

Solihull Early Years and Childcare Ofsted
Registered childminders

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref:

Please ask for: Lisa Morris

Our Ref: LM/kes

Date: September 2026

For the attention of lead childminders

The early years team- setting support for 2026-2027

As another new academic year begins, we are writing to share our visit focus for 2026/7. This gives us an opportunity to celebrate the previous year with you and your priorities for 2026/7. We will contact you to arrange a time for our visit and gather more details from you.

We know that you will have been reflecting on the updates to both the early years foundation stage statutory framework and the Ofsted early years inspection toolkit effective from 01/09/2026. Our visits will support reflection on these changes.

The local authority has a legal duty to secure information, advice and training as set out in the early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities. Our annual visits form part of this support and they enable us to direct our support in proportion to need.

We really value all your feedback and suggestions and have used this along with information from recent Ofsted reports to shape our improvement visits. Please also look at how this intelligence has supported our training plans -

<https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/training/>

Setting improvement visits for childminders – shared reflection

The early years adviser is keen for you to prioritise your interactions and support of the children during the visit. Observing while children access the resources and experiences on offer with your support, indoors or outdoors, during their snack or mealtimes, or transitioning between a range of experiences is all valuable.

We will spend some time with you thinking about a child who may face a barrier to their learning. We know that the child may be present at the time and will be keen to make sure that this is done sensitively so as not to draw their attention as their needs are discussed.

Ofsted early years inspection toolkit - Behaviour, attitudes and establishing routines: *Practitioners understand and consider **each child's** individual needs and circumstances, including those of disadvantaged children, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may **face barriers to their learning**. Any **adaptations and/or reasonable adjustments** maintain the high expectations of behaviour that **reflect the children's ages and stages of development**. Practitioners **proactively** work with other agencies to serve children's best interests.*

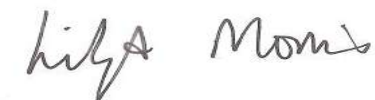
We will use the Ofsted toolkit statement above around **behaviour, attitudes and establishing routines** to support our discussion. We will think about how this might be relevant to your current group, or children who you have supported in the past, or may support in the future.

Area SENCo support for childminders

Jane Glassey, SEND lead: early years team, can be contacted via email: jglassey@solihull.gov.uk if you would like further support for a child in your care with emerging SEND needs. Also see - <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/send/childminders/>

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