

School aged children and the EYFS 2012

The EYFS 2012 tells us that 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.'

However, the requirements have changed for childminders who work with before and after school children or children who only attend in the holidays -

1.3 Wrap around (care offered before and after a school day, e.g. by an after school club or by a childminder) and holiday providers (provision exclusively in the school holidays) should be guided by, but do not necessarily need to meet, all the learning and development requirements. Practitioners should discuss with parents and/or carers (and other practitioners and providers as appropriate) the support they intend to offer, seeking to complement learning in settings in which children spend more time.

This means that when children only attend wrap around care or in the holidays we no longer have to deliver the full EYFS.

What the rules now say is that we must speak to parents and their other setting and find out what they want us to do to complement their child's care. I suggest you draw up a form or document to give to parents when their child starts school, explaining that you no longer have to deliver the full EYFS and asking for their opinion about the type of care and learning you should be offering their child.

Ask them to either give their opinion verbally or write it onto the form - and do the same with the child's reception teacher at school

Personally I involve school age children in their own planning and we still do lots of exciting things and go on adventures and explore the world around us etc - and each school aged child is given the opportunity to have their own scrap book (some do and some choose not to) - but that's the way I work. It will be up to you to show Ofsted that you are meeting their care and learning needs - however, the focus of your inspection will be on the little ones.

Note - a school child is a child who attends full time, 10 sessions a week school. A school day is defined as 2 sessions a day with a break in the middle. This is clarified by the Childcare Act. A child is not 'rising 5' or school age until they are in reception class.