

Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 24th April 2025



Welcome to this week's bulletin, 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](#):

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 13th May 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

Tuesday 8th July 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

Something to do this week!
check that you are fully supporting children who have allergies

This week is National Allergy Week | [I Wish I Knew](#) | [Allergy UK](#) | [National Charity](#)

Did you know that between 5 and 8 percent of children in the UK have a food allergy?

You must tell parents if any food you provide (either 'homemade' or purchased) contains any of the 14 major allergens. The 14 allergens are: **celery**, **cereals containing gluten** (such as barley and oats), **crustaceans** (such as prawns, crabs and lobsters), **eggs**, **fish**, **lupin**, **milk**, **molluscs** (such as mussels and oysters), **mustard**, **peanuts**, **sesame**, **soybeans**, **sulphur dioxide and sulphites** (at a concentration of more than ten parts per million) and **tree nuts** (such as almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, brazil nuts, cashews, pecans, pistachios and macadamia nuts).

The Food Standards Agency website has all the information that you need to help you, including free training and templates

[Allergen guidance for food businesses | Food Standards Agency](#)



Children may have allergies to other foods and it is essential that you have systems in place to ensure parents let you know of any allergies (including non-food allergies), this will usually be included on the child's registration form. Consider how you remind parents to update this information if a child develops an allergy or other health need.

You will need to ensure that this information is easily accessible so that all adults are fully aware of the child's allergy when preparing or serving food.

Those preparing or serving food will need to be vigilant to ensure there is no cross contamination including when cleaning food preparation areas and when storing food. The [check list](#) on the website is very useful to help you consider if you have the appropriate systems in place.

The Food Allergy Awareness Training for Childcare Practitioners is online recorded training (4.5hours) and can be purchased for **£17**. It is ideal for all childcare practitioners, including childminders. The training includes:

- Latest allergic Ingredient law and updates and EYFS context.
- Common mistakes when working with allergenic ingredients.
- Defining food allergies, food intolerances, and Coeliac Disease.
- 14 food allergies named in legislation and the dangers of hidden ingredients.
- How to design allergy-aware recipes and ingredient factsheets for staff and parents.
- How to make your premises allergy ready incl. suppliers, delivery and cooking.
- Identifying allergenic attacks and emergency First Aid and EpiPen use on young children.

To purchase, please use the form below and you will be sent a link to the training to access for 2 weeks. [Course Booking Form - Early Years Professional Development \(office.com\)](#)

Adults must also be aware of what might happen if a child has an allergic reaction and the action they must take. Paediatric First Aid Training contains training on how to help a child suffering from anaphylactic shock or other allergic reaction. If you have a child attending who has been prescribed an adrenaline auto injector pen (e.g. epi pen) then staff should undertake specialist training for this individual child.

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

- ☀️ Leanne Baker a childminder in Leyland has shared her positive inspection experience with us. Leanne explained how right from her notification call she was put at ease. The inspector spent a of her time observing Leanne with the children and taking notes and only really questioned Leanne when it came to discussing safeguarding. Leanne led her own inspection, and also did a tour of her setting with the children for the inspector at the start. Leanne's top tip would be to have out what paperwork you would like the inspector to see, have it out ready. For example, Leanne had her parent comments out ready to show. The inspector wanted to see the paperwork related to children with disabilities and health care needs. The inspection report details how- 'The childminder has a very caring and nurturing nature that instantly provides children with comfort and support when needed. They receive lots of cuddles and words of reassurance. This helps children to feel secure and boosts their emotional well-being.'
- 🍌 Jenna Riding a childminder in Rossendale has had her inspection report published, with her inspector noting – ' The childminder is very committed to her role. She provides an exciting and interesting environment and activities for children to explore and learn from. This provides children with space to develop and grow in their own individual ways.' Jenna shared that that the inspector called her several days before arriving for the inspection which helped to settle her nerves having spoken to her beforehand. The inspection took around 3 ½ hours and it was quite intense with the questioning, but Jenna tried to remain calm and answer all the questions. Her top tip is to stay calm despite any nerves and get into the flow of the day to showcase yourself.
- ☀️ Little Stars at the Oaks in Accrington are our third setting this week who are celebrating their positive inspection report. Manager Pat Boydell said that she has recently had Jill Anderton and Michelle Jones from the team, visit her setting, which really helped prepare for the inspection. She said it was not as stressful as she anticipated and the inspector was great. Her learning walk went really well. The inspector made reference to 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.' Pat's top tip would be to keep calm and keep doing what you would usually do daily.

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

Educational Psychology Early Years Offer



Outlined below is the early years offer from Lancashire Educational Psychology Service for the remainder of the academic year. During the summer term, we have two more free webinars for Parent Carers with a child aged 0-5 and two more free practitioner CPD events on offer which are all bookable using the links below.

We will be continuing to offer our early years group consultation in the family hubs which allows EY SENDCos a space to come and share practice, reflect and take part in a solution circle for anonymous case discussion.

