

Early Years Inspectorate

Regulatory Support Forum

Terms of Reference

Mission, Vision and Values:

The Early Years Inspectorate (EYI), is committed to working with the members of the Regulatory Support Forum, in accordance with the core Tusla Values of trust, respect, empathy, working together and integrity, to promote and monitor the safety and quality of care and support of the child in early years' provision in accordance with the Regulations, in line with the following principles:

- Acting with integrity at all times by being fair, reasonable, impartial and transparent in all dealings with both staff, registered providers, parents and all external stakeholders.
- Being accountable and committed to providing a high quality and robust inspection service which supports the safety, health, welfare, development and care of children in early years provision.
- Ensuring that regulatory processes are proportionate (in accordance with risk), targeted and effective and that regulatory interventions impact positively on the experience of children in early years' provision.
- Using internationally regarded evidence of best practice in regulation and inspection, whilst acknowledging the unique elements of the Irish context

Purpose:

The Regulatory Support Forum is a key element of the support network available to Early Years' providers by formally convening representatives from the ECEC support organisations for the purposes of briefing the sector on key initiatives and providing information on the on-going practice, policy and protocol decisions of the EYI.

Aims and Objectives:

- To support the development of a transparent, robust and quality assured ECEC sector that ensures better outcomes for children.
- To facilitate the relevant and timely sharing of information to the sector, by providing a forum for communication between the EYI and the relevant ECEC support organisations, and to seek feedback, as appropriate, from the sector.
- To update the sector on key practice policy and protocol decisions taken by the EYI and to allow for discussion on the implementation of these decisions.
- To provide a forum through which the EYI can offer advice, input and recommendations that will assist the various ECEC stakeholders in their mission to act as a support network for Early Years' providers.
- To develop and strengthen connections between the EYI and all stakeholders working in the ECEC sector.
- To provide the EYI with a forum to highlight and inform the ECEC sector, as appropriate, of upcoming and important strategic developments which are likely to have an impact on the provision of service in the sector

Responsibilities:

- The agenda for each meeting of the Regulatory Support Forum will be set, in consultation with Forum members, by the National Manager, EYI, (or nominated delegate) and issued at least one week in advance of the meeting date.
- It will be the responsibility of the EYI to arrange the meeting logistics (including the meeting venue) and to communicate meeting arrangements to participants in a timely manner.

- The EYI will keep a record of each meeting of the forum and circulate this record, for information to the Forum members after each meeting.

Membership and Frequency of Meetings:

- Membership of the Regulatory Support Forum is open to 1-2 representatives from all of the various ECEC support organisations as appropriate.
- Various staff members from the EYI will attend and present at each meeting of the Forum, as appropriate.
- The Regulatory Support Forum will meet at least Quarterly and more frequently if necessary