

OFSTED INSPECTIONS AND SEF GUIDE

E-BOOK 18

UPDATE

APRIL 2010

In view of new information provided by Ofsted in their document 'Conducting Early Years Inspections', which has been updated April 2010, I have read the document and noted the following information to share with childminders who are registered on the Early Years Register.

Where appropriate I have noted if the handbook talks about when childminders work with others.

Please note – this is my understanding of the guidance. It is not a complete guidance update – the full document is 70 pages long and can be accessed online here –

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Conducting-early-years-inspections>

I have written further notes for those who have purchased my e-book 18 'Guides to Ofsted inspections and SEF' which are ready to be emailed now. If you would like a copy urgently because your inspection is due soon, please pm or email me!

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Ofsted inspector's handbook... notes

The Ofsted inspector's handbook has been updated (April 2010).

The inspector's handbook contains information about the things inspectors are specifically looking out for during early years (EYFS) inspections.

Having read through the document, the following points shouted at me...

- When inspectors introduce themselves on the doorstep, look for their ID passbook, not their ID card. The card does not contain Ofsted's telephone number;
- The wording used to describe the 5th outcome of the Every Child Matters agenda has been changed to helping children to achieve 'social and economic wellbeing'. The word 'social' has been added;
- The document clarifies early years register does not include children at full time (10 sessions a week) school for ratio purposes;
- Following on from the introduction of the Government's sustainable development programme, inspectors are going to be looking for how children are supported to...
 - Care for the environment;
 - Play outside;
 - Grow and plant;
 - Take regular exercise;
 - Understand about sustainable food;
- It is clarified that it is most unlikely providers will be able to achieve outstanding at their first inspection, unless they have previous experience of delivering the EYFS and because their SEF will not be well established;
- There is a section about information inspectors will check with you when they contact you to arrange inspection. It talks about doing the SEF (although it does say this is not a requirement). It goes on to talk about checking who lives or works with the childminder so the inspector can check changes have been notified (if you fail to notify Ofsted about people who are living or working with you, you are committing an offence);
- The wording in the section about working with parents has changed. Inspectors will be looking at the 'quality' of information given to parents and may speak to parents to find out about this;

- The section 'working with other providers' has been updated. It now states that if another provider will not work with you, the inspector will look for evidence of how hard you have tried to work with them. However, if there is no evidence of sharing, then you cannot get better than satisfactory for this section;
- When watching you playing with children, the inspector will look at how you intervene in children's play as well as how children play by themselves. You are not expected to lead every minute of children's play and should be confident enough to sit back and let them play their own games;
- The document clarifies that while written records are not a statutory requirement, inspectors are expecting to see some evidence of children's progression through both individual and group observation, assessment and planning;
- If you fail to meet a condition of registration, the notice will be on your report and you will receive a warning letter. You must make sure parents are informed about any warning letters you receive. For most breaches in the conditions, you will not receive a judgement better than satisfactory;
- You should be given notice of your grades at the end of your inspection;
- You should have feedback before the inspector leaves;
- Your inspector will inform you that your grade is not certain until it has been checked.