

Solihull Early Years and Childcare Ofsted
Registered Settings

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

Council House, Manor Square
Solihull West Midlands B91 3QB
Tel: 0121 704 6150
Email: eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk
www.solihull.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Please ask for: Lisa Morris

Our Ref: LM/kes

Date: September 2025

For the attention of early years setting leaders

The Early Years Team- setting support for 2025-2026

We are looking forward to catching up with you as a new academic year begins. Thank you again 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 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.

We really value all your feedback and suggestions and have used this along with information from recent Ofsted reports to shape our setting improvement visits, and our education improvement training and priorities for the year ahead.

Setting Improvement Visits

The setting improvement visit is an opportunity to reflect with your adviser on the EYFS and/or Ofsted requirements and any support needs that the setting may have. Early years and childcare settings, who are registered with Ofsted, will be contacted over the year to arrange a suitable date and time to carry out the visit and to agree an agenda with shared expectations. The [Solgrid webpages](#) outline settings we are prioritising and our setting improvement approach in more detail. Visits will be tailored to the registration requirements of each setting.

The Setting Improvement visit this year will focus on a theme of **belonging**. Once again, there is a choice between two options;

<u>Option 1: Safeguarding and welfare: When I belong, I am kept safe and I feel safe.</u> <i>Statements taken from EYFS Statutory Framework</i> • Children learn best when they are healthy, safe, secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the people caring for them. • All practitioners must be alert to any issues of concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. • Children's personal, social and emotional development is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives and is fundamental to their cognitive development.	<u>Option 2 : Belonging: My key person builds on what I know and can do</u> <i>Statements taken from EYFS Statutory Framework</i> • Children need to build an attachment with their key person for their confidence and wellbeing. The key person also promotes children's learning by developing a deep understanding of their individual needs. • Practitioners should be ambitious for all children planning a challenging, enjoyable experience for each child. • Every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs.
--	--

In preparation for the Setting Improvement visit, for both option 1 or option 2, please consider: What is in place to ensure that all children are known and understood as individuals, so that they are:

- kept safe
- feel safe
- have their learning and development needs met?

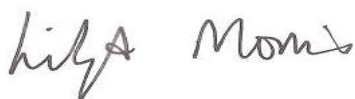
How do you know that it is happening in practice?

Area SENCo support for group settings.

Eligible group-based settings and schools will be contacted by their Area SENCo to arrange support visits. You are able to arrange your annual meeting at a time to suit your setting. We hope to focus on support for the SENCo and setting quality. We will continue to respond to requests for support for children as we have this year.

To discuss this further please contact a member of the team –
Early Years Enquiries: 0121 704 6150 or eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely



Lisa Morris Early Years Team Manager

