

Future of inspection and regulation

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Setting the scene

The Government has recently published its vision for early years including consulting on a revised Early Years Foundation Stage

In the current context of sharp spending cuts it is important that Ofsted, alongside others working with and in the sector, uses knowledge of the sector to identify priorities and efficiencies

We must use what we know to bring about improvement for young children.



Ofsted's role

- To inspect settings that deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage
- To inspect children's centres
- To register early years and childcare providers on the Early Years Register and/or Childcare Register
- To investigate where we receive information that registered providers do not meet the requirements
- To take action against those registered providers who do not meet requirements



The case for change

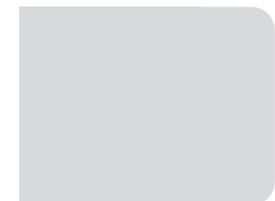


- Frameworks that align with our knowledge of the sector, the revised EYFS and government vision
- Frameworks that focus on messages from the three key reviews that shaped the government's vision including how providers:
 - equip all children for life and especially those who are deprived or otherwise disadvantaged
 - assess children's development and work with parents to secure appropriate early intervention
 - keep children safe
 - secure a well-trained workforce able to meet children's and their families' needs



The timetable for change – registered early years provision

- Consultation on the changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage closes 30 September 2011
- Consultation on revised frameworks for inspection and regulation between January and March 2012
- Piloting of new arrangements February to April 2012
- Revised Early Years Foundation Stage published end March 2012
- Frameworks published and disseminated June and July 2012
- Early Years Foundation Stage and revised frameworks take effect September 2012



Direction of travel for early years

Maintaining a robust approach to safeguarding through a registration process that includes checks, premises visits and interviews and a follow up inspection very soon after registration

An inspection regime that targets and improves weaker settings, including more frequent inspection where we receive information about potential non-compliance with the Early Years Foundation Stage

More self-regulation for providers to help them be flexible and responsive on the way they run their provision, for example through limiting the way we use of conditions of registration

Providing more information for parents through accessible reports

Expecting providers to reflect on and evaluate what they do to improve practice



Timetable for change – children's centres

- Government consultation on core purpose ended August 2011
- Revisions to current inspection framework September 2011
- New children's centre statutory guidance April 2012
- Payment by results trial ends 2013
- Current inspection cycle ends 2015 (but is likely to need changes to keep aligned with the direction of travel before then)



Inspecting children's centres in a changing landscape



From September 2011 we are focusing inspections on matters that align well to the proposed core purpose:

- How well the centre knows its community
- How well the services and activities it provides or signposts are matched to the families in that community, especially those most in need of intervention and support (target groups)
- How well the centre encourages families from its target groups to participate in services and activities
- How effective the centre is in narrowing the gap and improving the wellbeing of children from target groups



Importance of high quality provision

- It is crucial to their future success that children's earliest experiences help to build a secure foundation for learning and give them the best start in life
- A high quality early years experience provides a firm foundation on which to build future academic, social and emotional success
- Through inspection and regulation we will continue to improve outcomes for children through promoting high quality care, learning and development





Raising standards,
improving lives