



Early Years Audit

Audit Link and Guidance

Audit window:

Opens: 29th June 2026

Closes: 18th September 2026



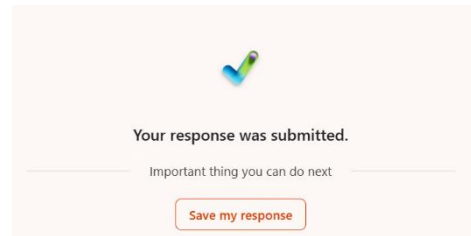
Audit Link

[Early Years Audit 25-26 – Fill out form](#)

Please click the link above to fill in the Audit

Audit Guidance

1. Click the Link
2. Fill in the form and submit it
3. Click on “save my response”
4. For your reassurance, a copy of your Audit will be sent out to the email address entered into question 5. This is currently not automatic, but will be sent at the first possible opportunity



Audit Top Tips

Preparation:

There is only one form, with all sections on it. Therefore preparation is recommended so you can fill in the form in one sitting.

- Below there is a 'paper copy' of the Audit. It may be useful to fill this in/use for notes before completing the online form
- Do not send in the 'paper copy' this is for your reference only

Completion:

The lowest number on the scale is the lowest level, through to highest (1=least confident, 10=completely confident)

Most of the audit questions are indicators of confidence or scaling questions



Early Years Audit 25-26

The Early Years Audit supports the PVI sector in reviewing safeguarding arrangements and about your confidence across key safeguarding themes. Please answer each question or statement as accurately as possible, using the narrative boxes to add context, examples of practice, and any actions underway. Responses will be used to identify strengths, areas for development, and any support required. Please avoid including personal data about individual children or staff—use anonymised, factual information only. Estimated completion time: 15–25 minutes.

* Required

Setting Details

1. Question: **Setting name/Childminder name ***

2. **Setting type ***

- ☐ Group setting
- ☐ Childminding setting

3. Name of person completing the Audit *

4. Your role *

- ☐ DSL or DSD (Childminders please tick this option)
- ☐ Manager
- ☐ DSL or DSD and Manager
- ☐ Other

5. Please write the email address you want your completed Audit sent to. This needs to be an email address that is linked to your business. Please check carefully the email address is correct before submitting. *

Core safeguarding arrangements

6. Please indicate your confidence level for each statement *

	High confidence	Confident	Gaining Confidence with work needed	Not yet confident	N/A
Safeguarding policy is up to date and aligns with the EYFS Framework	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safer recruitment meets the requirements of the EYFS Framework	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Positive handling; staff training, incidents, and post-incident learning are recorded and reviewed (evidence available)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Threshold of Need (Level 1 – Universal): all staff understand their safeguarding role and know how to use the Sheffield Directory	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Threshold of Need (Level 2 – Early Help): appropriate staff are trained to complete an Early Help Assessment and know what Early Help services are available in Sheffield	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Threshold of Need (Level 3 – Targeted): I understand how to access targeted support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	High confidence	Confident	Gaining Confidence with work needed	Not yet confident	N/A
Threshold of Need (Level 4 – Safeguarding Hub): I understand how to make an effective referral to the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (i.e. reviewing the relevant Threshold of Need section/s, matching concerns to criteria, prepping for the conversation with the hub (3–5 clear points you will make during the conversation))	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have confidence that the safeguarding team at the setting is sufficiently trained for their roles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My setting follows the Code of Practice	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Safeguarding Training

7. Please tick the relevant answer *

	Yes	No	Work required
My setting has accessed a Universal Safeguarding course, or equivalent, within the last 2 years (this must be from a reputable training provider)	☐	☐	☐
If you have staff, are their safeguarding training certificates and knowledge up-to-date	☐	☐	☐
DSL and DSDs have attended the Sheffield DSL Initial training course	☐	☐	☐
DSL and DSDs attend the termly DSL/D safeguarding briefings	☐	☐	☐

8. Which provider have you used for your Universal Safeguarding Training (or equivalent) *

9. When was your last Universal Safeguarding Training (or equivalent)? *

10. If you are from a group setting, or a childminder with assistants, how do you ensure new staff inducted to the setting receive Universal Safeguarding Training (or equivalent), if they join after your last training has taken place?

11. I believe that my setting is compliant with the Local Authority Safeguarding Training Arrangements *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Work required

12. If you have answered 'no' or 'work required' to question 11, how are you going to ensure you achieve compliance with the Local Authority Safeguarding Training Arrangements?

