

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) space requirements consultation launch

Background

- Our consultation proposals would help deliver – and meet demand for – the expanded entitlements by giving early years providers the flexibility to increase the number of places they offer, without requiring them to increase the size of their setting or move to (or operate from) larger premises.
- If any changes are made, it is critical to maintain a safe environment for children. Early years providers would continue to be required to comply with the EYFS statutory framework (including any requirements related to the use of free-flow outdoor space) and they would continue to be inspected, or quality assured against those requirements – by Ofsted or their CMA – to ensure they remain high quality and safe.
- Any change would be entirely voluntary. Providers would still need to comply with the statutory EYFS framework and remain subject to inspection by Ofsted or their childminder agency.
- These proposed changes are **not** required to deliver the places needed for the rollout of 30 hours from September 2025. **The earliest the changes would come into effect, if we did decide to go ahead, is January 2026.**
- This consultation sits alongside action to strengthen safeguarding in all settings, as well as wider work to create thousands of new places through our school-based nurseries programme.
- The current [EYFS statutory framework](#)² is mandatory for all early years providers in England, and includes the following indoor space requirements where indoor activity in a building(s) forms the main part of (or is integral to) the provision:
 - Children under two years: 3.5m² per child.
 - Two-year-olds: 2.5m² per child.
 - Children aged three to five years: 2.3m² per child