

## WEEKLY BULLETIN 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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

Contact the team: [EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk) or 01772 539058

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/](http://www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/lancsearlyyears/](http://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/](http://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>

## Time to add to your professional library?

We have a range of publications for you ( **full brochure attached**) and you can order them at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/publications-for-sale/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/publications-for-sale/)

### New publications:

#### Activities to build important attachments and shape Early Years children's social world' (£10 per set)

This series of **20** cards aid early years practitioners in nurturing children's social development skills. Their goal is to help children acquire the essential skills required for building strong connections with their peers and forming secure relationships with trusted adults.

The cards help practitioners build essential skills in children around:

- Building Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Emotional Regulation
- Problem Solving
- Self-Confidence and resilience
- Cultural and Moral Values



## Outdoor Learning - stepping through the seasons (£10 per set)

Are you ever stuck for ideas when planning your outdoor experiences?

This pack of 24 beautifully designed cards have been created to inspire all practitioners with their outdoor activities throughout the changing seasons.

The beauty of them is the activities need very few resources and use mainly natural materials found in the great outdoors. These will also be invaluable for anyone delivering forest schools or nature-based learning



## Reflective Practice Cards (£10)

These EYFS reflective practice cards are designed to support your self-evaluation of the EYFS in your practice and provision. They can be used by individuals to help you consider how to develop your practice further or they could be used together by whole staff teams.

These could be dipped into overtime as you consider how effective you are in meeting the requirements of the EYFS and can then support you in developing an improvement plan to develop and strengthen your practice further. You might decide to look at a card each week or to look at a whole section at a time.

The EYFS reflective practice cards are divided into 11 sections which are colour coded throughout the deck. These unpick each of the educational programmes within the seven areas of learning and development from within the EYFS and each of the grade descriptors within the four judgement areas from the Early Years Inspection Handbook.



## Flip think and plan – a reflective tool for childminders (£5)

This flip book is designed to help you reflect on your current childminding practice. On each page is a prompt to create an opportunity for you to think about your practice and be your very own critical friend.

There is no prescriptive way of using the flip book, whether you choose to ponder on a quote for the day or reflect on a single question for a few days, doodle your thoughts in a book or discuss with other childminding colleagues - the choice is yours! This publication will enable you to become a more reflective practitioner in a way that suits you best.



## Something to do this week- Check your arrangements for outings!

Taking children out of your setting is an excellent way to provide rich first hand experiences. Childminders will routinely use the resources of their community as well as travelling wider afield for new experiences for the children. For group settings such as nurseries and out of school clubs this may not be such a regular occurrence.

### Top tips for a successful outing:

- risk assess outings for risks and potential risks (some venues will have their own risk assessments to support yours), including deciding an appropriate child to adult ratio
- inform parents of where children will regularly visit and discuss with parent's any potentially 'riskier' outings (e.g. beach, busier venues, longer journeys)
- ensure that there is at least one person qualified in Paediatric First Aid and is provided with first aid supplies
- take a charged mobile phone for emergencies
- have the parent's contact details (childminders and on whole team outings)
- take children's medication and store it safely
- drivers must have 'business use' included in their insurance and car seats must be used in line with guidance [www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules](http://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules)
- ensure the children have appropriate clothing for the weather
- ensure sun protection is used when necessary
- make sure that children's allergies are



considered

- if you are taking food and drink make sure it is stored correctly and children can clean their hands before eating

## April's training

Take a look on the webpage for a roundup of the training in April's!

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/upcoming-courses/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/upcoming-courses/)

## Recruitment and retention of childminders – DfE Consultation



The DfE want to hear from you regarding how they can increase the recruitment of childminders and help retain those they have.

Please take this opportunity to have your voice heard. Key areas included are:

- extending the range of health care professionals who can complete the health declaration
- understanding barriers to working from domestic premises including planning and operating from rented accommodation
- proposed changes to how funding is paid
- access to support for childminders
- Childminder Agency changes including reducing the number of quality assurance visits to once per year and making the provision of practice support optional

[Childminder recruitment and retention consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Closing date: 10<sup>th</sup> May

## Open Morning – you are invited!

**Saturday 11th May 2024**

**9:30am to 11:00am**

The Early Years Professional Development Centre is here for all practitioners to support them in their professional practice. Each term we open the centre to provide an opportunity to get together and explore the interactive environments and catch up with colleagues.



Wander at your leisure, find inspiration, take away key messages and take photos to record the ideas you might use in your own setting. Each term we enhance the environment so there is always something new to for you to see. The Early Years

Quality Improvement Team invite you to come and view our latest interactive EYFS learning environments, both indoors and outdoors.

All EYFS staff are welcome from the private, voluntary, independent sector, Childminders, Nursery classes and Nursery schools, Reception classes and Out of School Clubs.

