

Early Years – Regulation and Inspection during national/local restrictions



Early years inspection plan



The plan includes:

- interim visits
- Childcare Register inspections
- an early years research survey.

The background to our Restart work

The statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (EYFS) disapplications and modifications is in place until 25 September 2020, after which:

- providers must meet the learning and development requirements in full; there is a transitional period for other requirements
- until inspections under the education inspection framework (EIF) resume, Ofsted will use its regulatory powers to carry out interim visits
- we will also be carrying out other early years and childcare-focused work.

Regulatory work has continued while routine inspections are suspended, including monitoring providers that received an inadequate (with enforcement) grade at their last inspection.

We have also continued our registration of vital early years services.



Providers who will receive an interim visit

We will visit providers where:

- overall effectiveness is 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate (with actions)'
- the judgement carried out under Annex A was not met with actions.

Visits will:

- **focus** on whether providers have met their safeguarding and welfare actions
- **provide assurance** that childcare providers are now meeting these requirements.

The re-inspection date may have passed due to COVID-19 or the re-inspection may be due before routine inspections are due to restart.

Ofsted intends to resume routine EIF inspection activity in January 2021 but will keep the exact timing under review.





Interim visit arrangements

Learning and development

We **will not** be checking whether a provider has met any learning and development requirement actions set at the last inspection.

Allowing time

We want to allow providers time to get back to normal following the period of uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

Principles for inspection

When we return to inspection activity, we will begin by inspecting those providers that were judged as inadequate and requires improvement.

Further information on interim visits

- These visits **will not** result in a judgement.
- We **will publish** a short outcome summary to confirm what was found during the visit.
- This **will appear** on the provider page of the website. It will:
 - outline the actions a provider has taken to meet the requirements
 - any other actions we or the provider may need to take.



The focus of interim visits

The main questions that the inspector must consider are:



- What has the provider done to tackle the actions set and how has it improved the care of children?
- Is it apparent that the provider has let other aspects slip and there is now cause for concern in different areas and subsequent breaches to the statutory requirements?

To answer this, the inspector will consider:

- the impact on children
- the safety of children
- whether children's needs are being met.

Early years – Childcare Register inspections

- The Secretary of State has asked for inspections of providers to resume.
- Inspections check that the provider is complying with the requirements of registration and the ongoing requirements.
- 10% of providers are inspected every year on a proportionate and risk basis.
- There is no report. Providers receive a letter, published on the Ofsted website for 12 months, informing them whether the provision meets requirements.
- If a provider is not complying with the requirements of the register, we can take steps to ensure that it complies by either:
 - issuing a notice to improve
 - taking enforcement measures.



Early years – telephone research survey

Understand

what the impact of the pandemic has been on children and early years providers.

Learn

about any adjustments that have been made to support children during the pandemic.

Broad overview

of the early years sector at this time.

Looking at:

- well-being and safety
- changes to the curriculum
- plans for the future.

Early years regulation plan



The plan includes:

- Continuing to regulate by responding to concerns and notifications
- Prioritise emergency registration
- Support providers



Interim visit arrangements Ofsted

Responding to concerns

Throughout the national lockdown nurseries provided essential childcare – on occasions Ofsted had to ensure children remained safe.

Covid-19 notifications

EY providers are required to notify Ofsted when a child or staff member has tested positive for Covid-19. Ofsted share numbers with the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) to help the national track, trace and isolate effort.

Emergency Registrations

The economic impact of the pandemic has seen some providers close their doors permanently. If Local Authorities identify a sufficiency issue in their local areas they are invited to work with Ofsted to fast-track registrations.

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