

Flying Start





Flying Start is an initiative to create positive outcomes for children and reduce the gap between poverty and attainment.

A child can start attending Flying Start Nursery from the age of three but in terms of development can be a few years behind, to try and tackle this Flying Start has been put in place.

How children learn physiological and psychological development in flying start?

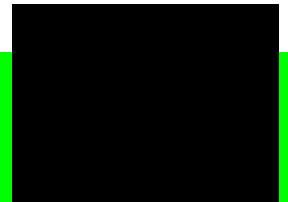
There are 7 core aims in which helps children grow in a physiological and psychological way. Firstly, providing young children and families with quality opportunities to play supports the development of positive early attachments. Play enables physical, emotional and mental development and the learning of skills that contribute to children's healthy development. It also supports the development of good parenting skills.

Secondly, having access to a comprehensive range of education, training and learning opportunities, including acquisition of essential personal and social skills.

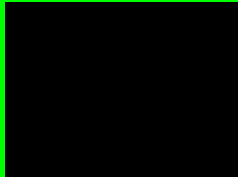
Thirdly, enjoying the best possible physical and mental, social and emotional health, including freedom from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.

Next, having access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities to let children learn and explore in their own terms.

Furthermore, children in flying start are listened to and treated with respect, and are able to have their race and cultural identity recognised.



Flying starts in Wales are staffed with professionals to create a safe home and a community that supports physical and emotional well being.
And finally, Flying Start is free with open access to make sure no child is disadvantaged by child poverty.



Key challenges and milestones in flying start?

A key challenge to children who attend a Flying Start Nursery is to make sure children who attend stay on the same level as children who aren't living in deprived area and have access to many more tools to broaden their education.

The milestones flying start tries to achieve are that all children in Wales in all areas are healthy and thriving, that all families are capable and coping and that all children who attend a Flying Start Nursery are capable and coping.

Flying Start staff approach all challenges by a disciplinary team approach, which identifies all of the needs of the child and families which provides prudent and proportionate interventions. Although there are challenges, the focus of Flying Start is upon the early identification of any needs and the timely application of interventions.



Policies and legislations in flying start?

The policies in Flying Start Nurseries in Wales include providing protection for the children and young people who are at Flying Start Nursery alongside providing staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adapt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing or at risk of harm.

The policy includes every person who is present in a Flying Start, even including senior managers. The policies and legislations are reviewed annually to stay committed to having good practice.

You can read more into detail about all the policies and legislations by reading the Flying Start Nurseries policy document which i have linked here:

<https://flying-start-nurseries.co.uk/fsn-policy-document.pdf>



How do children learn in flying start?

Children learn at Flying Start by learning six main components. These are:

Moral development

Social development

Emotional development

Language development

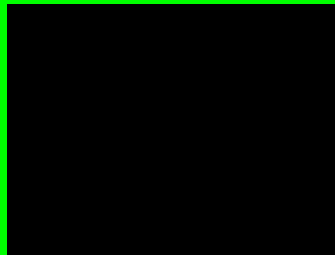
Physical development

And finally, cognitive development



It is important children learn all of these components whilst at Flying Start to make sure they have the best most fair start at life and are given the right tools to learn all these and not fall behind from children who are born into more privileged life and have access to all the tools they need to learn all this at home themselves.

A helpful video to help you learn all about flying start:



What is flying start?

Flying Start is a government funded initiative to provide a free childcare service which includes free health care service which includes free health care visits for children between two and three years old, parenting programmes and early language development. All this is provided to young families to reduce the gap between poverty and attainment and keep their schooling age consistent to their chronological age.



In Swansea, flying starts choose which children can attend by where they live, although this is trying to be changed as flying starts are trying to be set up in all primary schools to achieve an effective transition into primary school



Meaning of Poverty

In the dictionary, 'Poverty' is defined as 'the state of being extremely poor'. To measure how 'poor' somebody is an international poverty line has been put in place. The poverty line is used globally to measure and indicate someone's income required to provide essential resources for survival.



