

Solihull 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 2025

For the attention of setting leaders

The Early Years Team- setting support for 2025-2026

We are looking forward to catching up with you as the 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.

Please see the Solgrid Early Years and Childcare website for guidance and signposting to training. [Solihull Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#) also offer free training which is signposted here <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/training/>

Setting Improvement Visits

The setting Improvement visit is an opportunity to reflect with your adviser on the Ofsted childcare requirements in relation to your Ofsted registration and any support needs that the setting may have.

Childcare settings, who are registered with Ofsted on the compulsory and / or voluntary childcare register, will be contacted on an annual / biennial cycle to arrange a suitable date and time to carry out the visit and to agree an agenda with shared expectations.

The **setting improvement visit** for Childcare settings will focus on how your setting meets the Ofsted requirements for your registration, alongside the NSPCC safeguarding standards - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2019/safeguarding-child-protection-standards>

You may also find this helpful - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1466/are-they-safe-pathway-to-safer-practice-wallchart.pdf>

Further information is included in our 'note of visit' which will be completed during our discussion.

A visit will last between 1 – 1.5 hours and will include:

- a leadership discussion with the daily lead*
- a reflective walk around the setting looking at practice and provision.

At the end of the visit, we will ask you to evaluate this process and identify what developments you will / may action as a result.

**It is often helpful to identify lead people who are in the setting every day to lead this meeting with us. This helps support those leads to be clear about your settings practice. This is also helpful to rehearse in case you have an unannounced Ofsted inspection. Leads have found it helpful to talk things through and then to seek further training if necessary.*

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.

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