



WEEKLY BULLETIN 28th March 2024

Welcome to this week's bulletin filled with useful information.
Recent bulletins can be found [here](#)

Contact the team: EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk or 01772 539058

Webpage: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/ (training courses, support and information from the team.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/
www.facebook.com/groups/lancsearlyyears/)

Advertise your job vacancies on our webpage

www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/childcare-and-early-years-settings/

(uploaded weekly, no charge) complete this form:

<https://clickquestion.lancashire.gov.uk/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=900752>

April Training

Please find attached a summary of the training available for you in April but don't forget that you can also access lots of instant access training at



Out of school clubs [Out of school settings training - Lancashire County Council](#)

Childminders [On Demand - training available - Lancashire County Council](#)

PVI Nurseries [Nursery settings and schools training courses - Lancashire County Council](#)

Something to do this week – check your security



There is a huge variety of premisses used for childcare; including childminders in domestic homes, small nurseries or out of school clubs in community centres and schools and a larger setting in their own buildings. Whatever your set up, the Early Years Statutory Framework is clear about providers responsibilities around the security of their premisses.

- Children do not leave the premises unsupervised
- They take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises and have an agreed procedure for checking the identity of visitors
- They consider what additional measures are necessary when children stay overnight

The Childcare Register also states:

- make sure that no child can leave the premises, and no one can enter the premises, without someone who is providing childcare becoming aware

These questions will help you to reflect on how you are keeping your premises secure:

- Do parents and carers understand your systems when dropping off and collecting their child and don't compromise security e.g. holding the door open for others?
- Childminders - do your family members support you by closing doors and gates etc?
- Group care - are staff deployed to support the security of the premises e.g. are they able to open the door to parents and monitor gates in outside areas?
- Do risk assessments identify doors, gates and boundaries as things that need to be checked regularly?
- Shared premises – do you ensure that other users of the premises cannot enter the part of the premises where children are being cared for?
- Are fire exits clear of obstacles and open easily from inside?

Let's Celebrate!



This week we are saying a big well Wednesday Well Done to three of our childminders who have had their Ofsted reports published recently
Well done to **Mel Heath** in Heysham who has been credited for providing a 'welcoming environment where children feel happy and safe. Children

behave well and copy the childminder's kind manner as they invite her to join their play.' Her inspector noted how well Mel 'helps children to develop independence skills appropriate to their age. She supports babies who are learning to feed themselves. Young children learn to put on their own shoes and coats. They learn skills that will help them in readiness for the next stage of their development and education'. Mel shared that her inspection was a lovely and positive and that she didn't feel 'grilled' in any way at all.

Well done to **Joanne Vosper** in Chorley. Joanne reported a really positive inspection, and that the inspector made her feel comfortable. They were clear in what they expected and gave a good overview of the day. Joanne was credited with creating 'an extremely inviting home-from-home environment for children. Flexible settling-in arrangements help children to settle quickly. The childminder has developed warm and trusting relationships with children. As such, children are ready and motivated to learn.

Well done to **Susan Preston** in Leyland who shared that her inspector was very nice and put Susan at ease. She gave a mid-point evaluation which helped her to relax as well as some great feedback which Susan found to be lovely and confidence boosting. Susan's practice was noted positively in 'providing a well-planned and sequenced curriculum for all children. She skilfully identifies next steps in children's learning and plans opportunities for them to develop new skills. Consequently, children demonstrate positive attitudes to learning.

These are three reports to be very proud of. On behalf of everyone in the Early Years Quality Improvement Team, we would like to say thank you for your energy and commitment in providing high quality care and education in Lancashire and continuing to improve outcomes for early years children.

WELLCOMM – Let's get started

WELLCOMM Project Speech and Language Therapist Mary Sharp and the Lancashire Early Years Quality Improvement Team.

Access your free place on this set of two workshops, with follow up support sessions that could be dropped into at any time. There is no need to book, just follow the link at the appropriate time. All sessions are live streamed via Microsoft Teams.

Full details and dates are on the attached flyer.

Reminder - Early Years SENCO

Applications to join the final Early Years SENCO cohort close on **Sunday 31st March**

With less than **2,000 funded places** left to cover the whole of England, this is your **LAST CHANCE** to secure a place and become a certified SENCO for **FREE**.
[Apply here by March 31st](#)

This programme is run by the Best Practice Network and is open to Level-3 practitioners in private, voluntary, or independent settings, and Ofsted-registered childminders and childminder agencies.

Childminders can now join the EY SENCO programme without requiring a Level 3 qualification. This means even more childminders in England can become EY SENCO Certified for **FREE!**

Lachme Kaur, a Nursery Manager and SENCO, who has completed the Early Years SENCO programme, said:

"In my 29 years of experience in the early years sector, this has to be the most organised, well-delivered and supported training I have completed to date. This was

a wonderful training opportunity for me, as I use every aspect of my training in my day-to-day work”.

[Find out more and apply](#)

Campus in the City Festival

An escape room with a difference, a teddy bear hospital, space displays, virtual reality experiences, DNA experiments, futuristic computer games and an engineering discovery trail. These are just some of the interactive activities taking place as part of Lancaster University’s family-friendly **Campus in the city festival** during the Easter school holidays 11-13 April.

Campus in the city will bring the University’s research to life at venues in Morecambe and Lancaster with a packed programme of 30 plus hands-on activities and exciting opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about a wide range of intriguing topics. There’s bound to be something to spark your curiosity – [find out what’s on here!](#)



Activities will take place 10am to 4pm, at the following venues:

Thursday 11 April - More Music, Morecambe

Friday 12 April - The Storey and the Gregson Centre, Lancaster

Saturday 13 April - The Library and Market Place, Lancaster

Follow *campus in the city* on [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#) to see what activities are planned! Most activities don’t need booking in advance.

A cracking way to spend your time this Easter!

NEW – Behave Training

The Early Years Quality Improvement Team would like to invite all practitioners working with children from 2-5 years of age to this training session that coincides with the launch of the new PSED '**Supporting and Understanding Children's Behaviour**' Roadmap.

It is recommended that every setting accesses this training.

This session will take you through the:

- Universal ordinarily available practice and provision for all children to support managing feelings and behaviours
- Signposted support for children who may require a more targeted approach in your setting
- Signposting support for children who may require specialist support
- New 'BEHAVE Audit Tool', which will be provided for you
- New 'Behaviours that Challenge' guidance booklet, which will be provided for you

To find out more including charges and book your place:

Childminders: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/childminders-training/behave/

Group settings: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/nursery-settings-and-schools-training-courses/behave/

Group Settings

10 th May	1pm – 4pm	County Hall, Preston
15 th May	1.15 to 4.15	Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Club
17 th May	9 to 12 noon	North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood
21 st May	9.15 to 12.15pm	Borwick Hall, Carnforth
21 st May	1.15 to 4.15pm	Borwick Hall, Carnforth
24 th May	1.15 to 4.15pm	Early Years Professional Development Centre, Accrington
21 st June	1.15 to 4.15pm	Lancashire Football Association, Leyland

Childminders

29 th April	6.30 to 7.30pm	Live Virtual Session on Microsoft Teams
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