There is no charge if you are a member setting or sign up to our school termly update meeting packages. For all other visitors, the cost is £11 per person.

**No need to book, just drop in, have a look around, a coffee and a chat to the staff team.**

**We look forward to seeing you all again at the centre.**

**20 % discount  
on all  
publications**

**Early Years Professional Development Centre  
Fairfield Nursery School  
Fairfield Street  
Accrington  
BB5 0LD**

**Flyer attached to share with colleagues**

## Let's Celebrate!

This week we are celebrating with two Lancashire's childminders who have recently had their great inspection reports published.

**Maxine Dixon** from Accrington had a positive experience with her inspector and her practice was celebrated for the way she 'understands how to support children's behaviour. She uses a range of age-appropriate and consistent strategies to support children to understand right and wrong. The childminder understands how the use of positive praise and encouragement supports children to develop a positive attitude to learning'.

**Katrina Joyce** from Chorley demonstrated how she establishes close attachments with her children. The inspector noted that 'Children's emotional well-being is given a very high priority by the childminder. Babies thrive on the very caring and affectionate bond they share with the childminder. She responds quickly to provide reassurance and cuddles to babies who are unsettled. They are immediately comforted as they snuggle into the childminder's loving embrace'.



On behalf of everyone in the Early Years Quality Improvement Team, we would like pass on our thanks for your commitment in providing high quality care and education to children in Lancashire.

## Additional funding for resettled children

Additional funding for resettled children who have been admitted into your settings. Please complete the e-form below to apply for additional funding for children, aged 3 years or above, who have been admitted into your setting under various schemes such as Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Hong King British Nationals.

The funding amount depends on the visa scheme and is determined in accordance with the financial instructions and LCC policy regarding funding.

It is important to note that a separate request for each child should be created. Please only complete this form for those children who you have already admitted.

<https://forms.office.com/e/3h0ekNehCU>

## Early Help Training



I wanted to let you know about our offer of Early Help Training in Lancashire and that we have dates local to you. All our training is **FREE** to attend and delivered by our experienced Early Help training team and courses are available to book now.

We have new dates across all districts and within your local area from April to July 2024. The training courses and workshops are available for **all** practitioners working with children, young people and families across Lancashire. We are also able to deliver training sessions in house if needed

Please book onto training courses and workshops via this website  
[Early help training for practitioners - Lancashire County Council](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/earlyhelptraining)

If you have any enquires about the training please email us  
[earlyhelptraining@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelptraining@lancashire.gov.uk).

We hope to see you all soon  
Early Help Learning and Development Officers

## Lancashire Virtual Schools PEPs reminder

**Please check your Lancashire Professional Portal accounts for any Spring PEPs. There are a number of PEPs currently sat with settings awaiting completion.**

The deadline has passed and therefore any incomplete PEPs **urgently** require completion and submission by 23<sup>rd</sup> April (final end of term report will run 26<sup>th</sup> April).

We recommend you save a PDF version before submission.  
 If you are experiencing problems with completing any of your PEPs or require a new Designated Practitioner setting up with a Portal account, please contact [sharie.mayren@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sharie.mayren@lancashire.gov.uk) for support.

Please see PEP checklist attached to be used before submission.

The Summer PEP cannot be started until the Spring PEP has been submitted.

Please ensure you have the Summer PEP meeting arranged with the child's Social Worker and parent/carer. **Deadline for submitting Summer PEPs is 7<sup>th</sup> July.**

For pre-school CLA, don't forget to invite the prospective school to the Summer PEP meeting so they can gain a full understanding of the child's strengths, needs and ensure a smooth transition.

You can visit the Virtual School website for lots of information, resources and access to training at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/virtualschool](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/virtualschool)

PEP training (online) Tues 30<sup>th</sup> April 10 – 12.30pm, book here - [clickDelegate PEP Training for Designated Teachers - All Schools and Settings \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](#)

Kind Regards

Lancashire Virtual School

## Bookstart



Many of Lancashire's libraries who serve wards in the lowest half of IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) have recently received an amount of Pre-schooler packs, and they are contacting their local nurseries, typically via email or phone call, to arrange gifting for children turning 4 this academic year or who might require SEND packs or dual language books.

Childminders in these wards can contact Tom Brown (Reading Development Officer) on [tom.brown@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.brown@lancashire.gov.uk) to enquire about a pack for their pre-schoolers turning 4 this academic year or who might require SEND packs or dual language books.

