

# Person specification checklist for an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) teacher.



## 1. Qualifications & Training

- **Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)** or recognised equivalent Early Years teacher qualification.
- Evidence of recent, relevant professional development related to EYFS.
- *Desirable:* Paediatric First Aid qualification (or willingness to train).
- *Desirable:* Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or advanced safeguarding training.

## 2. Experience

- Proven experience teaching within an EYFS setting (Nursery and/or Reception).
- Experience teaching children with diverse needs, including **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** and English as an Additional Language (EAL).
- Track record of planning and delivering a play-based curriculum that fosters curiosity.
- Experience in leading, managing, or collaborating closely with a team of Early Years practitioners/teaching assistants.
- Experience working in partnership with parents and carers to support child development.

## 3. Knowledge & Understanding

- Deep understanding of the seven areas of learning and development within the **EYFS Statutory Framework**.
- Strong working knowledge of the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**.
- Thorough understanding of early child development milestones (physical, cognitive, social, and emotional).
- Robust knowledge of **safeguarding and child protection** procedures within an early years context.
- Up-to-date knowledge of early literacy and numeracy strategies, including systematic synthetic phonics (e.g., Read Write Inc.)
- Clear understanding of how to use formative assessment ("planning in the moment" and observation) to track progress without disrupting play.

#### **4. Skills & Abilities**

- Ability to create a stimulating, safe, and highly enabling indoor and outdoor learning environment.
- Excellent communication skills, with the ability to adjust tone and language to connect genuinely with very young children.
- Strong behavior management skills rooted in positive reinforcement, co-regulation, and emotional literacy.
- Ability to analyse data and child observations to identify gaps in learning and implement effective interventions.
- Competency in using early years tracking software / digital learning journeys (e.g., Tapestry, Seesaw) to document learning.

#### **5. Personal Attributes & Values**

- High levels of energy, enthusiasm, and a genuine passion for early childhood education.
- Resilient, patient, and adaptable—able to maintain a calm demeanor in a fast-paced, unpredictable environment.
- Warm, approachable, and empathetic nature that builds instant trust with families.
- Commitment to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion within the classroom.
- A reflective practitioner who actively seeks feedback and is eager to continuously improve.