

Table of Local Authority Statutory Duties for Early Years:			
Category	Duty	Description	Legislation
Childcare	Duty to secure prescribed early years provision free of charge	To ensure that all children under school age, as described in regulations or in guidance from the Secretary of State, can access free nursery education.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 7, as amended by Education Act 2011 Section 1
Childcare	Duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents (or parents in education/training)	To require local authorities to ensure there is childcare available to enable parents to take up or remain in work or to undertake education or training to assist them in obtaining work.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 6
Childcare	Duty to assess childcare provision	To ensure local authorities undertake an assessment to childcare provision in their area to enable them to meet their duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents (s6 Childcare Act 2006) guidance was repealed with Think2 guidance. Guidance is now that analysis should be reasonably practicable	Childcare Act 2006 Section 11
Childcare	Duty to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers, and prospective providers	To ensure that local authorities give local childcare providers and would-be providers in their area the necessary support to help deliver sustainable affordable and high quality childcare that meets the needs of the community.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 13

Appendix A – Table of Local Authority Statutory Duties for Early Years

Children's Centres	Duty to secure sufficient children's centres to meet local need, so far as this is reasonably practicable	Intended to ensure there are sufficient children's centres in all local authority areas and that they provide the core offer for children's centres.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 5A, Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
Children's Centres	Duty to secure that each children's centre is within the remit of an advisory board and a governing body.	Intended to ensure there are advisory boards for all children's centres. These provide advice and assistance to children's centre leaders, who are responsible for managing children's centres	Childcare Act 2006 Section 5C Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
Children's Centres	Duty to secure that consultation is carried out before children's centres are opened or closed or have significant changes made to services	Intended to ensure that local parents and any other interested parties are consulted about any major changes that are proposed to be made to children's centre provision	Childcare Act 2006 Section 5D Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
Children's Centres	Duty to consider whether early childhood services should be delivered through one of the children's centres in the area	Intended to ensure that local authorities (and Primary Care Trusts and Job Centres Plus) actively consider whether services to young children and/ or their parents should be provided through children's centres.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 5D Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009

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Children's Centres	Duty to produce and publish an action plan after an Ofsted inspection	Intended to enable parents and others interested in the quality of children's centre provision to see how any concerns arising during an inspection are going to be addressed.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 98C(3), Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
Early Years	General duty to improve the well-being of children under five and reduce inequalities.	Places a duty on local authorities to improve the outcomes of all children under 5 and close the gaps between groups with the poorest outcomes and the rest by ensuring early years' services are accessible to all families.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 1
Early Years	Local authorities are required to act in manner best calculated to meet targets set for them by the Secretary of State.	Section 1 gives powers to Secretary of State to set targets in relation to the local authority early years outcome duties and underpinning regulations set out the process to be followed. i.e. local authority targets set must relate to the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 1(3) and (4). Secondary - Local Authority Targets (Well-Being of Young Children) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 / 1415) as amended by 2008 regulations.
Early Years	Duty to make arrangements to work with the National Health Service Commissioning Board and Job Centre Plus in performance of the local authority's duties under sections 1 and 3 of Childcare Act 2006	To ensure Local authorities work with National Health Service Commissioning Board s and Jobcentre Plus to achieve their early years outcome duty.	Childcare Act 2006 Section 4

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<p>Early Years</p>	<p>Early Years Foundation Stage: Places a duty on local authorities to make provision to ensure that early years foundation profile assessments made by providers in their areas are accurate and consistent, and have regard to any guidance given by the Department for Education.</p>	<p>Enables local authorities to ensure schools and early years providers fulfil their statutory duty in implementing and administering early years foundation stage assessment arrangements. The duty is intended to support the accuracy and consistency of early years foundation stage profile data reported to parents and practitioners, and by the Department for Education at national and local authority levels.</p>	<p>The Early Years Foundation Stage (Learning and Development Requirements) Order 2007</p>
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