**Libraries who have been allocated Pre-schooler packs for gifting to their nearby early years settings are:**

District	Library	District	Library
Burnley	Pike Hill	Ribble Valley	Clitheroe
Chorley	Chorley	Rosendale	Haslingden
Fylde	St Annes	Rosendale	Rawtenstall
Fylde	Kirkham	Rosendale	Whitworth
Fylde	Freckleton	West Lancs	Skelmersdale
Fylde	Lytham	West Lancs	Ormskirk
Fylde	Ansdell	West Lancs	Tarleton

Hyndburn	Great Harwood	Wyre	Cleveleys
Hyndburn	Oswaldtwistle	Wyre	Knott End
Hyndburn	Rishton	Wyre	Poulton
Lancaster	Carnforth	Wyre	Thornton
Lancaster	Halton	Pendle	Brierfield
		Pendle	Nelson



Additionally, each district has a Storytelling Backpack Kit available for settings to borrow for free for 1-4 weeks at a time if they wish – if interested they can either contact Tom - [tom.brown@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.brown@lancashire.gov.uk) or [contact their nearest library](#)

## Change to SEND Helpline opening hours

The opening hours for the SEND Helpline will change from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The new opening hours will be 10am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Don't forget the [Lancashire Local Offer](#) is available to you if you need support outside of the helpline opening hours

## LCC's Educational Psychology Service

Lancashire County Council Educational Psychology Service are changing the way in which they deliver their early years offer. Currently settings (childminders and nurseries) are able to make a request for involvement via a paper form. All requests are considered at a panel and if agreed, children are seen by a member of the educational psychology team. From September 2024 the educational psychology service will be changing the way in which services are offered to families, children and settings in the early years. In order to facilitate a move toward an alternative offer the current educational psychology Early Years Pathway request process will be **closed to new requests from the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2024**. This will enable children who are currently on the Early Years Pathway waiting list to be seen during the Summer period. Please do not send in requests after the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2024, otherwise these will be returned to you. The educational psychology service will be in communication with settings with further updates around the alternative offer in early September 2024 where further details will be released.

## A Free Online Introduction to Deaf Awareness

Are you interested in learning more about deaf awareness and British Sign Language?

Why not join one of our free online courses to learn more about BSL and effective communication with deaf people.



In this one-off session you will be introduced to deaf awareness and British Sign Language (BSL) You will identify the barriers the deaf community face on a daily basis communicating in a hearing world.

This session will cover tips on how to communicate more effectively with all deaf people.

It will also teach you how to introduce yourself using British Sign Language and show you how you can continue to learn BSL independently after the session.

You can enrol onto a course today and secure your place via the links or QR codes below.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am-11:30am

[https://portal.mis.nelsongroup.ac.uk/Page/U\\_PublicCourseDetails?uio\\_id=44228](https://portal.mis.nelsongroup.ac.uk/Page/U_PublicCourseDetails?uio_id=44228)

Or

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 6pm-7:30pm

[https://portal.mis.nelsongroup.ac.uk/Page/U\\_PublicCourseDetails?uio\\_id=44226](https://portal.mis.nelsongroup.ac.uk/Page/U_PublicCourseDetails?uio_id=44226)

**This course is free for anyone living in Lancashire and over the age of 19yrs.**

## **MMR Vaccination campaign for adults**

Please see some resources attached, that you may want to share with families/colleagues.

## **DfE Webinar on Measles**

### **Webinar recording on measles, the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination and managing outbreaks**

On Monday 4 March, DfE hosted a webinar on measles, with speakers from the UK Health Security Agency, the NHS and Inspire Education Trust.

[Watch a recording of the webinar here.](#)

We encourage you to view and share the recording which includes the expert commentary accompanying the slides.

You can also see the updated the section of the DfE measles blog [for schools, nurseries and other education settings](#) to answer some of the questions raised in the webinar.

## **DfE and Ofsted Updates**

Inspection Handbook Updates (5<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - see summary of changes for details)

[Early years inspection handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Independent schools inspection handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/independent-schools-inspection-handbook)

[Carrying out Childcare Register compliance inspections - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-childcare-register-compliance-inspections)

[Childminder agencies: inspection guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childminder-agencies-inspection-guidance)

Changes to [Ofsted inspections and visits: deferring, pausing and gathering additional evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-to-ofsted-inspections-and-visits-deferring-pausing-and-gathering-additional-evidence) (see summary of changes)

Changes to Ofsted's enforcement policy (see summary of changes)

[Early years and childcare: Ofsted's enforcement policy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-and-childcare-ofsted-enforcement-policy)

Changes to Ofsted's Complaints procedure for Inspections after 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
[Complain about Ofsted - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complain-about-ofsted)

His Majesty's Chief Inspector, Sir Martyn Oliver, today announced that he has appointed Dame Christine Gilbert to lead an independent learning review into Ofsted's response to the tragic death of Ruth Perry.

[Dame Christine Gilbert to lead independent review into Ofsted's response to Ruth Perry tragedy](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dame-christine-gilbert-to-lead-independent-review-into-ofsted-s-response-to-ruth-perry-tragedy)