

When is a child rising 5?

Clarification from Ofsted received 3.9.2013 - thank you to Debbie Southern for asking the question and sharing the answer. If you have any further questions on this subject please contact Ofsted for more information - and please share the answer so we can let other cms know! 😊

Dear Ms Southern, thank you for your e-mail.

If you care for children aged four and five who are in full time education, either before or after school or in the school holidays, you may count them as older than the early years age group for the purposes of ratios. This would also apply to your own child. This allows you have to have extra children in the early years age group but no more than six children in total. This is often referred to as 'Rising Fives', it is important to note that whilst these children are still in the early years age group you must continue to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage does not specify that the children must be in reception class or year 1, only that they are in full time education. Therefore four-years-olds attending **maintained nursery schools or maintained nursery classes** (or an independent school where they are pupils of the school) may be counted as attending full time education if they do indeed attend for a whole school day.

It is more usual for younger children to attend maintained nursery schools or classes on a part-time basis but if they do attend full time they can be counted as older than the early years age group for the purpose of the ratios. They can only be counted as older than the early years age group if they attend the childminder before and/or after a normal school day (also in the school holidays).

This situation would not apply if the children went to a day nursery or pre-school for these sort of hours as we would not count attendance at such a facility as full time education.

I hope this information helps. However should you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us

Regards, Robert Aldred

Ofsted - National Business Unit

TEL: 0300 123 1231