

understanding the EYFS. It will help you think about how you will meet EYFS requirements, especially where they are different from the National Standards (for example in relation to some adult:child ratios).¹

You can review your current practice and see how it compares to the requirements of the EYFS, identifying any areas of strength or areas where you could improve your current practice.

You may start using the EYFS documents before September 2008, but you **must continue** to meet the National Standards and, where appropriate, the *Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage* until September 2008.

Childcare in schools

Schools directly managing early years provision for children under three or within the EYFS age group but **not** including any of their own pupils must join the **Early Years Register**.

Schools cannot register for either part of the **Childcare Register**. Ofsted will check that any extended services they provide meet registration requirements when we carry out a full school inspection.

If schools work with partner organisations to provide extended services, the Government advises that they use providers that are registered with Ofsted.

¹ Information on ratios is set out in Standard 2 of the *National standards for under 8s day care and childminding* and in Appendix 2 of the *Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage*.

More information

You can get a copy of the *Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* and advice on training for the EYFS from your local council.

Further reading

These documents:

National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding

Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage

Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

can be ordered by calling the Department for Children, Schools and Families publications line on 08456 022260, or download them from publications.teachernet.gov.uk

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London WC2B 6SE
www.ofsted.gov.uk
General enquiries
T 08456 404040
Publications

T 0700 263 7833

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Changes to childcare registration and inspection

From September 2008 there will be an Early Years Register and a Childcare Register with compulsory and voluntary parts.



Since 2001, Ofsted has inspected childcare against the *National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding*.^{*} For those offering government funded early education to three- and four-year-olds, we also check that they meet the *Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage*.^{*}

That's about to change with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).^{*} From September 2008 this single framework will set the standards for care, learning and development for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the 'EYFS age group'). Providers for this age group will be registered and inspected slightly differently from those who care only for older children.

This leaflet introduces the new registers, how we plan to transfer providers who are already registered with us, and how we will keep you updated.

^{*}Find out how you can read these documents at the end of this leaflet.

Early Years Register

Childcare providers must join this register and deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) if they care for children in the EYFS age group.

Some services will not have to register. These are likely to include:

- some crèches
- activity based settings
- care provided in the child's own home, for example by a nanny.

Childcare Register Compulsory Part

Childcare providers must join this register if they care for children who are older than the EYFS age group but who are under eight.

Voluntary Part

Some types of childcare provider are not required to register, but can choose to do so. These are:

- care providers who work in the child's own home, such as nannies
- activity based settings, such as sports clubs
- short term care, including some crèches
- care which is only for children aged eight and over.

Providers who work with children in the EYFS age group and also with children up to eight must join both registers.

What will happen if I am already registered with Ofsted?

Until **31 August 2008** we will continue to register and inspect against the *National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding*. If you are listed in your local council directory to provide government funded early education to three- and four-year-olds, we will also continue to inspect against the *Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage*.

We will use the information we hold about you to transfer you to one or more of the new registers on 1 September 2008.

Before this happens:

- We will write to you in spring 2008 to tell you which register(s) we plan to transfer you to, or whether we think you are exempt from registration. We will ask you to tell us if you do not think we are planning to transfer you to the right register(s). We will write to you again in August 2008 to confirm the final arrangements, before the change is made.
- In summer 2008 we will send you a new version of our guidance *Are you ready for your inspection?* so you know what to expect when you are inspected under your new registration. At the same time we will tell you how we plan to share information about you with other organisations.

If you register after March and before August 2008

When we send your registration certificate we will:

- tell you how we plan to transfer you onto the new registers
- provide a new version of our guidance *Are you ready for your inspection?*

How can I prepare?

If you care for children in the EYFS age group you should read *Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage*, which is available from your local council or on the Internet (see overleaf). It builds on and replaces the existing *National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding*, *Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage* and the *Birth to three matters* framework. If you are familiar with them you should have no difficulty in