

# Ofsted Questions for an Early Years Practitioner

One of the worries that can come with an Ofsted visit is not knowing what kind of questions they will ask. To help with this, we have gathered lots of example questions from practitioners who have been visited to give you a better idea and help you feel more prepared.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding has come up time and again as a topic that early years practitioners get questioned on. Inspectors will always look to see how well children are helped and protected to ensure their safety. They will want to make sure arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

- ▶ Who is the designated safeguarding lead (DSL)?
- ▶ What is the whistleblowing policy?
- ▶ What is your safeguarding policy?
- ▶ What is the most recent safeguarding training you had and when?
- ▶ Safeguarding scenarios, e.g. What would you do if a child told you his mum smacked him this morning?

## Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

Inspectors will evaluate the impact of the curriculum and particularly its impact on children with SEND and seek to understand how the setting meets children's needs. The inspector will talk to children during the inspection and discuss with you what you intend those children to learn and remember.

- ▶ How do you support children with SEND?
- ▶ How does your curriculum meet the needs of children with SEND?
- ▶ What are your learning goals for (chosen child) with SEND?
- ▶ How do you ensure children with SEND achieve the best possible outcomes?

## Parent Partnerships

The inspector will want to know how you build and develop partnerships with parents and carers.

- ▶ How do you communicate with parents?
- ▶ How do you evaluate your provision and what role do parents play in the evaluation?
- ▶ How do you work with parents?
- ▶ What do you do to involve parents?
- ▶ How do you develop positive partnerships with parents?
- ▶ How do you support children and their parents who have English as an additional language?



- ▶ How do you share information about children's progress with parents?
- ▶ How do you help parents support children's learning at home?
- ▶ How do you encourage a love of reading at home?
- ▶ How do you engage parents?
- ▶ How do you work with parents to promote attendance?

### Pedagogy and Curriculum

Inspectors will be interested in how and why you do what you do and a lot of that will stem back to your pedagogical approaches and your curriculum.

- ▶ What informs your practice?
- ▶ Why did you set up this activity, what is the purpose? (You may be asked to reference the **3 I's**)
- ▶ How do you add value to children in your care?
- ▶ How did you decide on your curriculum?
- ▶ What makes your setting unique?
- ▶ What informs your practice?
- ▶ How do you ensure your curriculum is ambitious?
- ▶ How do you ensure important learning and understanding aren't missed?
- ▶ What does assessment look like for you?
- ▶ What do you do when children are repetitive in their play?
- ▶ How do you feel that activity went, what did the children get from it and is there anything you could have added?

If you have approaches particular to your setting they may ask about them too e.g. forest schools sessions, or the curiosity approach.

### Understanding Children

Inspectors will want to see your knowledge and understanding of the children in your care.

- ▶ What experiences have children had inside and outside of your setting?
- ▶ They may choose one or two children in particular and ask for you to tell them about the child, what their starting points were, where they are in their development, what their next steps are and so on.

### Values, Community and celebrations

- ▶ What are British values and how do you teach them?
- ▶ What is your local community like?
- ▶ What is **cultural capital**?



- ▶ What do you celebrate in the setting? How does that reflect your local community?
- ▶ What is your setting's ethos and values?

### Transitions

- ▶ What relationships do you have with children's previous/future educational settings?
- ▶ How do you prepare them for their next setting?
- ▶ How do you help children to settle when they first arrive?

### Staff

- ▶ What is your training and experience? (especially for those in leadership positions)
- ▶ How do you look after staff wellbeing?
- ▶ Do you feel supported in your role?
- ⊗ ▶ How are staff supported?
- ▶ How is your workload?

### For Older Children in EYFS Settings

- ▶ What is your early reading support?
- ▶ How is phonics taught?
- ▶ What interventions do you have to close the attainment gap for reading and writing?
- ▶ How are you instilling a love for reading?
- ▶ Discussion of our curriculum maps and long term plans.
- ▶ How does what you do link to year one?
- ⊗ ▶ How do you build on learning from nursery?

