

Quality Matters

in Essex

For schools

Why Quality?

Essex County Council is wholly committed to supporting all schools in Essex to be the very best they can be, so that our children and our families can thrive and prosper - both now and in the future. The overwhelming evidence from research shows that high quality early learning and care is essential to give children the best start they need to achieve better outcomes in school and beyond. Children who experience high quality provision develop better social, emotional and cognitive abilities. Conversely poor quality provision does not support children's learning and development in the long term.

'Quality Matters for Schools' has been produced for schools to support leaders to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of early years provision in a robust way that will inform a schools self-evaluation.

Please refer to the following documents for all sections within this suite of materials:

- **The Early Years and Childcare website**
www.essex.gov.uk/earlyyearsandchildcare
- **Statutory Framework for EYFS 2021**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>
- **The Education Inspection Framework (EIF)**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-eif-inspections-and-the-eyfs>
- **The Schools Inspection Framework 2022**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-eif>
- **Development Matters – Non statutory curriculum guidance for the early years foundation stage**
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007446/6.7534_DfE_Development_Matters_Report_and_illustrations_web_2.pdf

The document below is given for reference only and does not form part of the guidance or statutory information for Early Years Inspections in Schools. It does however provide additional detail and will be useful to ensure parity across early years provision in schools and settings.

- **Early Years Inspection Handbook Sept 2022**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-inspection-handbook-eif>

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