two working days of submitting your expression of interest.



### Step 2: Complete our application form

We will aim to contact you within five working days of submitting your application form.



### Step 3: We carry out an approval visit

We will arrange a time that is convenient to you. The approval visit will usually be carried out by your local Cambridge representative.



### Step 4: Become a Cambridge Early Years Centre

If your approval visit is successful, we will send your contract letter within 30 working days.

Find out more about our registration process: [cambridgeinternational.org/join](https://cambridgeinternational.org/join)

## For centres that already work with us

If you are already registered to work with us, the process to begin offering Cambridge Early Years is even simpler.

You can speak to your local Cambridge representative or email [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) to express your interest.



## Getting started as a Cambridge Early Years Centre

When you have completed the registration process, you can use our Cambridge Early Years Centre logo to promote your relationship with us, and show that you are an approved provider.

You will also receive a Cambridge Early Years plaque, and all the information you need to get started.

## Fees

We charge each centre an annual registration fee. Some resources and training courses also carry a fee per learner. To find out more, speak to your local Cambridge team.

## Learn more

Getting in touch with us is easy.

**Email** [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org)

**Call** +44 1223 553554

**Visit** [cambridgeinternational.org/earlyyears](https://cambridgeinternational.org/earlyyears)  
or [cambridge.org/education/early-years](https://cambridge.org/education/early-years)

We are committed to making our documents accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.2 Standard. We're always looking to improve the accessibility of our documents.

If you find any problems or you think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact us at [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) with the subject heading: Digital accessibility.

If you need this document in a different format, contact us and supply your name, email address and requirements and we will respond within 15 working days.



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