

## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 1<sup>st</sup> May 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/](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](#):

### 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! Review your 'control of substances hazardous to health – COSHH'

[COSHH basics - COSHH \(hse.gov.uk\)](http://hse.gov.uk/cosHH/basics/)

What COSHH is



**Health and Safety  
Executive**

The law requires you to adequately control exposure to materials in the workplace that cause ill health. This is the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH). This also applies to the children in your care.

### **Harmful substances**

Many materials or substances used or created at work could harm your health. These substances could be dusts, gases or fumes that you breathe in, or liquids, gels or powders that come into contact with your eyes or skin. There could also be harmful micro-organisms present that can cause infection, an allergic reaction or are toxic.

Harmful substances can be present in anything from paints and cleaners to flour dust, blood or waste. Ill health caused by these substances used at work is preventable. Many substances can harm health but, used properly, they almost never do.

What would this mean in a childcare setting – cleaning fluids, damp or mould on walls or windows, paints the children use, items you use for messy play, nappy changes, blood or oozing spots.

### **The hazards**

Some substances can cause asthma or other diseases, including cancer. Many can damage the skin, and some can cause serious long-term damage to the lungs.

The effect can be immediate, such as dizziness or stinging eyes, or can take many years to develop, such as lung disease. Many of the long-term or chronic effects cannot be cured once they develop.

### **What you have to do**

You can prevent or reduce workers exposure to hazardous substances by:

- finding out what the health hazards are
- deciding how to prevent harm to health (risk assessment)
- providing control measures to reduce harm to health
- keeping all control measures in good working order such as extractors or dehumidifiers
- providing information, instruction and training for workers and others
- providing monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases
- planning for emergencies

## **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

**Little Wonders Educational Nursery** in Preston had their practice celebrated in their report, with the inspector noting- ' Staff recognise the uniqueness of each child. The highly effective key-person system helps to ensure that children's emotional wellbeing is supported effectively. Children's

behaviour is good. They listen to stories well and share books with one another as they turn the pages and look at the pictures.' Manager Shamim Dargit said the day went well and the inspector kept making sure she and the staff were doing well throughout. The inspector arrived early and spoke to several parents. The learning walk went well and they were able to talk about what they do best at the nursery. Their top tip is to relax, remain calm and do what you normally would do.

**Busy Bee Preschool** in Fleetwood have also had their inspection report published. Jane McNair, owner and manager said that the day went as well as could be expected. Their report notes how - 'Staff have created a secure educational programme to develop children's personal, social and emotional skills. They provide a good range of experiences that help children to learn how to work together and take turns'.

**Elizabeth Saunders Nursery** in Hutton also shared their positive inspection experience with us. Manager Rachel reported that the Deputy Manager, Vicky led the inspection that day. The staff had prepared well and so felt as relaxed as could be. Vicky was happy with the learning walk and was able to showcase the setting. They are very happy with the report which notes – 'The curriculum for physical development is a key strength. For example, children have good fun in the garden daily. Here, they practise their coordination and balancing, such as when they crawl through tunnels and run up hills.'

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

## Early Education Event in Lancaster

Please find information regarding an Early Education event, happening in Lancaster, attached and below.

Details of this event are available on the Early Education website, the link to which is here:

<https://app.sheepcrm.com/early-education/events/early-education-booking-67aca044ad832c0125363c02>

### **Ticket pricing:**

Early Education Members: £10

Non-Members: £15

Students: No cost (please apply to [office@early-education.org.uk](mailto:office@early-education.org.uk) with proof of student status)

## Summer term Professional Development

Please find attached the training brochure for your sector.

Take a look and plan your professional development for the coming term.



**Have you thought about ...  
Transition documents and guidance**

There is a new pre-school transition document for key persons to complete for all children moving up to Reception year in September. Following feedback from a range of early years practitioners, we have kept the transition document short with all key information included on 2 pages. There is a Development Matters and a Birth to 5 version so you can choose which you are most familiar with to indicate the age phase that best fits a child's stage of development. There are useful prompts in the guidance attached to support key persons in completing the transition document.

Please find the documents attached (pdf) or on our website (word doc)

### [Pre-school transition documents - Lancashire County Council](#)

## DfE Resources to help providers plan for sustainable business models

With the recent updates to charging guidance and providers starting to prepare for the introduction of 30 hours to children from 9 months – 2 years from September 2025, we have worked together with Childcare Works to bring together some key resources which you can access and share with your providers as appropriate.



Please find the resource attached (Packaged resources on sustainability).

The resources cover 2 broad areas:

- 1) Specific resources linked to invoicing, consumables and charging, as well as how to use Government funding as part of a sustainable business model
- 2) Wider business planning tools and resources, which providers might find useful when planning ahead

## Wellbeing outdoors for Practitioners



Would you like to take time to **relax** and **recharge** your batteries in nature whilst learning how to support colleagues and children to regulate their own emotions?

The attached flyer gives more information how to book onto this fantastic course.

## Using flour and other food substances for sensory play

Are you aware of the guidelines around using food for sensory play, including those containing flour? Please see details on the attached link how you should handle flour and other food substances.

[Handling flour and flour products safely | Food Standards Agency](#)

## Information to support early years leaders and managers check their staffs' qualifications

DfE have published [information to support early years leaders and managers check their staffs' qualifications](#).

As an early years manager or leader, you can use the new [Check an early years qualification service](#) to:

- check if an early years qualification achieved in England is approved as full and relevant by the Department for Education
- confirm if someone who holds this qualification can count in staff:child ratios at level 2, 3 or 6 in an early years setting in England

Help us improve this service and:

- sign up to [take part in user research](#)
- give us [feedback on the Help for Early Years Providers](#) website

For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for early years providers website](#)

## SEND training for Wrap around provision



At the recent Childcare Works provider forums, wraparound providers highlighted a need for inclusion and SEND training specifically for wraparound providers. We are pleased to let you know that we have worked with NASEN to develop a series of ten recorded bitesize training sessions to support

wraparound providers to offer inclusive environments for all children including children with SEND.

The attached information sheet gives more details of the recorded sessions. (NASEN recorded infographic)

## Inclusion newsletter

This edition of the Inclusion Newsletter includes:

- SEND Partnership update including publication of the Priority Action Plan
- POWAR update
- Y5 review information
- Deaf Awareness Week
- Link to SEND Workforce Survey 2025-26

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 29 Apr 2025](#)

## Heads Up from Health Protection - April Bulletin



### Heads up from Health Protection - April 2025

Our team is committed to raising awareness and providing valuable information to help you stay healthy and safe. We work to ensure that you have access to the resources and knowledge to help you make informed choices in order to protect yourself and your loved ones.

### Selected DfE Updates 23rd - 28th April

- [Protective security and preparedness for education settings](#)

How education settings should prepare for and respond to terrorism and other major incidents. Updated: 28 April 2025