

## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 15<sup>th</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/](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 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

[Join the meeting now](#)

**Something to do this week!**  
**Think about Sun Safety**

Children's skin is much more sensitive than adult skin, and damage caused by repeated exposure to sunlight could lead to skin cancer developing in later life. The last few weeks we have enjoyed some great weather and as summer continues it's a great time to consider how you keep the children safe in the sun. Some questions to consider when reviewing your arrangements:

Are you consistently following the NHS Guidelines [www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/) including re-applying sunscreen every 2 hours?

**Do you make appropriate changes to your routines in hot weather?**

**What do you have in place if a child arrives without sunscreen or appropriate clothing?**

**How are you supporting parent's and carer's understanding of the risks?**

**How do you support children to keep themselves safe in the sun?**

**Are all adults aware of the signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke and the action they should take?**

**Further useful guidance:** [Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals - GOV.UK](#)

**Resources to share with parents:** [Sun safety advice for parents](#) | [British Skin Foundation](#)

**Have you also thought about your outdoor area in the heat of the sun?**

In this hot weather play equipment and outdoor floor and wall surfaces can get very hot. Astroturf can be a particular problem and can get very hot in direct sunlight. Also think about mirrors in your outdoor area which could potentially concentrate the sun's rays onto play equipment and floor or wall surfaces – this could lead to melting plastic or hot metal surfaces which could burn a child. Make sure you carry out a full risk assessment and ensure there are shaded areas for children to play.



## Let's Celebrate!



This week we are shouting a fabulous Wednesday Well Done to three more settings in Lancashire who have recently has their Ofsted inspection reports published.

✿ **Cuerden Nursery** in Bamber Bridge had a positive inspection experience. Manager Michelle Bailey shared that the day went really well. They were nervous as they were a new team and

had only been open for 5 weeks, but the inspector was really nice and put them at ease. She told them that she had worked in a nursery herself and so understood the routines etc. The inspector noted – 'The newly appointed team has high ambitions for all children. It has supportive relationships with children and their families. This supports children to make progress and feel secure in the setting.'

✿ **Chuckles Childcare** in Warton have also had their inspection report published. It notes how – 'Staff in the nursery create a wonderful, calm and supportive environment that focuses on children's well-being. This child-centred approach is fully embedded, and children are happy, independent and confident. The highly knowledgeable staff strive for excellence and deliver an inviting environment for children to explore.' Manager Caroline McCormick-Jones shared that the inspector arrived on the day of their Christmas party, (so not a typical day). He was a lovely inspector and it was a very positive experience. He was supportive and conscious of staff wellbeing throughout. He gave feedback in a very positive way. Caroline's top tip is to relax, be yourself and welcome the inspector into your setting.

✿ **Learning Curves Nursery** in Ormskirk are our third setting this week who are celebrating their positive inspection experience. Their inspector noted how – 'All children progress well at this nursery. Staff provide an ambitious and well sequenced curriculum that is bespoke to the needs of the children who attend. Staff have a secure understanding of what children need to learn and in what order.' Assistant Manager Joanne Johnson shared that their learning walk went really well and during this, the inspector was also noting what else was going on around the nursery. The inspector picked up on a child being shown more information about whales (he was playing with them in ice) and the practitioner showed him more whales on the iPad. The inspector then questioned Joanne about internet safety with the children. Joanne's top tip is to relax and showcase your setting.

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

## Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter



[May 2025 - Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter](#)

Lancashire Safeguarding is a multi-agency partnership established to ensure safeguarding measures are met, vulnerable children and adults across Lancashire are protected from harm & abuse a...

[Go to this Sway](#)

## Maths Champions

'Maths Champions' is a professional development programme which builds the knowledge of nursery practitioners to support children's early mathematical development. It is an online, one-year programme delivered to Private, Voluntary or Independent, maintained and school-based nursery setting.

### Maths Champions

There is good evidence that high quality early numeracy approaches can be effective: EEF's [Early Years Teaching and Learning Toolkit](#) shows that early numeracy interventions can have a high impact on children's outcomes, including long-lasting effects which may help close the gap in achievement throughout life.

If you would like to know more about becoming a maths champion, please visit:

[Maths Champions | EEF](#)

## Answering your questions on The Government's supervised toothbrushing programme for early years

The Government has announced £11 million of funding for a [Supervised toothbrushing programme](#) targeting the most deprived areas of England to help prevent tooth decay in children.

This fully funded and voluntary scheme for targeted early years settings forms part of The Government's commitment to give children the best start in life. It also supports good toothbrushing habits at home.

**DfE and DHSC want to hear your questions about how the supervised toothbrushing programme will work.** This will help us understand what further information and support would be helpful for providers to get the most out of this scheme.

