

EYFS 2014 – main changes to the requirements

Knutsford Childminding e-books



The revised statutory requirements for the EYFS have been published by DfE – they will be effective from Sept 2014. There are a few changes to the wording in the learning and development and assessment requirements and you will notice that many of the current requirements have been tweaked to include reference to 'early years childminder agencies'...

The guiding principles of the EYFS 2014 are the same as the EYFS 2012.

The overarching principles of the EYFS 2012 - unique child, positive relationships, enabling environments and learning and development - are still in the requirements. Further information about these guiding principles can be found in the Development Matters guidance. The EYFS 2014 does not mention 'Development Matters' or 'Early Years Outcomes' but we do know from Ofsted Early Years (Nov 2013) that Ofsted have told their inspectors to use EYO to make judgements about whether children are making good progress in their learning (unique child) –

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/early-years-november-2013>.

- Development Matters guidance – <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2012/03/Development-Matters-FINAL-PRINT-AMENDED.pdf>.
- Early Years Outcomes guidance - <http://www.freewebs.com/sarahnev707/earlyyearsoutcomes.htm>.

Section 1 – the learning and development requirements

1.1 – the rules have changed for providers of before and after school and school holiday care for older children (from reception class) – see requirement 3.40 for more information.

1.9 – the learning characteristics are still part of the requirements. Useful information to help practitioners to use the characteristics effectively can be found in the Development Matters guidance.

1.11 – if you employ staff, the requirement to 'regularly consider the training and development needs of all staff members' has been removed from this section of the requirements. See requirement 3.20 for further information.

Section 2 – assessment

2.5 – providers must have the consent of parents and / or carers to share information directly with other relevant professionals... note that EYFS 2012 says 'if they consider this would be helpful' – EYFS 2014 does not say this.

****Childminders will need to add a permission to their permission form to state that parents give their permission to share information directly with other relevant professionals and will need to explain to parents that this is now a statutory requirement of the EYFS 2014.**

Section 3 – the safeguarding and welfare requirements

Introduction

3.3 – states that childminders do not need written policies and procedures – however, this is superseded at present by the Childcare Register – see Ofsted factsheet 120412 (dated Jan 2013) - <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-records-policies-and-notification-requirements-of-early-years-register>.

Child protection

3.5 – the safeguarding training course no longer needs to be LA approved as long as the practitioner has taken 'account of any advice from the LSCB or LA on appropriate training courses'. Note that regardless of where you source your training, it will still be your responsibility to make sure that your documentation is up-to-date eg LSCB telephone numbers are correct.

3.8 – Ofsted or the childminder agency must be informed about child protection concerns.

Suitable people

3.9 – changes to wording to include childminder agencies.

3.10 – changes to wording to allow childminder agencies to check suitability.

There is still NO requirement for childminders to update police / CRB checks.

3.13 – this requirement has been extended to include information about how the DBS operates.

3.15 – a new requirement to state that a childminder might be disqualified if they live in the same house as someone else who is disqualified from working with children. This might affect childminders who live with a partner who is disqualified but might have a waiver that allows the childminder to operate as long as the disqualified person does not enter the premises during working hours.

3.16 – states that some 'waivers' might still be obtained.

Providers must inform Ofsted or the childminder agency if there are any concerns about suitability.

Staff qualifications, training, support and skills

3.20 – has been extended to include information from 1.11 which has been moved to here.

The requirement for 'regular staff appraisals' has been removed from the requirements (EYFS 2012 R3.22) and there is no longer a requirement to support staff to gain qualifications.

3.24 - changes to wording to include childminder agencies as providers of training for new childminders.

3.25 – First Aid requirements have been extended to include 'Providers should take into account the number of children, staff and layout of premises to ensure that a paediatric first aider is able to respond to emergencies quickly.'

**Childminders will need to reflect this information in their risk assessments.

This has been re-worded to remove the EYFS 2012 requirement for training to be Local Authority approved.

Ratios

3.29 – 'apprentices in early education (aged 16 or over) may now be included in ratios along with students on long term placements and volunteers (aged 17 and over) 'if the provider is satisfied that they are competent and responsible'. We will need to be careful here – if Ofsted do not agree with us that they are 'competent and responsible' during inspection - will we have to give notice to children? Plus, the DBS rules have changed for apprentices (not detailed in the EYFS) and should be clarified with Ofsted before ratios arrangements are changed.

3.30 – still contains the statement 'exceptionally and where the quality of care and safety and security of children is maintained, changes to the ratios may be made' and Ofsted factsheet 120117 'Numbers and ages of children' is still current on the website –

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-numbers-and-ages-of-children-providers-early-years-and-childcare-registers-may-c>

Before / after school care and holiday provision

3.40 – requirement 1.3 (EYFS 2012) which currently covers wrap around and holiday provision, has been removed.

