



Early Years and Childcare – Important Information on reporting settings to Ofsted

Within Essex, there are approximately 3,000 Ofsted Registered settings made up of Pre-Schools, Day Nurseries, Crèches, Out of School Clubs and Childminders which are all run as independent businesses. There are approximately 17,000 practitioners [2010 data] including staff in Children's Centres.

All providers must meet a set of mandatory standards relating to their practice including the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS]. This requires that all practitioners are adequately trained and knowledgeable about local reporting procedures to enable them to appropriately report any concerns about children in their care or any adults working within their setting. Providers must ensure they follow the [Southend, Essex and Thurrock \(SET\) Child Protection Procedures](#) on the ESCB website.

Whilst the ECC Early Years and Childcare service have a responsibility to ensure sufficient childcare and to support and develop the quality of registered provision, they have no regulatory powers; Ofsted is the only arbiter of quality.

It is the collective responsibility of everyone to ensure that children are safeguarded effectively and therefore if anyone has concerns about the safeguarding practice of an Early Years and Childcare provider, then they should contact Ofsted and report it without delay – Tel: 03001234666.

Ofsted will then make the decision as to whether any further action should be taken.

The EYCC practitioner website Safeguarding section contains a wealth of information for practitioners and can be found by accessing:

www.essex.gov.uk/earlyyearsandchildcare

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