Please submit any questions you have to [foundationyears@beginbright.com](mailto:foundationyears@beginbright.com) for **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**.

For information on oral health in early years, please see the Help for early years providers oral health page: [Help for early years providers : Oral health](#)

Read more

## **\*\*Reminder\*\***

### **Revised Parental Agreement**

**You will have received an email directly from the Funding Team regarding the new parental agreement, a reminder is below:**

- Following the recent changes to the guidance associated with the charging rules, the DfE have recently published an updated Parental Declaration Form (Parental Agreement) which they have advised all local authorities to use.
- The DfE have stated that the intention behind the changes to the parental declaration is to ensure parents clearly understand how they are receiving their child's entitlement and what charges they may need to pay for additional hours of provision and / or consumables at the point when they first register their child at a setting (as long as the charges are in line with the updated guidance).
- It is designed for the provider to complete with the parent to give the provider and parent the opportunity to discuss the child's packet of provision and the options available to the parent so the parent can make an informed decision about their childcare provider.
- The DfE have also stated that it is important that parents are made aware upfront of additional charges rather than receiving an invoice later in the term with unexpected charges. However, recognising this also needs to be balanced with limiting any administrative burdens on providers.
- On the funded hours section and additional charges section providers will need to set out the number of entitlement and additional hours the child is taking up and, if stretching the entitlement, the number of weeks the entitlement is stretched over so parents can see that they are receiving their child's full entitlement along with any charges for additional hours, and service if they have chosen these.
- The new Parental Agreement is available at the link below, along with Appendix 1 terms and conditions which must also be given to the parent so that they understand the funding rules. We have also produced guidance notes to help providers complete the new Parental Agreement forms.
- You do not need to complete the new Parental Agreement form for the summer term if you have already completed one using the previous template we supplied. However, for all new children that start with you after receipt of this email, please ensure this new agreement is used.
- Please also ensure the new agreement is used from September for all children who are accessing the funded entitlements at your setting.
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Please use this link which will take you to the page where you can find the new documents

**[Guidance for early education funding providers - Lancashire County Council](#)**

## **Department for Education (DfE) new consultation on Early Years Foundation Stage floor space requirements – have your say!**



Department  
for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a new consultation on Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) floor space requirements.

At present, section 3 of the EYFS for both group and school-based providers, and childminders states that providers are required to meet the following indoor spaces requirements:

- 3.5m<sup>2</sup> per child under two years
- 2.5m<sup>2</sup> per two-year-old
- 2.3m<sup>2</sup> per child aged between three and five years

The consultation is seeking views on whether or not 'free-flow' outdoor areas should be able to be included in floor space measurements **for children aged two years and above**.

For an outdoor area to be defined as 'free-flow', doors to the outdoor area would need to always be open, with the outdoor area accessible to children at all time. Children would need to "have safe access in all weathers including having adequate shelter and shade" and "the area must be suitably equipped to meet the health, safety, wellbeing, learning and development needs of all children".

The consultation confirms that if any changes to floor space requirements are taken forward, early years providers will still be required to meet the minimum staff-to-child ratios in the EYFS statutory frameworks.

The options presented in the consultation are:

- **Option 1: Including 'free-flow' outdoor space in the EYFS space requirements without a cap** to allow providers with the physical structure to meet the definition of 'free flow' outdoor space to increase the number of children in their setting.
- **Option 2: Including 'free-flow' outdoor space in the EYFS space requirements with a cap** to mitigate potential risks around overcrowding.

The DfE is not proposing a specific cap level but states that, for example, the consultation states that "with a 10% cap, a setting with a maximum capacity of 80 children ... could take 8 additional children (provided that the additional useable free-flow space is large enough to meet the required space measurements for the additional number of children)".

The Department has confirmed that option 2 is their preferred option.

The consultation also asks respondents to share any alternative ideas on how the government might change the indoor space requirements. Respondents also have the option to state their preference for floor space requirements to remain as they are

The consultation will run until 11 July 2025, with the government expected to provide a response in autumn 2025.

[View the consultation](#)

## Climate action plans for a sustainable future

The Department for Education expects all education settings to have a climate action plan by 2025. For free help to develop and progress your climate action plan, register for interactive workshops throughout May.



We will guide you to identify key actions, engage colleagues, and access support to integrate sustainability into school life.

There are **Early Years specials starting next week**, [book here now](#) to secure a place.



## Creating Inclusive Provision: A toolkit for providers of wraparound childcare, breakfast clubs and holiday activities and food programmes

The Department for Education (DfE) are pleased to launch '*Creating Inclusive Provision: A toolkit for providers of wraparound childcare, breakfast clubs and holiday activities and food programmes*', developed in partnership with Mott MacDonald and Nasen.

