

Solihull Early Years and Childcare Ofsted  
Registered Settings

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS**

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Your Ref:

Please ask for: Lisa Morris

Our Ref: LM/kes

Date: September 2021

**For the Attention of Setting Leads**

**The Early Years Team- setting support for 2021-2022**

We are looking forward to catching up with you all as a new academic year begins. Thank you so much for all that you have done for children and families over the last year.

As a Local Authority [LA] our **statutory duties** are outlined in '[Early education and childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities](#)' These are summarised below.

The requirement

- for local authorities [LAs] and their partners to improve outcomes for all children under five and reduce inequalities.
- for LAs to secure sufficient [quality] childcare.
- to provide information, advice and training to childcare partners and information, advice, and assistance to parents.

The recent Solihull 'Reshaping Education' consultation and resulting plan outlined the following vision and purpose:

**Our vision**

Transforming life chances by holding children and young people at the heart of everything we do.

**Our Purpose**

To be ambitious for children and young people - ensuring all have access to a high-quality inclusive education which empowers them to lead independent and successful lives.

You may be aware that the Early Years Education Improvement and the Early Years Support and Assessment Teams have been merged to create one early years' service. We will continue to support settings in our roles as improvement advisers and area SENCo's. However, we are aware that we have a large number of vacancies within the service and may not be able to support as quickly as we would like as the new team grows.

The new EYFS requirements will be at the forefront of our support and development work. A Solihull Council Plan priority [2020-2025] is to ensure improvements in early childhood development and school readiness in disadvantaged communities. This priority will also help direct the work we do across the borough.

Some change is inevitable as we move to locality working and as team members move into new roles. We hope to keep as much consistency as possible as we reflect on the best way to support our young children in the borough.

The early years' **annual visits** will focus on your needs and support joint self-evaluation. The information from these and Ofsted Inspection reports will also shape our education improvement training and support priorities for the year.

### **Setting Improvement Visits -linked to Ofsted registration**

Early years and childcare settings registered with Ofsted will be contacted over the year to arrange a time to visit to review their provision. The [Solgrid webpages](#) outline settings we are prioritising for visits this year and our setting improvement approach. Visits will be tailored to the registration requirements of each setting.

As we have contacted you virtually more recently, we hope that the setting improvement visit can focus on looking in more detail at your evidence of how your curriculum and setting procedures meet the needs of all children.

An adviser will contact you to arrange a suitable date and time to visit. We look forward to seeing your setting in action and completing the joint-evaluation visit with you. Notes of visit and joint-evaluation activity information are available on our [Solgrid webpages](#).

Information about the Solihull Area SENCo support is available [here](#).

To discuss this further please contact a member of the team –  
Early Years Enquiries: 0121 704 6150 or [eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk) .  
We will contact you to arrange a visit and to agree the agenda.

We continue to provide training and support through the [www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/training](http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/training) and <https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/education/children-and-young-peoples-send-service/early-years-send-team-2/> websites. We have recently been successful in a bid to become one of ten LAs supported by [Dingley's Promise](#). We are aware that there will also be further Department for Education support and information will follow. This extra training will influence our prioritisation of settings through the year.



We are working across the LA to develop our Maternity and Early Years Strategy alongside the Joint Additional Needs Strategy. Updates will be communicated through the termly SEND Newsletter. Sign up [here](#) (*SEND is under the education option*).

You may have noticed that we have reviewed our [www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc](http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc) webpages to make them easier to navigate. We will continue to add essential EYFS resources to support you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Lisa Morris**  
Early Years Team Manager