EYFS 2014 refers us to requirement 3.40... however, requirement 3.40 states that 'where the provision is **solely** before / after school care or holiday provision...' and goes on to discuss classes of 30 children.

It appears from the wording that wrap around care offered by childminders has been forgotten and we will need further clarification...

Childminder ratios

3.41 – ratios are the same – 6 children under the age of 8 years old maximum at any one time for one childminder working on their own – of whom 3 may be young* children and 1 should only be under the age of 1'. A footnote confirms that the numbers' include childminder's own children and any other children for whom they are responsible such as foster children'.

*Young child – a footnote clarifies that 'a child is a young child up until 1st September following his or her fifth birthday.'

3.42 – covers exceptions for sibling babies and when caring for a childminder's own baby. It also contains the 'rising 5' clause.

3.43 – covers ratios when working with assistants and other childminders and clarifies that agencies as well as Ofsted will be able to restrict the amount of children a childminder can look after. The '2 hour registration not required' rule is here as well – this has NOT been increased to 3 hours!

Managing behaviour

3.52 – the wording has been moved around.

The requirement for a 'named practitioner responsible for behaviour management' has been removed.

There is no longer a requirement for a written behaviour management policy.

Physical intervention must still be recorded.

Food and drink

Note that there is new information about food registration for newly registering childminders here - <http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/caterers/startingup/childminders/#.UzqPV IdVAg>.

Currently registered childminders should already be registered with their Local Authority as food handlers and will be informed about local training requirements / kitchen inspections.

Safety

3.54 – the wording has been slightly changed to include 'premises, including overall floor space and outdoor spaces' are fit for purpose.

There is a new requirement to comply with fire safety as well as hygiene requirements.

The requirement for a health and safety policy has been removed – however, a policy is currently a requirement of the Childcare Register.

3.55 - fire blankets are back in the list of example appropriate fire detection and control equipment.

Smoking

3.55 – the wording has changed slightly but the meaning is the same.

Premises

3.58 – daily outside play is noted as a separate requirement. A new clause notes the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which state that 'reasonable adjustments' must be made to the premises and equipment to ensure every child can access daily outside play opportunities.

The requirement for provision to be made for children who wish to 'relax, play quietly or sleep, equipped with appropriate furniture' has been removed. This is presumably to make way for 2 year olds to be 'educated' in school provision.

Risk assessment

3.63 – no requirement for a written risk assessment procedure.

We noted some time ago that the Ofsted factsheet has been removed from the website – the EYFS 2014 refers us to the Health and Safety Executive website for further information - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/>.

Some written risk assessments may be required for parents and inspectors... etc.

Outings

3.65 – no requirement to ask parents for written permission to take children on outings.

**Childminders will need to decide whether they want to retain this permission or not.

Equal opportunities -> renamed 'Special educational needs'

3.67 – no requirement for a written equality of opportunity policy. However, there is a requirement to share an equality policy with staff in 3.20.

Group providers are 'expected to identify' a SENCO – no requirement for childminders to have or access a SENCO.

A requirement to 'have arrangements in place to support children with SEN or disabilities' but no further advice or information in the EYFS 2014 about how to do it (like there is in EYFS 2012).

The current requirement to 'ensure that, so far as is reasonable, the facilities, equipment and access to the premises are suitable for children with disabilities' has been removed.

Information and records

3.68 – requirement extended to share information with childminder agency as well as Ofsted.

Note that Ofsted have recently clarified the requirement for childminders to be registered with ICO as data handlers – www.ico.gov.uk.

Complaints

3.75 – childminders who belong to an agency must inform parents that the agency is due to inspect them (the same as Ofsted registered childminders must inform parents if they know that Ofsted are on their way) – and both agency and Ofsted registered childminders must give parents a copy of the report.

Changes that must be notified

3.77 – the requirement wording has been changed to include informing either Ofsted or childminder agencies.

Notes

Required permissions – EYFS 2014 -

- To share information directly with other relevant professionals – R2.5
- To leave children with a registered assistant (including for very short periods of time) – R3.43
- Medication – R3.46

Note – it has never been a requirement to ask parents for written permission to take photos. The requirement in the EYFS 2014 is for the safeguarding procedures to 'cover the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting' – R3.4. However, this will still be recommended as part of our compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and Information Commissioners Office registration – R3.70.

Required policies and procedures (not necessarily in writing for childminders as stated in R3.3) –

- Safeguarding – R3.4
- Medication – R3.45
- Emergency evacuation – R3.55
- Equality – R3.20
- Illness and infection – R3.44
- Visitors – R3.62
- Failure to collect – R3.73
- Missing child – R3.73
- Concerns and complaints – R3.74

There is no longer a requirement for policies and procedures to cover–

- Behaviour management
- Health and safety
- Risk assessment– providers must instead 'take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks' – R3.64.

However, these are noted in the Childcare Register so good practice advice is to wait until we find out what changes they are going to make to the Childcare Register requirements before making changes.

Reference

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