

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEFFQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 April 2021 20:56
Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEFFQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 25 April 2021

Dear All

Please find updates on the following areas in this email: -

- Ofsted
- DfE Update on Ofsted registrations
- Transition document - to reflect correct spelling of Tendring
- School Deferral – correction to previous information issued
- Signposting to EYFS Newsletter

Ofsted The Early Years inspection handbook has been updated on 19th April 2021, click on the following link for the updated document: [Early years inspection handbook for Ofsted registered provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

DfE Update [Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update](#) - On-site EIF inspections of registered early years providers will begin from 4 May. We will prioritise providers:

- judged less than good at their last inspection (including those who received an interim visit in the autumn term)
- that registered recently but have not been inspected
- whose first inspection is overdue
- that were not inspected in the last inspection cycle due to the pause in routine inspection

We will continue to carry out urgent inspections if we have significant concerns about a provider.

Transition document updated - apologies there was a typing error for the Tendring Family Hub link on the Transition Guidance. Please find attached the updated Transition Guidance with the 'Are you ready for your four year olds?' document now embedded within it.

School Deferrals – reminder and updated guidance - many children would have received the offer of their school place now. Some parents may be considering deferring their child's school place until they reach statutory school age. In order to support this decision please discuss with parents the 'points to consider' document which is attached. This guidance has been updated, the following point as was incorrect and has been removed:

- If defer for a year and start in reception at some point the school will need to move child to correct cohort for age during the child's education creating another transition for the child, with change in friendship group and potential missing a year of curriculum for example.

The correct advice from schools admissions is:

- If a deferment is agreed for a child at the start of Reception year, they follow that year group throughout their school education. They are not automatically put up to be with their age cohort.
- If the deferral request is agreed by the admission authority for a school, they will stay with the lower cohort throughout their schooling, taking Sats etc with the lower cohort..

Please accept our apologies for any confusion.

If a parent still would like to defer their child, please can you complete the online form on the following link so that we are able to confirm whether the Free Entitlement Funding will be paid.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TzK0qFwVFUKg8X7YzJqZLx-c2me0YPJOijWXRA_17VJUMVFGTTRSOE1QMjIwSVkwRUdYMTI2M0E5Ry4u

EYFS Newsletter The updates we issue in these emails from this point on will only be able to focus on any specific Covid updates and will not be including any information or signposting on other news items as these will be covered in the Essex Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Practitioner Newsletter.

This is currently published each month, and will shortly be moving to fortnightly. It contains information for early years and childcare providers, including childminders, on topics such as, but not limited to:

- Funding
- Safeguarding
- The EYFS
- Training and qualifications
- Getting started
- Running your business
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion.

So please ensure you look out for the EYFS newsletter to ensure you continue to get access to regular updates. If you are not currently signed up to receive these EYFS newsletters, please use this link to [subscribe](#) where you can find more information on how these subscriptions are managed.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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