Creating Inclusive Provision (CIP) is an interactive digital toolkit developed to support schools, private, voluntary and independent providers, childminders, and local authorities in creating inclusive wraparound provision that is accessible to families of primary aged children with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes breakfast clubs, after school childcare and holiday provision.

**You can access the CIP toolkit [here](#).**

To celebrate the launch of the toolkit, we invite you to join us for a **virtual launch event on Wednesday 14 May, 2pm – 2.45pm**. At the launch event, you will hear about the development of the toolkit and see a live demonstration of how to use it.

**To register, click [here](#).**

## Supporting Early Years settings with planning permission

The Department for Education (DfE) have heard regular feedback that obtaining planning permission can be a barrier to creating new capacity. As such, they wanted to remind you of new requirements introduced at the start of this year to the government's [National Planning Policy Framework](#) – this sets out how planning policies in England should be applied by local planning authorities, and must be given material consideration in planning decisions.

New provisions added to paragraph 100 of the framework state that:

"It is important that a sufficient choice of early years, school and post-16 places are available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should: a) give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter early years, schools and post-16 facilities through the preparation of

plans and decisions on applications; and b) work with early years, school and post-16 promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.”

Previously these provisions only applied to schools. They mean that the importance of creating new early years places should be a material factor in planning decisions, and the local planning team should support and work constructively with providers to resolve planning issues where they are a barrier to expanding. We encourage you to highlight, and make use of, this requirement on local planning authorities in your engagement with them, and we hope you find this information helpful

## Out of school club cluster meeting



Out of school club cluster meeting will be held on  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 10.30 to 12 Noon.**  
This will be an online virtual meeting only.

## Children's Services NEW request for support form for professionals

From 29 May 2025 we will be using a new service for our online request for support form, the Lancashire children and families service.

The first time you use this service you must register for a children and families service account. Once registered, you must log in to submit further requests for support.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/safeguarding-children/requesting-support-from-childrens-services/>

This new service will support the local authority to reduce delays in responding to referrals. When logged in you'll be able to:

- save your progress to return to a request for support form later
- view all the forms that you have submitted within the last 30 days
- view responses to your referrals in one place

Registration for the new form will be available on 29 May.

## Interviews with early years job applicants and workers – share your views and get a £35 voucher

The Department for Education (DfE) is expanding the number of funded childcare places available in England. They estimate that an additional 40,000 staff are required to meet the increasing demand for childcare places. To address this, they conducted a pilot in some parts of England which provided a £1,000 financial incentive to eligible staff recruited into early years roles. They have commissioned IFF Research to conduct an evaluation of the pilot.

**Invitation to participate in a research interview**



The DfE is keen to hear from **early years job applicants**. If you have **applied for a new role between April 2024 and March 2025 working with children aged up to five**, they would like to learn more about your job search experience.

We are also interested in hearing from **staff who have been working in an early years setting for longer** to understand more about your experiences and the challenges you face.

**To express** your interest in taking part in an interview,  
please email [eyfquiries@iffresearch.com](mailto:eyfquiries@iffresearch.com)

with your name, contact details and the names of any local authorities you have applied for early years roles in since April 2024. If you are currently working in an early years role, please provide the name of the local authority you are working in.

If selected, **you will receive a £35 voucher as a thank you for your time**.

Your feedback will help DfE to learn more about what attracts people like you to work in early education. They will use this information to make decisions about working conditions and pay.

If you know others working in early years settings, we'd be grateful if you could also forward this invitation on to them!

If you would like to contact DfE directly for confirmation of the validity of this research, you can reach them at [EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk).

Thank you for your support!

## Inclusion Newsletter

This edition of the Inclusion Newsletter includes:

- Draft Lancashire SEND Strategy 2025-28
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Support Sessions from Barnardo's and Kooth
- Free training from Lancashire Emotional Health in Schools and Colleges
- CFW SEND Afternoon, Preston
- Housing & Independent Living Webinars from NTDi



[\*\*Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 13 May 2025\*\*](#)

### ***For accessibility options***

- Click on the link to open the sway
- Click on the three dots (top-right)

Select 'Accessibility view'

**Department for Education Early Education and  
Childcare Provider Regional Roadshow**

The Department for Education's **Early Education and Childcare Provider Regional Roadshow for the East of England** for group-based setting leaders and managers is being held in Norwich on 21 May. The event is being held at Norwich Football club this year.

Click here to [register to attend](#).

This event is a great opportunity to engage with DfE to share your ideas, successes, concerns and challenges and help shape government's current and future early education and childcare policy. You will also hear about the plan for the Best Start in Life pillar of our Opportunity Mission and the activity underway to meet the expanded childcare entitlements from September 2025. You will network with other setting leaders, Local Authorities and organisations which support the sector.