Children in deprived areas are offered the following

- Free 'quality' part time childcare: for all eligible 2 to 3 year olds for 2.5 hours a day, 5 days a week for 39 weeks. This should also include at least 15 sessions of childcare provision for families during school holidays.
- Enhanced health visiting: with caseloads of 1 health visitor per 110 children in flying start areas, this is a significantly reduced caseload compared with the generic service
- Parenting support programme: to be decided based on local needs and which have been judged to generate positive outcomes for children.
- Speech, language and communication provision: each eligible family should have access to a 'language and play group'. Where needed, more specialist support should be offered.

How does Poverty link with Flying Start?

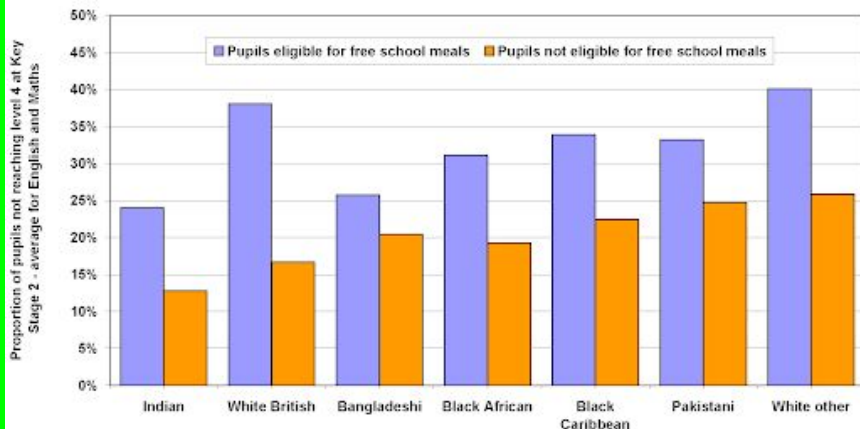
Flying start has many elements to it which is said to reduce the number children who are brought up in a deprived area leaving school without any qualifications. Whilst doing this Flying start has spent £600 million on childcare and other support for families. The support includes 4 elements which are completely free children for children aged from 2 years old, an enhanced health visitor and health care, support for parents including parenting classes and early language development support.



Meaning of attainment

In education, attainment is a term commonly used by statisticians to refer to the highest degree of education an individual has completed as defined by the US Census Bureau Glossary

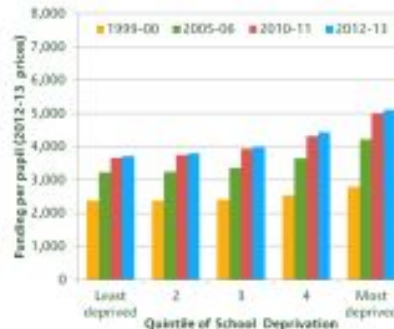
Differences in achievement between 11-year old pupils by eligibility for school meals are greatest (by far) amongst White British pupils



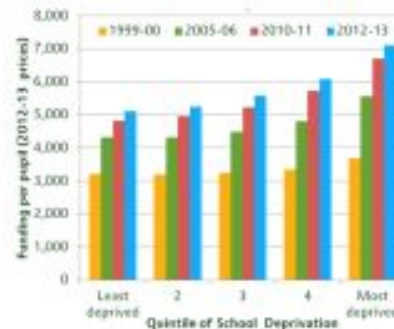
Source: National Pupil Database, DfE; the data is for 2010; England; updated Feb 2011

Increases in funding to schools serving more disadvantaged communities

Primary schools



Secondary schools



Solanta, L. (2015) The distribution of school funding and inputs in England: 1998-2011, IFS Working Paper W15/23.

How does attainment link with flying start?

Flying start helps transition children into full time education. They do this by gradually setting children up with the knowledge and skills to start full time schooling happily.



Background of Flying Start..

