

# What to expect from your inspection

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## Getting it right, right from the start

- Inspection planning and preparation.
- Notification call.
- Initial planning meeting.



## Notification call

- Establishing positive relationships.
- Information gathering.
- Inspection planning.
- Helping the provider prepare.
- Setting expectations.
- Understanding the impact of COVID.



## Initial planning meeting

- Key information about staff and children.
- Tracked children.
- Joint observation(s).
- Key activities.
- Routines.
- Agree inspection timetable.



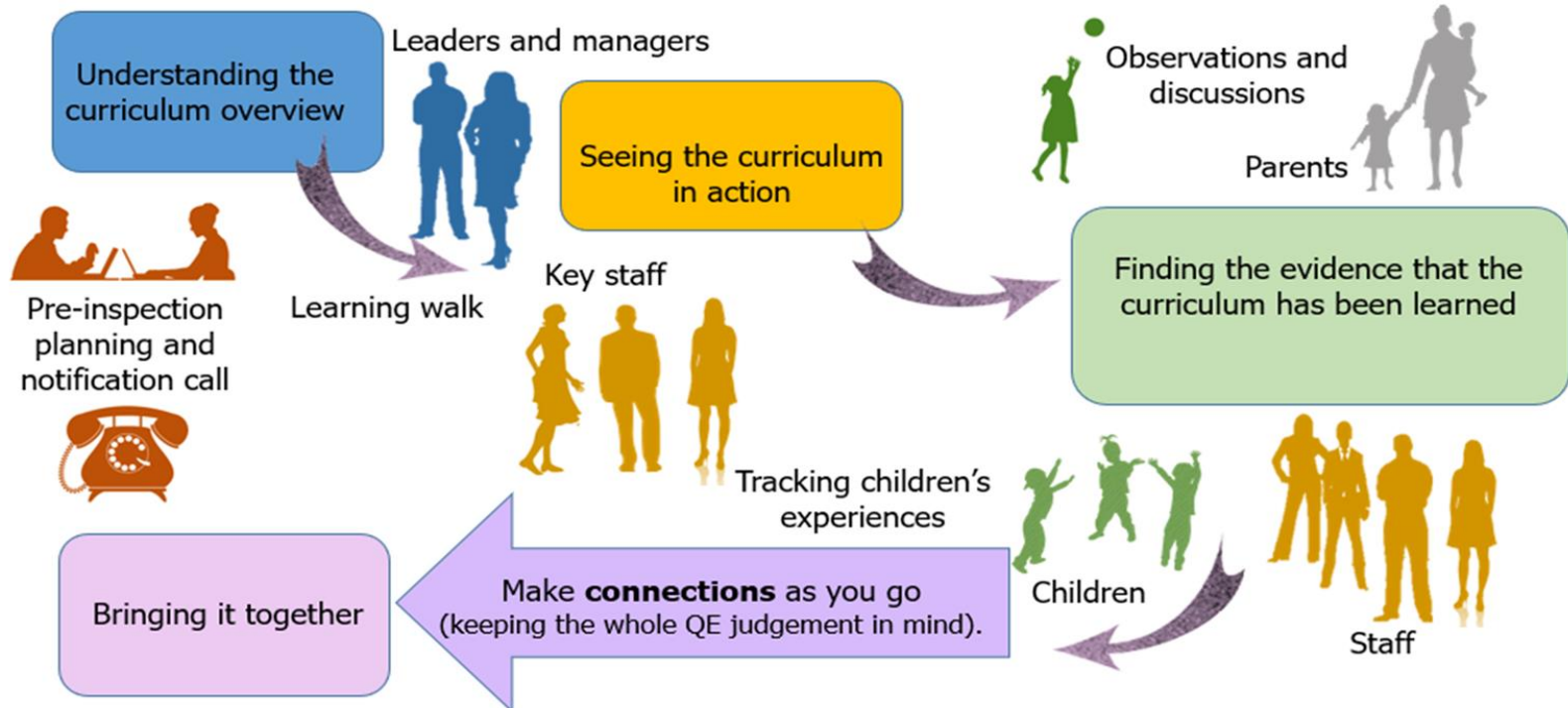
# Effective management of the inspection

Inspectors will:

- find out as early as possible where leaders judge themselves.
- Discuss self-evaluation and continuous improvement.
- Explain how we use the early years inspection handbook and benchmark to good.

This helps inspectors to manage providers expectations from the start. Inspectors test out what they have been told during the inspection.

# What the inspection looks like



# Effective management of the inspection

- Communication.
- Professional relationships and engagement.
- Use of inspection handbook and framework.
- Use of inspection activities.
- Time management.
- Reaching final judgements.
- Professionalism, integrity and conduct.
- Preparing for feedback.



## Conduct during inspections

It is important that inspectors and providers establish and maintain a positive working relationship, based on courteous and professional behaviour.





# Feedback



## After the inspection

- Quality assurance.
- Provider receives draft report.
- Factual accuracy check.
- Final proof-read.
- Publication.
- Complaints process.



## Regional update – some key questions

**Are there any trends emerging from the inspections undertaken since they were re-instated? (in terms of recommendations/actions and any noticeable changes in the number of RI's/Inadequates?)**

We published our first management information release on childcare providers and inspections in February:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/childcare-providers-and-inspections-management-information>

This data shows that at their most recent inspection, the proportion of childcare providers judged good or outstanding was 97%, which is unchanged since 31 August 2021.

## Regional update

### **When will my setting be inspected?**

- We have previously stated that due to the pause in routine inspection, we are prioritising the inspection of certain groups of providers, including those not yet inspected as well as those judged less than good at their most recent inspection. We understand that there will be several providers in this position who are waiting on an inspection.
- We understand that some providers will be inspected later than planned but we are trying to prioritise those we have most concern about as part of the return to routine inspection.

## Regional update

**Will inspections as a result of a concern raised and Ofsted's risk assessment process always be a no-notice inspection, or in some cases might settings receive the usual pre-inspection phone call.**

- Ofsted may carry out inspections without notice. This normally, but not exclusively, happens when a provider has been judged as inadequate at its last inspection or when the region decides to carry out an inspection, as a result of a risk assessment.
- This is the inspector's decision based on their risk assessment so it is possible that some providers will get a notification call.

## Regional update

- **What would be the desired period for retention of Covid Cases reported to LA and Ofsted?**
- Ofsted cannot advise on this. Providers should continue to meet the Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage or the ongoing requirements for registration in relation to keeping records. This sits outside Ofsted's legal remit. Providers should contact the Information Commissioners Office ([ICO.org.uk](https://ico.org.uk)) for further advice to make sure they are following data protection legislation.

## Regional update

- **Are Ofsted still prioritising new registrations?**
- Yes we continue to register providers in line with our timescales.

## HMCI at Nursery World conference

- Ofsted chief inspector Amanda Spielman said the inspectorate had been discussing how effectively they [Ofsted] inspect and regulate the early years sector and how they can give more prominence to their work.
- She said that the next five-year strategy, which will be published in a 'month or so', will focus more on the early years. She suggested that the reason for focusing on the early years is the impact of the pandemic on young children.
- She also told delegates at the conference there are still concerns surrounding the impact of the pandemic on young children's communication skills and language development and their social skills. Providers have told the inspectorate that many first-time parents with children born during the pandemic, are anxious about leaving their child, while children are taking longer to settle.



# Ofsted on the web and on social media

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