Excelling at an Early Years Inspection
What feelings do you get when you hear the word Ofsted?
What are you current worries?

Group Discussion
Understand the purpose of the inspection

• The purpose of the inspection is to evaluate the quality and standards of children’s care, learning and development, and the progress children make towards the early learning goals in line with the principles and requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
Outstanding Reports

• Meeting the needs of the range of children who attend

• The contribution to children’s well-being

• Leadership & Management
New Inspection Framework

• The inspector will look to draw out the strengths of the setting

• Having a strong governing body is key!
• Preparation
• The Inspection day
• Judgements
• Evidence
• Actions and recommendations
• New style report
Where to Start?

- Read and discuss the Ofsted framework for inspection and ensure staff are familiar with the welfare requirement.
- Ensure you have a range of evidence to prove your achievements in the areas.
- Discuss as a staff team/committee what you are doing, how you might answer questions and provide evidence to prove the impact of what you are doing and how you know.
• Ensure you SEF is up to date every 3 months. Monthly if you are due an inspection

• Practice inspection trails and learning journeys so everyone knows what is likely to happen

• Ensure there is evidence of partnership with parents/carers.
Inspection day

- The inspector is likely to arrive at time the setting opens as they will like to meet and talk with parents
- Check ID of inspector
- Inform the inspector of the housekeeping procedures
- Inspector will want to ask parents if they are satisfied with the provision, are they kept informed of what their child does at the setting and what information were they asked to provide when they enrolled their child
• The inspector will arrange a timetable for the day

• They ask for a tour of the premises

• The inspector will not wish to disrupt any activities planned so try and keep to normal routines
Baseline assessment

A baseline assessment is essential for every child **upon entry** to the setting. If this is missing from a child’s record then the setting will be set an action and cannot then be judged as better than satisfactory.

*Do you know your children as individuals?*
Joint observations

- Manager (or EYP) usually best placed to undertake these
- Make sure whoever joins the inspector has a sound understanding of the quality of the teaching experience
- Provider can choose the activity to be observed
- Chose a confident member of the team to be observed
• Following the observation the inspector will ask the manager (or EYP) how they feel it went
• Important to identify weaknesses as much as strengths
• Offer praise to staff members where they have done well
• The inspector will interview the manager (or deputy if the manager is unavailable) this usually last about an hour

• This is the time the inspector will look at key paperwork and documents
Judgements

• There are now 4 judgements
What an inspector looks for

- Effective education programmes - do you focus on the prime areas?
- Observation/assessment – can you talk about each child clearly showing that you know them as an individual
- The inspector will want to track at least 2 children and one will be a child identified as having an additional need
• Quality of teaching – planning next steps

• Partnership with parents – sharing learning at home
Leadership and Management

- Safeguarding
- Monitoring the EYFS
- Self evaluation form
Being Outstanding

- Preparation is key – prepare the team
- Meet the needs of the range of children that attend the provision
- Contribute to their wellbeing
- Carry out peer observations
- Update the SEF
• Provide evidence of how you work in partnership with parents/other services

• Carry out a ‘mock’ inspection

A key component to self-confidence is planning!
Actions and Recommendations

• Any breach of a legal requirement is likely to result in an action being set and a judgement above satisfactory is very unlikely

• Recommendations are areas of improvement usually agreed between you and the inspector before they leave
At the end of the inspection

- Feedback- how good are you at receiving feedback?
- Be clear what the grading is and why
- Do not be afraid to challenge and question
- Debrief all staff

*Remember this is part of a growth process!*
Report

• Will be parent friendly
Writing an Effective SEF

• Should be a reflective account of the setting
• Honest
• Clear – no jargon
• Precise
• Don’t waffle
• Don’t embellish
• Don’t dig big holes
• Update regularly
Summary

• Be prepared
• Carry out peer observations
• Update the SEF- focus on impact and child outcomes
• Do a mock inspection
• Keep calm and support each other (make sure your staff know that this is not the time to show off as an individual)