

Guidance

# Contracted Ofsted inspectors for early years childcare

Find out if you have the qualifications and experience to contract as an Ofsted inspector for childminders, daycares and other childcare providers.

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**Applies to England**

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If you have the necessary qualifications and experience, you might be able to contract with us as an Ofsted inspector for childcare.

Ofsted can enter such contracts under [schedule 12, paragraph 11 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006](#).

We also have a permanent employed inspector workforce of Regulatory

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Inspectors. There is [separate guidance if you want to become a Regulatory Inspector](#).

## Who can be a contracted Ofsted inspector

You can be a contracted inspector if you are either:

- a serving practitioner
- a non-serving practitioner

You must not have been previously barred from being a proprietor or head teacher of a school under [section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008](#).

We must also be satisfied that you are not connected with any inspection judgements or circumstances which may undermine your track record as an effective leader or credibility as an inspector.

## Qualifications and experience required

### Your qualifications

You will need to be educated to [degree-level qualification or equivalent level 6](#).

Alternatively, you could have an equivalent professional qualification, such as:

- a teaching qualification
- an early years qualification
- a vocational or leadership and management qualification

### Your experience

In addition to the qualifications above, you will need at least 3 years of experience in the early years sector, which can include:

- as a teacher
- providing childcare and early education
- as an early years manager
- providing early years training, inspecting or advising

You will also need to have experience in more than one provider.

## Skills and competencies required

You must be able to:

- use evidence to form hypotheses and questions
- identify priorities
- use evidence and your knowledge to evaluate options and arrive at well-reasoned decisions
- weigh complex and conflicting evidence to reach robust judgements
- produce clear written records and reports expressing your judgements cogently and precisely in writing

## Register your interest

If you believe you meet the above requirements, you can [register your interest to contract as an Ofsted inspector](#).

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