



Inspection of day care

Further guidance for section 5 inspectors

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Background

1. On 13 June 2005 the government announced further proposals for schools to provide extended care from 08:00–18:00, for 48 weeks of the year. Schools may provide this in a number of ways. In some cases extended care will be provided directly by the school's governing body. In other cases, it will be provided in partnership with a number of schools, with private or voluntary organisations, and by childminders particularly within a childminding network. It is likely there will be a range of different contractual arrangements and it will not always be obvious who should be the 'registered person'.
2. Ofsted's Early Years Directorate (EYD) will have to consider each application on a case by case basis and consequently it is not possible to give definitive guidance.

What to do when a school wants advice about registration

3. Where a school is not certain about registration details or who should make the application to register extended care, they should be referred to the regional EYD office.

What is the definition of day care?

4. The definition of day care is care for children under eight, for a period, or total of periods, of more than two hours in any one day, where the care takes place on non-domestic premises on more than five days a year.

Who needs to register?

5. All schools who provide day care for children under eight as part of their activities.

What needs registering?

6. Any provision operating for a total period of more than two hours a day for children under three.
7. For children aged three and over, out of school care, such as breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday play schemes open for a total of more than two hours a day.
8. Crèche facilities and full or sessional day care, if they run for two hours or more.

What does not need registering?

9. Nursery education provided by the school during a normal school day in a nursery class or unit, where children are pupils of the school.

10. Educational provision for children of statutory school age during a normal school day.
11. Activity-based after-school activities, such as football coaching, drama groups etc.

Who is the registered person?

12. For maintained schools, the registered person is the governing body, unless the governing body has entered into arrangements with a private, voluntary or independent provider. The Education Act 2002 gave governing bodies powers to run extended facilities, including day care.

What do school inspectors do if they find a school has day care which is not registered?

13. School inspectors should contact their RISP who should telephone the lead area managers in the local, EYD regional office for advice.