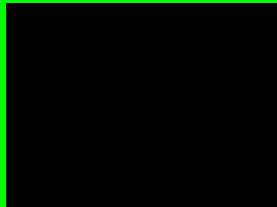
Flying start was established in Wales on a flagship programme in 2007 by the Welsh Government but is delivered to the communities by local authorities, but only in particular areas which were determined by income. Usually, the more deprived areas were the only ones with access to a Flying Start Nursery.

In recent years, the fairness of where you live determining if you have access to a flying start has been questioned so a 'Flying Start Outreach' was introduced in 2014 so a postcode wasn't seen as a 'ticket in'. It was also argued that it was stopping some children who needed it most having access to it.



Target group

The Welsh Government set up Flying Start within disadvantaged areas in mind. The areas which have access to Flying Start are disadvantaged and deprived. Families in these areas also receive free school meals and most, if not, all houses in these areas receive benefits. Although, when they first set up the initiative it was only initially targeted on catchment areas of schools in deprived areas.



How does implementation of Flying Start aim to reduce the gap between poverty and attainment?

Flying start aims to reduce the gap between attainment and poverty by giving disadvantaged children the facilities to learn like the rest of us. Children in deprived areas are not less able, but have less tools to help them progress in school, so flying start provides the tools for them to progress at the same speed.



Hardyman, S (2011) Why we exist. Journal [online]. Volume 2. P.3. available at: <https://actiontutoring.org.uk/why-we-exist/> [accessed 17th Feb 2020]

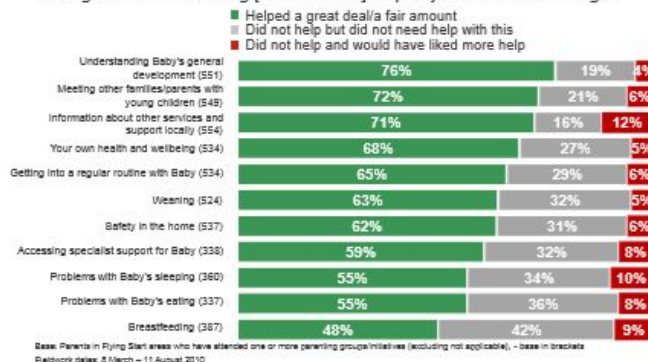
Is the initiative successful?

Looking at results taken from a government test, it shows that Flying start is a very successful initiative, but needs extra funding to help with children who have special needs and also children who need to facilities but are not within the catchment area.



Figure 1: Users' self-report of the helpfulness of health visitor, health visiting team and other parenting initiatives in 11 key areas

Q. And, to what extent, if at all, has contact with the health visitor and health visiting team and attending [insert course] helped you with the following ...



Parenting courses and LAP

- 1.26. **Most of the parents who have used Flying Start parenting courses and LAP programmes are positive about them, and many report positive impacts for them and their children.**
- 1.27. Among the nine per cent of parents who had used parenting courses, most say the course(s) has helped them a great deal or fair amount with their confidence as a parent (83 per cent), their ability to understand their child (80 per cent) and their relationship with their child (79 per cent), as shown in the table below. Furthermore, around two in five parents (42 per cent) say they have seen a change in the behaviour of their child since attending the course.
- 1.28. Likewise, among the 12 per cent of parents who have used LAP around half of parents say as a result of attending LAP their baby shows more interest in

Could the initiative be improved?

Flying start only allowing children in certain areas access to its facilities is a policy, that also in my opinion, needs to be reviewed. The authorities have more of a responsibility to identify the children who would benefit from access of a flying start compared to the income or geographical area of a parent.



As a result of the way children are allowed access to a Flying Start was reviewed, it has been amended and now local authorities can offer a space to a small percent of the population who needs it outside of the geographical area.



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Welsh Government Flying Start Health Programme Guidance Available: www.gov.wales/flying-start-health-programme-guidance.com accessed: 1/7/20

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