

Catherine Lockett Fostering Services

I have been “fortunate” or “unfortunate” enough (I don’t know which) to have been inspected by Ofsted in my roles over the years, and the feelings this stirs never changes – sheer panic initially when the call comes in. Traditionally inspection calls have been in on a Thursday around 9am and when you know you are due an inspection, every Thursday around this time becomes a ‘take a breath moment’, right? The inspection experience should not be a negative one; yes it seems a lot of work and it seems to get the whole organisation into a frenzy, but if we are “ready” this should help, shouldn’t it?



Are you “Ofsted ready”, and what does this even mean? Are you due an Ofsted inspection, or maybe you have just experienced the process and are left not knowing how to tackle the recommendations? In this course we will explore what you need to do to be prepared for an Ofsted inspection, and how being prepared will make this whole process less anxiety-provoking. It is important that you are “Ofsted ready” at all times and in the course, we will work through how you can be.

Ofsted inspections are important and provide assurance that we are caring for children as safely as possible, however, we should be striving for excellence “outstanding” at all times because it is the right thing to do for our children, foster carers and staff within the organisation and not just being able to get up to date, provide evidence for one week, every couple of years to satisfy inspectors.

This is challenging for many reasons, but it is possible. In this course, we will explore together:

- Guidance on how the inspection framework will be carried out, including practicalities
- The role of Inspectors and the framework they work within
- Being prepared for an inspection at all times
- Being “in” the inspection
- How we can learn from inspections, see the positives of this process

With her teams, Catherine achieved “outstanding” in all of the inspections she has been part of and would love to share how you can evidence being “outstanding” too.

“Thank you Catherine, your delivery was non-threatening and calm, but very clear. This training was long overdue for us...” – TH, IFA