Parent CPD Event (please see attached flyer)

Information about these events can be found on the local offer here [Online parenting courses: 0 to 5 - Lancashire County Council](#)

30 April 2025 6pm to 7pm - Promoting kindness and co-operation

Learn new practical ways to foster empathy, teamwork, and positive social interactions in your home and in your child.

[Book a place: Promoting kindness and co-operation](#)

18 June 2025 6pm to 7pm - Preparing children for the transition to school

Is your child starting primary school soon? This session is designed to help you and your child make a smooth transition! Learn practical tips and strategies to prepare your little one for this exciting new chapter. Discover how to build confidence, develop essential skills, and create a positive attitude towards school.

Early Years Practitioner CPD Events (please see attached flyer)

14 May 2025 9.30am-11am- Play matters: enhancing learning through mediation and modelling

This session is designed for early years practitioners who want to deepen their understanding of the critical role that play has in children's learning and development. Participants will explore effective strategies for mediating and modelling play to enhance children's engagement and learning outcomes.

[Book a place: play matters: enhancing learning through mediation and modelling](#)

4 June 2025 9.30am-11am - The power of connection: relational and trauma informed practices in the early years.

This session is designed for early years practitioners who want to deepen their understanding of how relationships and trauma impact child development and learning. Participants will explore the principles of relational practice and trauma-informed care, learning how to create safe, nurturing environments that foster trust and emotional security and help children to thrive in your care.

[Book a place: the power of connection: relational and trauma informed practices in the early years](#)

Group Consultations

We are continuing to offer group consultations in your local family hubs. In response to feedback from you, we are also trialling **two online group consultations** this term. **Dates for the summer term have just been released.** These are bookable on a first come first serve basis. EY SENCOs are able to book a maximum of one slot per term. [clickDelegate Early Years Group Consultations](#)

Group consultations will last two hours and will provide an opportunity for anonymous case discussion using a process facilitated by the EP. It will offer a collaborative space for EY SENCOs to learn from each other and share good practice whilst supporting SENCOs to leave with a range of supportive suggestions.

Further information about the early years offer from Lancashire Educational Psychology Service can be found on the local offer [Early years educational psychology - Lancashire County Council](#). Thank you to all those who have attended and engaged in the offer this year and who continue to share their feedback with us.

Early Years Expansion - Capital Funding Phase Two **A reminder for settings as the deadline approaches**

To support the expansion of the early year entitlements £2,015,836 of capital funding has been made available to increase the numbers of places available for 2 year olds and under 2's. We completed phase one which supported the first stage of the expansion, where we have created nearly 300 new places. From September 2025 eligible 2 year olds and under 2's will be able to access up to 30 hours of early education funding. We have reassessed the childcare market and have identified the areas where we may have a gap in places for 2 year olds and under 2's, where we have a gap in places these will be our priority areas for phase two.

We have a small amount of capital funding remaining to support the roll out of phase two. Please find attached details of our priority areas and information regarding the capital funding available, how to find out if you are in a priority area and an overview of the application process.

Next Steps

- Please read attached guidance document
- Find out if you are in a Priority Area
- Complete and return an Expressions of Interest form no later than 25th April.

- Once you have submitted an Expression of Interest form you will receive an application pack. This will include further information and guidance.
- A fully complete application pack will need to be submitted by 22nd May.

Have you thought about ... Walk and Talk Cards

Have you considered using our Walk and Talk cards?

They are a set of cards to share with families to encourage them to get outside and talk. There are various places to visit such as the park, the shops or down your street.



The Walk and Talk cards pack consists of fourteen colourful A5 cards. The cards are designed to support discussion and help you and your parents to initiate and build conversation with young children. They can also be used on parents' boards and your display boards.

The cards can be purchased on our website [Publications for sale - Lancashire County Council](#) they are also downloadable from here [Walk and Talk - information for professionals - Lancashire County Council](#)

To watch a video on how to use the cards, please click this link - <https://youtu.be/kpZtJ155kx0>

**Special
offer**

- full set of all six languages plus a set of bingo cards: £31 **now just £20**
- any individual language packs: £4.50 each **now just £3**
- set of bingo cards: **£4.50**

How to complain about Ofsted

Updated 4th April 2025 [Complain about Ofsted - GOV.UK](#)

Submit a complaint about an inspection, activity or incident involving Ofsted.

Change made: removal of the 'Complain about Ofsted (for events that took place before or on 4 April 2024)' process. All complaints should now be submitted through the current complaints process.

**Lancashire neglect, Practitioner Survey –
have your say**



Neglect in Lancashire continues to be very high and is a priority theme within the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP). In order to better understand the barriers and challenges in identifying and supporting multi agencies in safeguarding against neglect CSAP have put together a survey. The purpose of this is to identify learning and development needs across all organisations then CSAP can ensure relevant training and support is available

to all. It will be great if you can complete the survey so CSAP hear the voice of education practitioners.

The final day for responses is **Thursday 8th May 2025**

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CSAPNeglectSurvey/>

Ofsted inspections – How they inspect Early Years Settings and their use of Early Years Pupil Premium

A new post, “How we look at the use of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in our inspections of early years settings” has just been published on the Ofsted: early years blog.