For queries, please contact [EY.STAKEHOLDERS@EDUCATION.GOV.UK](mailto:EY.STAKEHOLDERS@EDUCATION.GOV.UK).

## Do Something Big campaign – advertising vacancies on Find A Job ahead of summer activity

The next wave of the [Do Something Big campaign](#) will run from **19 May-14 September 2025**, encouraging more people to explore a fulfilling career in early years and childcare. New adverts include 15-second social videos that challenge common barriers to joining the sector, alongside new content specifically designed to encourage more men to consider working in early years roles. The campaign will be across TV, radio, digital, social media, billboards, and the rail network.

We'd love your support in amplifying the campaign - please keep an eye out for the new adverts and use the [available resources](#) in your own recruitment activity.

The [campaign website](#) also directs thousands of potential applicants to [Find A Job](#) every week and providers can advertise roles on there for free, which will ensure they are seen by a large pool of candidates.

Please find attached '**DWP Find a Job instructions**' to help providers create an account and post any current or upcoming jobs in their setting.

**Providers should use the term 'early years' in the title of the job adverts and select 'Education and childcare jobs' for the job category.** Thank you for your continued support.

## Childcare Works updates: 2025 National Meeting – have you booked your place?

Bookings are now open for the Childcare Works national meeting in central London on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

We know how much LAs valued the opportunity to come together at the national event in last autumn in Birmingham. Our aim for national meetings is to extend the experiences of online and

regional meetings, and to open up wider relationships and information exchanges to benefit all of our work. The 2025 national meeting will focus on final plans and preparations for September 2025 and 2026 for early years and wraparound childcare.

Approximate timings for the event will be 10am - 3.30pm, with arrival and registration from 9.15am. We are currently limiting places to two colleagues per LA.

Please book your place here - <https://forms.office.com/e/2WntwLcZP1>

### **New and updated resources**

#### **New! [Inclusion and SEND resources for wraparound providers and schools](#)**

Childcare Works and NASEN have developed a series of recorded bitesize training sessions to promote inclusive provision and to meet the needs of children with SEND. These resources have been developed in response to requests from LAs as our provider forums. Please share them with your providers! [Inclusive Practice in Wraparound Provision - childcareworks.org.uk](#) and [Creating Inclusive Provision Toolkit](#)

#### **Newly updated! [Childcare expansion 2025 myth-buster for providers](#)**

This easy-to-read myth-buster has been developed to address common misconceptions around the childcare expansion and has been updated to reflect the most up-to-date guidance. This infographic shares comprehensive and accurate information from trusted official sources that can easily be downloaded, printed and shared with staff teams, or displayed in staff rooms. [View the myth-buster today on the HUB.](#)

### **Upcoming webinars**

#### ***For schools and childcare providers:***

#### **Childcare Works free webinars for Early Years and Wraparound providers and schools.**

Childcare Works will be running informal, friendly and informative live sessions to support all EY and WA providers and schools where they can find out more about the wealth of resources, guidance and information available to support

*Please share this suggested copy and social assets (below) with your local providers and schools:*

**Childcare Works free webinars for Early Years and Wraparound Childcare providers and schools.** Join one of the upcoming Childcare Works live sessions and find out more about the wealth of resources, guidance and information available to support you. **Find out more and sign up at [childcareworks.org.uk/webinars](https://childcareworks.org.uk/webinars)**



## Online safety advice from the NSPCC

### Keeping children safe online

We all have a part to play in keeping children safe online. Find out how with our online safety guides.

Understanding online safety is tricky for all ages. The NSPCC have advice to help you learn about staying safe online as a family: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

## Splash Safety Launch



Following their Child Drowning Update in [September 2024](#), the Royal Life Saving Society created a new campaign 'Splash Safety' to share useful hints and tips around water safety in the home. Ahead of the warmer weather, the RLSS are relaunching the campaign to include water safety in gardens and outdoor spaces. This is set to run throughout May 2025.

Attached is your 'splash safety at your pad' partner campaign packs

More information on the Splash Safety campaign [can be found here](#), including additional resources.

## Selected DfE Updates 8th - 12th May

- [Space requirements in early years childcare settings in England](#)  
We are seeking views on options for amending the indoor space requirements in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory frameworks.
  - Updated: 12 May 2025
- [Applications open for 30 hours funded childcare expansion](#)  
New data finds half a million children already benefitting from 15 hours extended childcare offer as applications open for tens of thousands more from today.
  - Updated: 12 May 2025
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)  
Statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, support and protect children.
  - Updated: 8 May 2025