**Early Years Inspection Arrangements**

On the 12th November 2020 Ofsted announced that they will be implementing a new approach to inspecting early year’s providers. The new approach will give good and outstanding providers more consistency, while prioritising providers rated less than good. Under the new arrangements, all early years providers will be inspected in a 6-year window from the date of their last inspection.

Some arrangements will not change: Ofsted will still aim to inspect all new childcare providers within 30 months of registration where possible, childcare providers judged to require improvement will be inspected within a year and inadequate childcare provision will be inspected within 6 months. If there are concerns about any childcare provider, Ofsted can use its regulatory powers between inspections, and bring forward an inspection following a risk assessment.

The press release is available to view at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-announces-new-early-years-inspection-arrangements>

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic Ofsted implemented rolling update for schools, early year’s providers, children's social care and further education and skills providers. Within the rolling updates Ofsted announced they are planning to return to full graded inspections as soon as they can in the summer term. The rolling update is accessible [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update)

The early year’s team analyse Ofsted reports in order to identify any trends occurring during inspections. These trends can be viewed at [https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/quality-improvement/ofsted-raising-standards-improving-lives/ofsted-inspection-trends](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/quality-improvement/ofsted-raising-standards-improving-lives/ofsted-inspection-trends/)

**The Education Inspection Framework**

The Education Inspection Framework sets out how Ofsted will inspect registered early years settings in England. Alongside this the Education Inspection Handbook sets out the main activities that inspectors will undertake when conducting an inspection and the guidance the inspectors will use to reach their judgment.You may find it useful to revisit these documents in order to be prepare for your next inspection.

[**EDUCATION INSPECTION FRAMEWORK**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework)

[**Early years inspection handbook - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-inspection-handbook-eif)

**EYFS**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years’ providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children’s ‘school readiness’ and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. You may find it useful to view the [school readiness](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418819/Are_you_ready_Good_practice_in_school_readiness.pdf) report findings.

Early years providers should ensure they are working in partnership with parents to fulfill the learning and development requirements and ensure they are taking all the necessary steps to ensure children are kept safe and well within the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

[Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2)

The [Early Year’s Website](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/quality-improvement/) contains a range of quality improvement tools for you to access including:

* [Teaching and Learning](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/quality-improvement/teaching-and-learning-audit)
* [Safeguarding & Welfare Requirements Tool Kit](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/quality-improvement/pre-ofsted-inspection-support-and-safeguarding-welfare-requirements-tool-kit/)

The Early Year’s team can also provide support using the [Environmental Audit](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/quality-improvement/environmental-audits/) tools, please contact the team to discuss this.

**EYFS Reforms**

Following consultation on the current EYFS was reformed, these changes came into effect in September 2021. The key changes of the EYFS framework are to improve the outcomes for children at age 5 particularly in early language and literacy, and to reduce workload so that teaching staff can spend more time interacting with children in their care. The new framework does not prescribe a particular teaching approach, practitioners will need to decide what they want children to learn and the most effective ways to teach it. Further information on the reforms and what these changes mean for you as early years providers can be found on the [Early Years Website](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/early-years/eyfs/preparing-for-the-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-reforms).

**Training and CPD**

The EYFS framework states: *Providers must support staff to undertake appropriate training and professional development opportunities to ensure they offer quality learning and development experiences for children that continually improves”.*

You may find it beneficial to review your staff training records to ensure they are up to date and provide an overview of the CPD opportunities staff have accessed. The inspector may request access to documentation that is linked to your workforce during the inspection. The inspector will also gather evidence through observations and discussions to assess how training has impacted on practice and how it continues to improve experiences for the children and families that access your provision. Visit the [Early Years CPD](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/cpd-training/new-online-training-and-live-networks-202021-for-pvi-sector/) training page for all of your training needs.

**Safeguarding**

During an inspection, inspectors will evaluate how well early years settings fulfil their statutory duties in relation to safeguarding, including children’s well-being and health safety. Managers should ensure all written records are clear and up to date as well as the settings policies and procedures and risk assessment. These must be shared with both staff and parents regularly. You may find the following publications useful:

[Working together to safeguard children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2)

[Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/safeguarding/nottingham-city-safeguarding-children-partnership/)

[Information Sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf)

All staff should be aware of how to raise concerns around safeguarding and where to access support.

To make a safeguarding referral or a request for services to Nottingham City Council Children's Services contact MASH: 0115 876 4800 or e-mail: [cityMASH@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:cityMASH@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Further Information about the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub can be found at [Multi Agency Safeguarding Children Hub (MASH) - Nottingham City Council](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/children-and-families/multi-agency-safeguarding-children-hub-mash/)

Staff should also have a secure understanding of any issues that are specific to a local area or population including:

**Prevent Duty Guidance and training**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

<http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

**Female Genital Mutilation**

<http://forwarduk.org.uk/key-issues/fgm/>

<https://fgmelearning.vc-enable.co.uk/Register/>

<https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/recognising-and-preventing-fgm>

The [Early Year’s Website](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/safeguarding/) also contains lots of useful information to support practitioners safeguarding knowledge

**SEND**

Providers must have arrangements in place to support children with Special Educations Needs or disabilities (SEND). The EYFS framework states ‘Maintained schools, maintained nursery schools and all providers who are funded by the local authority to deliver early education places must have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice’. All settings must also have a named SENCO in place. Inspectors will judge the quality of education on offer to all children, particularly the most disadvantaged and those with SEND. You may find it useful to visit the [Equality and Inclusion section](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/equality-and-inclusion/) of the Early Years Website.

**Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)**

EYPP was introduced to help close the attainment gap between the most and least advantaged children and ensure that all children receive the nest start in life. During inspection inspectors will monitor the impact of this funding. Further reading including some frequently asked questions in regard to EYPP can be found at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/funding/early-years-pupil-premium/>