The Department for Education (DfE) recently published guidance for [local authorities on the use of EYPP](#). The Education

Endowment Fund (EEF) has also [published guidance for early years providers](#). This blog will discuss how they look at the use of this vital funding when inspecting early years providers.

Read the new post: <https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk/2025/04/10/how-we-look-at-the-use-of-early-years-pupil-premium-eypp-in-our-inspections-of-early-years-settings/>

Training for settings

As we enter the summer term, have you planned your professional development for the months ahead?

Please find attached the training coming up in May - we hope you will be able to join us! Please follow the link in the title on the attachment to get the full details and access the electronic booking form. There is also a large selection of Instant Access training that is available to watch 'on demand' at a time that suits you – take a look.

Experts and Mentors Programme Evaluation Report

The DfE is pleased to announce the publication of the EYTDA Provider Guidance, developed with a sector-led implementation group to support training providers in delivering high-quality apprenticeship programmes for early years professionals.

Recommended for HEIs, training providers and sector stakeholders, the EYTDA Provider Guidance details key requirements for apprenticeship delivery, covering:

- Eligibility
- Programme structure
- Mentoring
- Assessments

- Quality assurance
- Compliance
- Roles of providers and employers

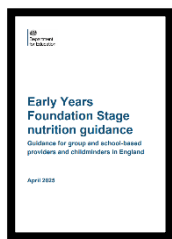
Training providers are expected to be ready to offer EYTDA apprenticeships from September 2026, although some may be ready earlier.

The full guidance is available on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) page. For queries, [Contact the Department for Education - Your question - GOV.UK](#).

Bespoke employer guidance will also be published shortly to support organisations in understanding and implementing the new requirements effectively.

The DfE will be hosting a series of webinars for providers and employers weeks commencing 25th April and 5th May. Register your interest at: eytda.enquiries@education.gov.uk

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) nutrition guidance changes from September 2025



From September 2025, it is intended that the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the EYFS will ask that providers **‘should’** have regard to this nutrition guidance. This means providers must take this guidance into account and should follow it unless there is good reason not to. This guidance will support providers to understand how to implement the existing EYFS requirement that states: ‘Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious’

To read the new nutrition guidance, visit [Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition](#)

Childcare Works free webinars for early years settings



Sign up for:

[Tuesday 6th May 2025, 7pm to 8pm](#)

or

[Wednesday 11th June 2025, 12 to 1pm](#)

Join one of these Childcare Works live sessions and find out more about the new

Early Years Toolkit, covering:

- the free resources and information available to make sure your nursery, school or setting is ready for the roll-out of expanded early years entitlements in September 2025
- practical support and fast access to information on a range of topics including business planning and meeting the needs of children with SEND.

These informal and friendly sessions are for:

- early years setting managers, leaders and owners
- school leaders who have, or are considering developing their early years provision
 - childminders
- everyone who wants to learn more about how to start, grow and sustain an early years setting

NOTE: These two webinars will contain the same information and presentations. Please sign up for just one of the live sessions.

Find out more at childcareworks.org.uk/webinars

Your input is invaluable to us – Help us to tailor support for children moving on to school

We are looking into ways in which we can particularly support some of our children that we know might struggle when they move to school in September. This is so that we can try and support those children to have a successful transition to their new reception class.

We understand how important it is for preschool children from your setting to have a smooth and successful start in their new reception class this September. Providing extra support for those children who might face challenges during this big transition is an area that is of high focus you and for Lancashire too. You know that starting Reception class is a major milestone, and we know it can be a bit overwhelming for some children. Here are a few reasons why they might find it difficult to settle in:

1. **Separation Anxiety:** It's natural for children to feel anxious when they are separated from their parents or caregivers for the first time, but some could find this overwhelming.
2. **New Environment:** The school setting can be quite different from what they're accustomed to in your setting. For children who are sensitive to change, this new environment can be particularly challenging.
3. **Social Adjustments:** Meeting new friends and forming connections can be daunting and a barrier for some that are well below their expected levels with social development.
4. **Different Routines:** The structure of a school day is often more rigid than what they're accustomed to in your nursery or home setting.
5. **Developmental Differences:** Every child develops at their own pace, and some might not be as ready for the academic and social demands of school as others.
6. **Communication Skills:** Limited language skills can make it hard for children to express their needs and feelings, leading to frustration and anxiety (You may be providing interventional support, for instance, through Wellcomm, for these children).

Your input is invaluable to us. By completing the questions below, you will help tailor the support needed to meet the specific needs of each child, ensuring they have the best possible start in their new school environment.

Please take a moment to answer the following questions on the form

by the 8th May

[click here to respond](#)

Creating amazing outdoor spaces – our popular training has more dates added

Please see the attached flyer to book a space on our outdoor training and learn how you can create your own amazing outdoor space.

Team around the school and settings (TASS)



The TASS web site has been updated with the Highlight Reports from last term. Please take a look: [Team around the School and Settings \(TASS\)](#)