

## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Welcome to this week's bulletin, 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/](https://www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/) [www.facebook.com/groups/lancsearlyyears/](https://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](#):

### New Managers Academy: Are you new to the role of managing a PVI nursery?

Perhaps you have only been a manager for the last 6 months or so. Let us know and we can offer you some additional support whilst you fully find your feet (no charge). One of the Early Years Project Officer's will meet with you to discuss your current challenges and offer advice and guidance and you will also be invited to termly, virtual group meetings to network with other new managers for peer support. What next: just complete this short

[Microsoft Teams form](#)

### New Practitioners Academy: Are you training or been in early years for less than a year?

Join by coming on any (or all) of the free meetings - there is no need to book just click on the links below on the date at 4pm. We will chat to you about all sorts of elements of practice as well as giving you the opportunity to ask questions. We are really looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the best profession in the world!

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

## Something to do this week! think about your arrangements for first aid

The EYFS Statutory framework states that

*'Providers must ensure that there is a first aid box accessible at all times with appropriate content for use with children.'*

Some things to consider when reviewing your systems.

- Are the first aid supplies easily accessible particularly in larger settings or where staff are spread out?



- Are staff members and volunteers aware of the first aid arrangements including location of first aid equipment and who the qualified first aiders are?
- Are used items replaced immediately?
- Are first aid supplies regularly checked for out of date items?
- Are the first aid supplies taken on outings, sufficient and appropriate for the potential risks?
- If you are in a homebased setting, how do you ensure that first aid box supplies are not mixed up with your family's?
- Are you aware of the requirement for some qualified staff (and childminder assistants who are left alone with children) to have completed Paediatric First Aid Training?
- Do you have a training plan that includes updating First Aid Training?
- Are reasonable adjustments made to ensure that children with long term medical needs are supported?

**[First aid in schools, early years and further education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)**

You will receive a list of recommended first aid box content from your training provider and the Health and Safety Executive also have a reminder [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

## Let's Celebrate!



This week we are shouting a wonderful Wednesday Well Done to three settings in Lancashire who have recently had their Ofsted inspection reports published!

🌟 **Silverdawn Day Nursery** in Warton near Preston shared how well their inspection went. Manager Nicole Fitch said that the day went really well. The inspector asked staff and parents lots of questions and she was very happy with the learning walk and the information given. She kept checking in with Nicole to ensure she was doing okay and didn't need a break. Their inspector noted in the report how – 'The nursery provides a flexible curriculum that supports children's individual needs and helps them to make good progress. Staff observe children to test out what they already know and can do. They form accurate next steps in learning and implement these into children's play.' Nicole's top tip is to keep calm, showcase your setting and prove that the everyday hard work that you do makes your setting unique and amazing.

🌟 **Carolann Smalley** a childminder in Accrington has also had her report published, highlighting how well Carolann – 'places high priority on supporting children's communication and language development. She recognises when some children need more support and plans targeted intervention. The childminder spends a lot of time talking to children, narrating what they are doing and modelling the correct pronunciation of words.' Carolann shared that that the inspection went 'really well' and that the inspector was a really friendly lady who kept asking if Carolann was 'okay' during the inspection. Carolann was able to talk confidently about the pathways and support for the individual children, particularly the children with SEN and those who have been referred for speech and language support.

🌟 **Davina and Andrew Knights**, co-minders from Bacup shared their positive inspection experience and how the inspector was mindful of any pressure they were under with the inspection. She observed both Davina and Andrew with their key children and asked questions about safeguarding etc whilst they interacted with the children. The inspector noted how Davina

'knows what she wants children to learn. She works closely with her co-childminder to provide and plan a well-balanced, ambitious curriculum for children.' In Andrew's report the inspector celebrates how he – 'skilfully introduces children to new vocabulary by repeating words and phrases and encouraging children to use them in context.' Their top is to believe in yourself and sell yourself.

On behalf of everyone in the Early Years Quality Improvement Team, we would like to say thank you for your continued commitment to providing quality childcare and education to children in Lancashire

## Month of the Military Child



April is the month of the Military Child. Each April, we get to recognise the important role that military children play in the Armed Forces family. Never Such Innocence provides special opportunities for military children to have their voices heard. To find out more about this, or find resources, please use this link :

### Month of the Military Child — Never Such Innocence

## Simpler recycling



Information on recycling at your setting can be found on 'The Business of Recycling England' [WRAP website](#), in particular their [FAQs](#) page has some useful information.

## Have you thought about ... Reflective practice

### Reflective Practice Cards Cost: £11

This popular set of cards, that comes as a deck of playing cards, is for practitioners across all sectors who are working with children from birth to five.

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.

These can be purchased from

[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/)

Here's a link to watch a short video showcasing the cards

<https://youtu.be/nnSRpegLEkE>

## Early Help Multi-Agency Training



We have recently launched our Early Help Multi-Agency Training Programme which includes 'An introduction to Early Help assessment'.

Please click on the link to book.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/training/early-help-training-for-practitioners/>

## Survey on inclusive practice in early years settings

As part of the role as Strategic Reform Partner to the Department for Education (DfE), the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) are gathering evidence of how early years settings are making their settings more inclusive and meeting the needs of a wide range of children and young people.

[This survey](#) should only take 10 minutes to complete.

The survey will close on **Monday 31st March 2025**.

The full link to the survey is here –

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/iassn/inclusive-practice-in-early-years-and-post-16-settings>.

## Private day nurseries eligible for claiming Employment Allowance at increased rate



Following lobbying from NDNA, the Government has issued more specific guidance around eligibility of PVI nurseries for the NIC Employment Allowance (EA). From April 2025, the EA will increase from £5,000 per employer to £10,500, potentially helping smaller nurseries to cover their increased NIC costs. More info and examples of which businesses will be able to claim can be found below.

## **Private day nurseries eligible for claiming Employment Allowance at increased rate - NDNA**

Attached is some further guidance on employment allowance.

## **Dolly Parton Imagination Library For CLA and children with a social worker**

All CLA and children with a social worker under the age of 5 are eligible for a free reading book delivered every month their home. To register a child with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library please click here –

**[The Dolly Parton Imagination Library - Lancashire County Council](#)**



## **Free toilet training posters and handouts for early years settings and parents**



When children can confidently use the toilet on their own, their transition to reception is easier.

These downloadable posters and handouts aim to help parents with toilet training and help educators prepare children for using the toilet when they get to school.

The resources include:

- A child checklist for using the toilet
- A 'toilet story for school'
- A handout for parents

**[Free Toilet Training Posters and Handouts for Early Years Settings and Parents - Foundation Years](#)**

## **NEW launch of digital check and Early Years Qualification (CEYQ) service**

A digital tool to help Early Years (EY) managers check whether staff qualifications meet ratio requirements in England.

**Check an Early Years Qualification (CEYQ) service** has now launched on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

By entering details such as the qualification name, awarding organisation, and course start date, managers will receive a clear outcome that can be printed for records.

This service simplifies qualification checks, saving time during recruitment and HR processes. It supports workforce planning, ahead of the expanded funded childcare entitlements by September 2025. CEYQ is for EY managers only and currently covers UK qualification.

Other users should continue using the [Early Years Qualifications List \(EYQL\)](#) to check their qualifications or seek guidance from [Ecctis](#).