



**Frequently asked questions:**

**A quality framework for daycare of children,  
childminding and school-aged childcare**

**Publication date: June 2022**

**Publication code: OPS-0622-460**

## Frequently asked questions

### Why are you changing from the quality themes and statement approach?

The quality themes were introduced in 2008 and were required to be updated to reflect the current early learning and childcare landscape. The changes build on approaches we have introduced in the past three years across all care service types with a focus on the Health and Social Care Standards, an emphasis on experiences and outcomes, proportionate approaches in services that perform well, and a focus on supporting improvement in quality.

The format of the framework for early learning and childcare is part of our overall approach to scrutiny. We want to make sure that our inspections and other scrutiny work are strongly focused on assessing the extent to which children experience quality care, play and learning.

### Who is the framework for?

The quality framework is for anyone who aims to provide high quality outcomes for children. It is relevant across a range of different service types and is designed to be relevant for all ages of children. For services registered with the Care Inspectorate this document is specifically for daycare of children services, childminding services, and school-aged childcare. A separate quality framework for childcare agencies is planned.

The information contained in this framework can also support staff learning and development opportunities through the inclusion of reflective questions and links to good practice guidance. The framework would also be of interest to those who commission services.

### How do I find the document, and can I have a paper copy?

The document is available on our website as an online only version. You can download a copy here:

- [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#)

This ensures we can update any changes quickly with minimum impact for services and the environment.

We also produced a printer friendly version if you wish to print this off yourself. You can download a copy of this here:

- [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare \(print friendly\)](#)

### How do we share with parents?

You can direct your families to our website and include updates in respect of any work you are doing linked to the framework through your usual procedures. We also plan to develop parent and child friendly introductions to the framework and when available we will circulate through our provider update.

## How can we find out more about the framework?

We are developing a presentation to share with the sector about the framework, in addition to bitesize online sessions. If you have any further questions, please email [enquiries@careinspectorate.gov.scot](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.gov.scot) and add ELC Framework request to the subject heading.

## Will we still get a Covid -19 inspection?

We have removed the Covid-19 related key question from the framework and have instead added additional infection prevention and control information into the framework. We will not be undertaking Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 at this time.

## When should we start using the new framework?

We launched the framework in February 2022, so the sector could become familiar with it before implementing this as our inspection methodology in June 2022. You can choose when or if you use this framework. If you are using the framework and feel your experience would make a good case study, please email [enquiries@careinspectorate.gov.scot](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.gov.scot) and add ELC Framework request to the subject heading.

## What key questions and indicators will you inspect against?

Our core quality indicators at inspection from June 2022 will be:

- 1.1 Nurturing care and support
- 1.3 Play and learning
- 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities
- 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well, and
- 4.3 Staff deployment
- or
- 4.1 Staff have the right skills, knowledge, and values (for childminders without assistants).

## How does the new framework fit with the National Standard?

The overarching themes within the framework support high quality provision in line with the expectations of the National Standard. You will be able to make the connections from the previous quality themes to the key questions.

Previous Theme	Key Question
Quality of care and support	Key question 1: How good is our care and learning?
Quality of environment	Key question 2: How good is our setting?
Quality of staffing	Key question 4: How good is our staff team?
Quality of management and leadership	Key question 3: How good is our leadership?

### **Why have you used quality illustrations of very good and weak?**

This is an organisational decision to reflect our frameworks across different service types. It also enables services who may struggle to evaluate their provision more accurately, identify areas for development that improve outcomes for children. Having weak illustrations helps services recognise where aspects of their provision may need concentrated efforts to improve. It also supports us on those occasions when we may have to take a form of enforcement action.

### **I am a childminder, do I have to consider the staffing element?**

If you employ assistants, whether related to you or not, you should consider the staffing elements of the framework for your evaluation. Our expectations however will be proportionate to the involvement an assistant has in the service. If you do not have assistants then you should consider 4.1, Staff skills, knowledge and values.

**Headquarters**

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

web: [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

email: [enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

telephone: 0345 600 9527



@careinspect