

## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin

3<sup>rd</sup> April 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 – check you have informed Ofsted of any changes to your organisation



Have you made any changes to the organisation that you registered under with Ofsted? If you have changed from a sole trader to a limited company or selling a setting, for example. Ofsted have made checks on that original registration so you cannot open under the new organisation until you have made a new application to Ofsted and had this agreed.

**Childminders and Childcare on Domestic Premises:** have you informed Ofsted of all those over 16 who live or

work in your home (including children who turn 16)? You must also Inform them of adults who stop living or work with you. You may need to inform them of regular visitors. Assistants cannot be included in the ratios or work unsupervised until you receive the suitability letter from Ofsted. Full details of what to do are [here](#)

**Out of Schools and PVI Nurseries:** Ofsted need to check the suitability of people who take on certain roles in your organisation including committee members, directors, trustees, partners etc. This is done through DBS checks and completing the EY2 form.

Full details can be found [here](#) and Ofsted also have a [blog about committee run childcare](#)

If you are not sure who Ofsted are aware of then the nominated individual for your setting can email Ofsted ([enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)) from the email address known to Ofsted with your setting's unique reference number (URN) and check.

## Let's Celebrate!



**Rosemary Holgate** a childminder in Accrington shared that the inspector put her at ease straight away and was so kind. He was really interested in the children and joined in with their play, he even had a cup of tea! Rosemary said she was super organised with her paperwork and gave a folder of essential paperwork to the inspector. The inspection only lasted

2 ½ hours which Rosemary believes was because she had everything to hand for the inspector. Her report notes how

*'Children have rich opportunities to learn about the world around them. The childminder plans interesting experiences locally and further afield, such as the zoo and children's museum. Children often meet people from other cultures in the local area. The childminder uses these experiences to teach children about cultures different to their own.'*

**Rosemary's top tip** is to be organised with your paperwork.

**Oaks Preschool** in Warton are also celebrating their positive inspection outcome. Owner Kerry Short said that the day went well. Herself and the manager did the learning walk together and 'bounced off each other' giving detailed information on the setting so that the inspector did not have to ask too many questions. The inspector was familiar with pack away settings as they were a manager of this type of provision themselves so she really understood the nature of the setting and this made Kerry and her manager feel much reassured. The inspector noted how

*'Children enjoy their day in this vibrant and exciting nursery environment. Staff create a well-organised and welcoming space for children to explore, learn and develop. Children are kind, caring and motivated learners.'*

**Kerry best advice** is to talk extensively about your setting and every aspect of what you do and why you do it, so that the inspector gets the whole picture of your provision.

**Sacred Heart Preschool** in Thornton have had their report recently published, with the inspector crediting the staff team, noting how they

*'have a high expectation and a good understanding of each child's learning needs. They adapt activities to support children to make good progress. Staff provide children with many opportunities to develop their physical skills.'*

Manager Chelsea Porter told me that the inspector was very nice and reassured staff from the start. She offered breaks for when the staff needed a few minutes away from inspection. Chelsea covered all aspects during the learning walk so there were no intense questions. The inspector spoke to the SENCo and asked the staff a few safeguarding questions. A discussion at the end invited Chelsea to add anything further. **Chelsea's top tip** is to try and not worry as the inspections are not as intense as you think they are going to be.

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

## Team Vacancy

We are excited to share a vacancy for a part time **Early Years Consultant** within the team. We are seeking to recruit an exceptional teacher with expert knowledge of early year's pedagogy who will inspire and motivate practitioners across the early years sector. This is a part time, permanent post. This is an exciting leadership opportunity for highly skilled teachers to join our enthusiastic and passionate Early Years Consultant team. Candidates must have a proven track record in aspirational teaching and learning, leading to positive outcomes for children. The ability to communicate effectively and disseminate practice clearly and passionately are essential to the role. Creative and critical thinkers are very welcome to apply.



To find out more, please follow the link: [View the external job posting](#)

**Closing date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

## Early Years Pupil Premium Poster



The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) aims to improve outcomes for socio-economically disadvantaged children from the age of 9 months to 4 years. From April 2025 the amount of additional funding settings receive has increased to £570 per child per year.

**Are your parents aware their child may be eligible for this additional funding?**

**Do you communicate this with them upon induction and at the start of each new term?**

Used wisely and through a targeted approach this additional funding will support you to create a legacy and importantly ensure every child (no matter their background or family income) can flourish and progress, therefore narrowing attainment gaps.

**Please display this poster** (attached) within your entrance, website and social media accounts and encourage sensitive conversations with parents/carers.

## Let's Talk Safeguarding!

Come and join Catherine our Early Years Safeguarding Officer for a 30 minute chat about all things safeguarding.

The session will be held on: **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April**  
**6:00pm to 6:30pm**

Topic: **Time for me - Effective supervision**

**We will focus on:**

- The meaning and purpose of supervision
- Good practice in supervision
- The importance of supervision in terms of safeguarding
- Creative ways to provide supervision when time is short



This invitation is open to all childcare practitioners in any role within a setting - from apprentice to nursery manager. Childminders and out of school practitioners are very welcome too. The event comes with no charge. There is no requirement to register just turn up if you can make it. The session will be delivered virtually via Teams. Below is the link to join.

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**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 317 163 091 501

Passcode: bZ39MX3J

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**Dial in by phone**

[+44 1772 952601,661498137#](#) United Kingdom, Preston

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 661 498 137#

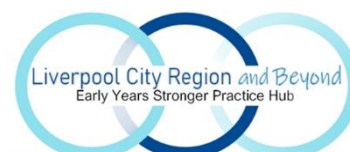
For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Please see attached poster to share with colleagues.

## LCRB April Newsletter

Please follow the link for the latest Newsletter from the Hub.

[April 2025 LCRB Newsletter](#)



## Foundation Years Recruitment and Retention Vodcasts

The Foundation Years have created a series of 4 vodcasts to that discuss how Early Years settings can address the growing challenges of attracting and retaining talented staff. [www.foundationyears.org.uk/category/resources/vodcasts/](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/category/resources/vodcasts/)

### Share with parents - Campus in the City



**Get ready for two days of hands-on activities and fascinating research at Campus in the City this Easter holiday!**

With more than 30 free, family-friendly activities, Campus in the City brings Lancaster University's research to life for all ages.

Meet brilliant researchers, take part in real experiments, explore virtual reality, eye-tracking games, bubble-making, clay modelling and beatboxing! Bring a cuddly toy to the Teddy Bear Hospital, become a junior detective, or tinker with tech to build your own games console, plus so much more!

Friday 11th April - More Music, Morecambe

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April - The Storey, Lancaster

Just drop in 10.30am-4pm and let curiosity lead the way! No booking needed.

Check the full programme for what's on each day [www.lancs.ac.uk/events/campus-in-the-city](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/events/campus-in-the-city) or follow Campus in the City on Instagram, Facebook, and X! #citc2025

### Ofsted and DfE Updates

[Early Years Experts and Mentors Programme Evaluation](#) (27<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

Process and impact findings from the evaluation of the early years experts and mentors programme.