

Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

Please find below this week's Government updates for you and your staff. There have been no updates for families this week.

Updates for the Sector

[Education inspection framework \(EIF\)](#) 19 April 2021

Minor amends to set out an expectation that inspectors will agree safety protocols to ensure the inspection is completed in a COVID-19-secure way, and to highlight that inspection remit handbooks have been updated to reflect the context of the pandemic.

[Summary of changes](#) to the Inspection Handbook 19 April 2021

Paragraphs 6 to 26: we have included a new section on 'Inspection during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic'. This covers:

- why changes have been made
- how these changes will be reviewed
- inspection preparation and planning (including COVID-19 secure arrangements for inspections)
- reaching inspection judgements
- EYFS learning & development requirements, curriculum and disapplication
- leadership (incorporating assessment and disapplication)
- EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements and disapplication.

Paragraphs 27 to 36: updated to reflect the move from inspection cycle to window, covering selection and prioritisation.

Paragraph 38: added a footnote relating to COVID-19 where childminders may be self-isolating and have no children on roll.

Paragraph 126: amendments to first and second bullets.

Paragraphs 144 to 157: updated to reflect new arrangements for publishing reports and handling concerns and complaints.

Paragraph 71: COVID-19 addition of footnote where children or staff may be self-isolating.

Paragraph 75: COVID-19 addition to second bullet on the progress check for any children aged 2.

Paragraph 100: COVID-19 addition of footnote on disapplication of paediatric first aid (PFA) certificates.

Paragraphs 115, 159 and Annex A: added a new paragraph to refer users back to the COVID-19 section.

[Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#) 20 April 2021

Updated as inspections of early years providers resume on 4 May, the disapplications to the early years foundation stage profile are in force (and no longer subject to parliamentary approval), and paediatric first aid practitioners must attend requalification training to renew expired certificates.

[Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) 20 April 2021

Watch videos and register for the free webinars to learn more about the support available to help you deal with the economic impacts of coronavirus. The next live webinar is on Tuesday 27 April and you can [register for the Next live webinar about self-employment income support scheme](#).

[Claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#) 21 April 2021
The online service for the fourth grant is now available.

[Tell HMRC and pay the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant back](#) 21 April 2021
New guidance on 'If amending your return affects your grant amount or eligibility' added under 'How to tell us' section.