**Wraparound childcare essential criteria for delivery**

The wraparound childcare must be sustainable, accessible, affordable, and of quality provision. While the availability of places is the primary objective of the government’s wraparound programme, Essex County Council are committed to ensuring children are safe and engaged in inclusive and high-quality childcare. Below are the minimum requirements for all providers of wraparound provision.

**OFSTED**

OFSTED registration is required so parents will be able to use the governments tax-free childcare scheme and if eligible to access the childcare element of universal credits.

All registered childcare providers must follow any relevant legislation, including laws about health and safety, disability discrimination, safeguarding, food hygiene, fire, and planning requirements. Please email Wraparound.childcare@essex.gov.uk for further advice and support in helping you to identify and comply with your legal obligations.

All providers must be on the correct OFSTED register.

There are two OFSTED registration categories:

* Early Years register
* Childcare register

Early Years register

This register is for any provider caring for children aged from birth until a child starts in a school Reception class or the term after a child's 5th birthday.

You will need to meet all the safeguarding and welfare and the learning and development requirements of the [Statutory requirements for the early](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2) years foundation stage.

Childcare Register

This register has 2 parts:

**Compulsory register** – for providers caring for children from 1 September after the child’s fifth birthday up until their eighth birthday

**Voluntary register** – this register is for those who are looking after children aged 8 and over, or if you are choosing to register voluntarily (for example, if you are a holiday club provider)

If you are registered on the Childcare Register you must meet the requirements of either or both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register, depending on which part of the register you are registered on. Once registered, you must continue to meet the requirements set out to remain registered with Ofsted. OFSTED carry out [compliance inspections](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-childcare-register-inspections) on 1 in 10 providers annually to check this.

Staff ratios

The OFSTED requirements are set out as the minimum standards and many providers maintain a higher staff to child ratio. Higher ratios allow staff time to focus on each child’s individual needs and provide more personalised attention and care.

Where the provision is solely before/after school care for children who normally attend reception class (or older) during the school day, there must be sufficient staff as for a class of 30 children – see OFSTED guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

It is for providers to determine how many staff are needed to ensure the safety and welfare of children, bearing in mind the age, needs and behaviours of the children attending, the layout of the setting (lines of sight/hearing), types of activities being offered and the experience and qualifications of the staff present.

Most providers usually agree that best practice is about 1 adult for every 10 children.

Lone working

* We would recommend there are a minimum of two members of staff on site at all times, but if the provision is single staffed, there needs to have a robust risk assessment in place, detailing what to do in the event of an emergency and how might they get assistance etc.
* Lone working policy would also be encouraged as it is designed to ensure the safety and welfare of the staff member and the children on a site.
* Check your insurer covers lone working

Staff training

* All staff must have completed relevant safeguarding training and be aware of current Child Protection policy.
* At least one member of staff must hold a valid paediatric first aid certificate.
* If on a school site and the children are aged from reception class up, then there is no requirement for any additional qualifications, however we would strongly advise at least one member of staff have completed early year or play worker training.
* Provision on the early years register but not on a school site and in settings on the early years register, the manager of the setting must hold an approved qualification of level 3 or above and at least half of all other staff must hold at least an approved level 2 qualification.

Staff qualification levels should not be seen as minimum requirements, they reflect the dedication and commitment staff have to improving their skills, knowledge, and capability of providing high quality childcare. It also builds trust with parents, knowing that their children are in safe hands and being cared for by qualified professionals.

Premises and equipment

Premises and equipment must be safe and suitable for childcare.

Providers should;

* Make sure that no child can leaves the premises, and no one can enter the premises, without someone who is providing childcare becoming aware.
* Have enough suitable toilet and handwashing facilities for the children you look after.
* Provide access to a secure outdoor space, or if this is not possible, make reasonable arrangements for outdoor activities.
* Do everything necessary to minimise any risks to children or staff from the premises (including entrances or exits), equipment or activities.

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