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

13. Please indicate your confidence level for each statement *

	Yes	No	Work required
We have a clear policy/procedure for when sexual harm takes place between children	☐	☐	☐
Children are taught about consent and body autonomy, and positive relationships with their peers	☐	☐	☐
Your curriculum in this area adapted and inclusive for all children, taking into account their developmental understanding	☐	☐	☐
When an incident occurs, or is reported to you, you feel confident in knowing how to respond and where to go to for help and support	☐	☐	☐
I am confident in writing risk assessments and safety plans	☐	☐	☐
Referrals to children's social care and/or the police are made in line with local thresholds and multi-agency advice	☐	☐	☐

14. How do you manage and support the child who is alleged to have harmed others, while maintaining a safeguarding focus and appropriate supervision? *

15. Action Plan/notes for moving practice forward in this area: *

16. What supervision/controls are in place for higher-risk times and locations (public spaces, toilets, areas without a clear line of sight, etc) *

Child Sexual Abuse

Remember CSA (Child Sexual Abuse) and HSB (Harmful Sexual Behaviour) are different concerns. The next two questions refer to CSA and answers will feed into the Local Authority Child Sexual Abuse Strategy

17. Professionals at a group setting, or in your role as a childminder, please indicate your confidence to ask the right questions/have the right approach to aid early identification when there is no direct disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse from a child (direct disclosure is rare, and our youngest children may be non-verbal or not developmentally able to make their concerns known). (1=low confidence through to 10=high confidence) *

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18. Please share what could support you in deepening knowledge and confidence in identifying victims of Child Sexual Abuse *

Safeguarding Information Sharing

With 1 = Lowest, through to 10 = Highest please scale your confidence in knowing the right people and/or services to share sensitive information with

19. Confidence *

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Low-level Concerns and Allegations

20. Please indicate your confidence level for each statement *

	Yes	No	Work required	N/A
You can demonstrate that the DSL/Manager/Childminder understands the process to follow when there is a concern or allegation about an adult who works with children (including when and how to seek LADO advice)	☐	☐	☐	☐
You are confident in the definition of a low-level concern	☐	☐	☐	☐
You understand the difference between a low-level concern and an allegation	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is a clear recording process for concerns and how to report them	☐	☐	☐	☐
We/I can evidence that we have used the LADO Service when necessary	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am confident in making decisions about whether harm has taken place, prior to making a LADO referral	☐	☐	☐	☐

21. What could the LADO service do to improve your understanding of what to do when you have a concern about an adult? *

Online Safety and Prevent

22. Please indicate your confidence level for each statement *

	Yes	No	Work required
We have an online safety policy	☐	☐	☐
The parents know how to raise a concern about online safety	☐	☐	☐
You have a clear policy on the use of personal devices, in relation to you and any staff, and share this with the parents	☐	☐	☐
Staff and volunteers understand professional boundaries online (including use of messaging/social media), and there a process for reporting concerns about staff online conduct	☐	☐	☐

23. Prevent training is up-to-date *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Work required

24. Please indicate which of the following Online Safety themes you/your staff have a good awareness of *

- ☐ Sharing of nude/semi-nude images
- ☐ Pornography (viewing, exposure to, influencing harmful sexual behaviour)
- ☐ Violent content
- ☐ Deep fakes (including deep fakes of staff and/or students)
- ☐ Disputes in messaging groups
- ☐ Online bullying
- ☐ Grooming and exploitation
- ☐ Extremism and/extremist material (e.g. viewing extremist content)
- ☐ Misogyny
- ☐ Other

Action planning

Please note down any actions that will be taken from this audit, please note, if there is not a related action please state n/a

25. Core safeguarding arrangements *

26. Safeguarding Training *

27. Harmful Sexual Behaviour *

28. Child Sexual Abuse *

29. Safeguarding Information Sharing *

30. Low-level Concerns and Allegations *

31. Online Safety and Prevent *

Declarations

32. Anti-racist statement: Our setting is committed to being anti-racist *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Work required

33. We are a trauma-informed setting *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Work required

34. I confirm my setting is compliant with the Code of Practice *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

35. Overall RAG-rating for our setting: Please remember, this Safeguarding Audit is a tool to reflect on a work in progress, therefore it is expected that some settings will rate themselves Amber or Red. Having reliable ratings ensures resources can be directed in the right areas. *

- ☐ Red
- ☐ Amber
- ☐ Green

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