



A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare – information for managers and providers.

We are making changes to the way we inspect regulated services. The core of this is a quality framework which sets out the elements that will help us answer key questions about the difference regulated services are making to children and their families. We are testing a framework for early learning and childcare, childminding and school aged childcare. The inspection of your service might be included within a number of 'test' inspections for this framework we will be undertaking during August and September.

The framework

The quality framework sets out the elements that will help us answer key questions about the quality of children's care, play and learning experiences.

The framework has four key questions that we will be using during the testing inspections for the framework. The key questions have quality indicators that identify outcomes for children and families.

Key Question 1 - How good is our care and learning?

Quality Indicators:

- 1.1 Nurturing care and support
- 1.2 Children are safe and protected
- 1.3 Play and learning
- 1.4 Family engagement
- 1.5 Effective transitions

Key questions 2 - How good is our setting?

Quality Indicators:

- 2.1 Quality of the setting for play and learning
- 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities

Key question 3 - How good is our leadership?

Quality Indicators:

- 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well
- 3.2 Leadership of play and learning
- 3.3 Leadership and management of staff and resources

Key question 4- How good is our staff team?

Quality Indicators:

- 4.1 Staff, skills knowledge and values
- 4.2 Staff recruitment *
- 4.3 Staff deployment *

*4.2 & 4.3 do not apply to childminders who do not work with assistants.

Test inspection

We are testing the framework in a range of different early learning and childcare services between 2 August and 30 September 2021. All test inspections will be evaluated (graded) **however for the purposes of the tests published reports will not include the evaluation.**

Test process

We will be testing the framework using a number of Quality Indicators in your setting. The inspector will advise you of what indicators will be part of the test.

Other key questions and quality Indicators

We will always follow up on outstanding requirements, however inspectors may introduce other quality indicators where intelligence about the service supports this.

Inspectors will evaluate each quality indicator, with the lowest evaluation becoming the evaluation for the overall key question. The evaluation will be shared in the usual way with the manager/provider at feedback **however for the purposes of the tests published reports will not include the evaluation.**

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During the Test Inspection

The inspection process will be as we had before, the difference is we will be evaluating against the key questions instead of quality themes. On arrival the inspector will outline to you the focus of the inspection.

During the inspection we will:

- Engage in professional dialogue with you.
- Keep you informed of how the inspection is progressing.
- Discuss your development plan.
- Ask you about improvements you have made since the last inspection.
- Review relevant paperwork including policies and procedures.
- Interview a range of people.
- Observe the provision.
- At the end of the inspection, we will provide you with feedback from the inspection.

After the Inspection

As with our Quality Themed inspections you will receive a draft report and can submit an error response which the inspector will take account of before your report is finalised.

Your views

This is a test inspection; we will ask you to complete a short survey once the inspection is completed. This will ask for your views on the framework and the methodology used during the inspection.

Thank you for your co-operation with this test inspection.