

# Inspection of children's centres

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Early years and childcare

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## Background

- Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act
- Existing duties to inspect
  - maintained education
  - registered childcare
  - adult and community learning
- Ofsted principles for inspection



# Inspection requirements

The inspection must address the centre's contribution to:

- facilitating access to early childhood services by parents, prospective parents and young children
- maximising the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children
- improving the well-being of young children



# Inspection arrangements

- Notice period
- Tariff
- Integration of inspections
- Preparation
- During the inspection
- After the inspection



## Reporting requirements

The judgements made at inspection will link directly to the inspecting requirements in the Act and the requirements for reporting set out in regulations.

They focus on how leaders, managers and all those involved with a centre work together to know their community, safeguard the children within it and improve their life chances.



## How can centres prepare?

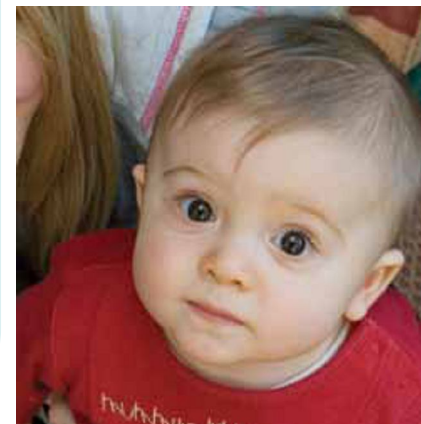
We look for evidence of:

- knowledge of the community
- evaluation of the community needs
- delivery of services that have measurable success criteria
- assessment and evaluation of services, including the views of service users
- the impact of services on improving outcomes



# Inspection judgements

- Outcomes for users
- Quality of provision
- Leadership and management
- Overall effectiveness



# Key judgements

## Overall effectiveness

- The effectiveness of the centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community
- The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management
- What does the centre need to do to improve further?





# Why is self-evaluation important?

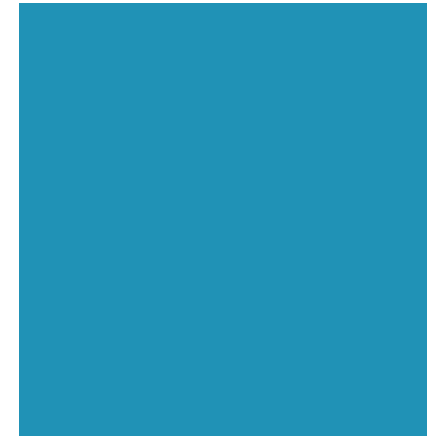
- Planning is the key to making sure that services work together to give children the best start in life and to narrow the gap between those children most disadvantaged and the rest
- High quality early years experiences provide a firm foundation on which to build future academic, social and emotional success
- Personalised learning, support, development and care for children and their families help children get the best possible start in life



# Planning for successful provision

Effective self-evaluation will enable leaders and managers to:

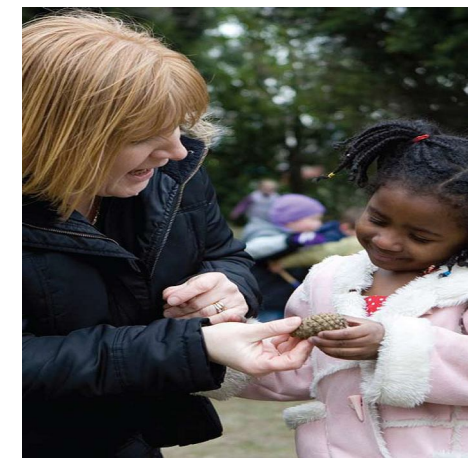
- spot trends and patterns in development
- understand what is working well in the centre
- identify any gaps in services
- identify any particular groups of the community whose needs may not be met
- identify aspects of the centre environment that work well and those that aren't accessed enough by individuals or groups
- plan for improvement



# Self-evaluation

Centres may complete:

- the new Ofsted self-evaluation form for children's centres
- an Ofsted self-evaluation form because they are also part of a school
- an Ofsted self-evaluation form because they have registered early years provision
- a self-evaluation form for their annual conversation with the local authority



# Available to help

On our website:

- Inspection of children's centres: evaluation schedule
- Children's centre self-evaluation form and guidance
- Inspecting your children's centre leaflet
- Frequently asked questions from conferences and elsewhere
- Presentations and speaking notes

All on [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

