

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 2024

**For the attention of early years setting leaders**

**The Early Years Team- setting support for 2024-2025**

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.

This year we intend to ask providers to choose between a focus on *The Impact of the Child's Voice* or *A Safeguarding and Welfare Culture*.

Please [click here](#) to complete a short form to express your preference of visit focus.

The Impact of the Child's Voice	A Safeguarding and Welfare Culture
<p>The child's voice can be defined as the different ways you 'hear and see' the children and families in your setting and how this is used to influence provision and practice. Providers will be asked to consider how the child's voice impact on one of the following areas: routines, the environment, or the role of the adult.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a leadership discussion</li> <li>• a reflective walk around the setting looking at practice and provision.</li> <li>• a joint reflection/observation of Early Years practice and provision - <i>focusing on what do you know about each child and how do you use that knowledge?</i></li> </ul>	<p>All early years providers should have an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first. Providers will be asked to consider how their policies, procedures, routines and environment contribute to a safeguarding culture.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a leadership discussion</li> <li>• a tour of the premises</li> <li>• a joint reflection/observation of Early Years practice and provision - <i>focusing on routines, the key person role or care practices that contribute to your safeguarding and welfare culture.</i></li> </ul>
<p><i>Please prepare team members and follow up with feedback.</i></p> <p>At the end of the visit, we will ask you evaluate this process and identify what developments you will action as a result.</p>	

### 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](mailto:eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk) .

Yours sincerely



**Lisa Morris**  
 Early Years Team Manager

