

Solihull providers who are early years and childcare registered and schools

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Please ask for: Lisa Morris or your attached adviser

Our Ref: LM/kes

Date: September 2020

Dear Setting Lead

**Solihull Early Years and Education Improvement Service
Solihull Setting Improvement Approach – Joint Evaluation 2020/2021**

We are writing to inform you of this year's joint evaluation support. Due to the current restrictions, this will take the form of either a visit or a virtual meeting. We will contact you to arrange our meeting and discuss arrangements based upon the current local and national guidance and your visitor's policy.

The purpose of this visit is to enable setting leads to jointly evaluate their provision with an early years adviser and determine strengths and on-going support needs. It also gives you the chance to ask questions and talk about your development plans.

The visit will last approximately 1 to 2 hours, as required. It will take place on a day and at a time that is convenient for you. Your early years adviser will contact you to make arrangements.

Schools that opted into a visit for 2019/2020 will be contacted by an early years adviser to make arrangements for the autumn term, if a visit has not yet taken place. Some schools will also receive support for early years through the Solihull School Improvement Strategy.

The visit will be tailored to the registration requirements of each setting. The Solgrid webpages outline settings that we are prioritising for visits this year and our setting improvement approach during this time. All documentation relating to the visit and further information about our setting improvement approach are found at: www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/support.

Early years visits will include a focus on leadership and the quality of education. Together we will explore how the setting knows that their curriculum is successful.

Children's personal and emotional development and safety will also be discussed, especially in light of the additional Covid 19 pandemic systems of control measures.

Suggested preparation for the visit is outlined below. To discuss this further, please contact a member of the team by telephone on 0121 704 6150 or eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Clair McNeill
Head of Solihull Early Years and Service



Lisa Morris
Senior Education Improvement Education Adviser

Early Years Advisers

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Supporting preparation for your visit

Preparation for the visit or call: Settings please contact your early years adviser if you require an early visit or call, otherwise your adviser will contact you during the year. We plan to contact schools during the autumn term.	
For group settings consider who, in the senior leadership team, needs to be released to join the discussion. Consider evidence you might share during the visit.	
Considerations:	Further information:
Reflect on the requirements of your registration.	Early Years Foundation Stage and Ofsted registration documents - http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/support/
Revisit your most recent Ofsted report and the last adviser note of visit.	List any questions or discussion areas you would like to reflect on.
Look at the relevant documents, including the blank adviser note of visit, http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/support/	Be prepared to discuss the aspects outlined in the note of visit. Group based settings may want to discuss this with their leadership team prior to the visit.



Early Years Registered Setting Visits:

The focus for your joint evaluation activity - **Quality of Education and Leadership**
Exploring the curriculum intent, implementation and impact. How does your setting know their curriculum is successful and what do you need to further improve? Suggestions include:

- **How do leaders and key people ensure the curriculum and care practices meet the needs of all children?** The joint activity may be a discussion with leads about their monitoring and evaluation processes.
- **Do children feel safe?** Leading to a joint activity where a key person and the adviser explore this with children and parents.
- **Do children make good progress?** A joint activity may involve assessment evidence and a discussion with lead(s).
- **How well do we support a child who isn't working at the expected stage of development?** Perhaps share a case study and evidence for a child in this situation.
- **How well does provision support language development?** Observations and assessment evidence trawl.
- **How well does the setting support [one of] the characteristics of effective learning and teaching?** Planning/ impact trawl and staff discussion.
- **How are stories used as an effective teaching tool to engage children and introduce new ideas, concepts and vocabulary?** Observing story sessions and look at their use in planning.

The visit outline:

- **A 'walk around' the provision:**
 - during a visit, this will be in person.
 - during a call, the manager will use the opportunity for discussion - how the setting is working at this time and any changes.
- **A joint discussion** using the EYFS and the Ofsted evaluation criteria or the registration requirements for the setting.
- **A review of the last visit report** and your plans for further developments.
- **A 'joint evaluation activity' for EYFS provision** – you may want to discuss options for this with your adviser. We would like you to raise a question that you would like to explore – the joint evaluation activity and resulting evidence will support you to answer this question. This may be an area on your action plan for last year.

1st: Choose a question you'd like to explore or you may want to look at a curriculum aspect to see how well the setting promotes physical development or communication [Development Matters Guidance].

2nd: Explore how this may best be 'evidenced' – a learning walk, a discussion, 'interviews' or observations, using an audit on Solgrid, a trawl of evidence you may have, room lead or key person discussion.

3rd: Arrange the date and ensure those involved in the joint activity are fully aware of expectations – you will need to feedback to them after the visit too.

Evaluation of Solihull Setting Improvement Approach:

As part of the local authority's self-evaluation, we ask you to please feedback on the usefulness of the visit by completing the 'comments' box at the bottom of the visit note. We also value feedback after the visit and will ask you to evaluate our visits/ calls to help design future support for settings.