

The 10-Step Guide to Researching Your Ofsted Inspector



Be prepared for your Ofsted inspection with our 10-step checklist to reviewing inspection reports for your specific inspector. Understanding what your inspectors areas of focus are can give you the leading edge in achieving a successful outcome.

1 Gather Information

First, search ofstedinsider.co.uk for the specific inspector who will be conducting your inspection. You can download all the reports we have collected for that inspector in one file and save time.

2 Time Management

Set aside at least an hour of dedicated time to review the reports, focusing on the most recent ones. We have named each file with the inspection number so you can easily see the most recent inspections in order.

3 Make Notes

Read through the reports, make note of any common themes or areas of concern that are mentioned across multiple reports. These may be areas that the inspector will be particularly interested in during your inspection.

4 Look for Good and Bad

Pay special attention to both the positive and negative statements as it will help you understand not only the areas of improvement but also the good practices that the inspector may look for during your inspection.

5 Spot Patterns

Look for patterns if the inspector is regularly focused on a particular area such as staff training, safeguarding, child development or any other area in particular.

6 Prioritise Areas

Prioritise the areas that you will need to focus on for your upcoming inspection. You may want to make a list of the most important issues to address, and assign someone on your team to take responsibility for each area.

7 Make a Plan

Make a plan for addressing the areas of concern or improvement which you feel are of most importance to your inspector.

8 Communicate

Before the inspection, make sure that you have communicated your plan clearly with your team. It may be worth utilising group messaging services to keep everyone up to date with your findings.

9 Stay Calm

Finally, stay calm and prepare about how you will talk to the inspector about the steps you have taken to improve areas in your nursery that may match with their areas of focus.

10 No time? Don't Worry!

Remember that even though you may not have time to change anything, there is still time to mentally prepare for questions that may focus on a particular area. **You've got this!**