

Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 17th July 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.

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!

NEW DATES ADDED

Tuesday 23rd September 4pm-5pm - [Join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 18th November 9.45am-10.45am - [Join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 20th January 4pm-5pm - [Join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 10th March 9.45am-10.45am - [Join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 19th May 4pm-5pm - [Join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 7th July 9.45am-10.45am - [Join the meeting](#)

Last weekly bulletin of this term

Welcome to the **last bulletin of the term**.
Bulletins will recommence at the start of term in September.

The team will still be working hard at the **Early Years Professional Development Centre** over the summer. If you need any support or advice, please get in touch -

EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk

TEL: 01772 539058



From everyone at the **Early Years Quality Improvement Team**, we hope that you have a happy and healthy summer.

Something to do this week! Potty training



Parents can sometimes find supporting their child in this normal development step confusing, stressful and a little challenging. Parents will often come to early years practitioners for advice and support. You might have been asked questions such as;

- how will I know my child is ready?
- what do I need to do?
- how long will it take?

Here are some great resources to tap into yourself or signpost parents:

[How to potty train - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train - ERIC](http://eric.education)

www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/potty-training-tips/zh7kr2p

Children with disabilities may need specific support and charities such as Contact [Potty and toilet training](#) | [Contact](#) or The National Autism Society [Toileting and autistic children](#) (autism.org.uk) can provide specific information for families and practitioners.

Let's Celebrate!



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

🌟 **Ashbridge on Ribble** in Preston are celebrating the publishing of their Outstanding Ofsted report! Manager Abbie Rawcliffe said the inspection went extremely well and the inspector put all the staff at ease from the start. The learning walk was the opportunity to show off the nursery and the inspector asked questions to further explore. Their report notes how: 'The management team has gone above and beyond expectations in the design of the curriculum. The team is truly dedicated to helping children to achieve the best start in life. The ethos of the curriculum is attachment, warmth and nurture.' Abbie's top tip is to showcase your values and ethos and let them shine through.

🌟 **Stacey Griffiths** a childminder in Carnforth shared that she feels her first experience of an inspection as a childminder couldn't have gone better! On the day the inspection was conversational and flowed naturally, enabling Stacey to give the inspector all the information she required while she and the children went about the day's usual routines and activities. Stacey's inspection lasted about 4 hours, and the children present represented a broad age range. Her inspector noted how Stacey- 'sequences children's learning well and supports them to develop new skills. For example, children attempt to cut up their own banana as they eat snack and comment that it is 'tricky'. The childminder offers constant praise and encouragement.

🌟 **Small World Nurseries** in Whitworth are our third setting this week sharing their inspection experience. Manager Louise Aykroyd said that it was a 'lovely' day and that the inspector was great from the moment she telephoned. She asked if there were any nervous staff and was mindful of this during the inspection. Louise was able to give the inspector a thorough tour to showcase the setting and the inspector asked pertinent questions. Their report captures how: 'Children love attending this warm and welcoming nursery. Staff have worked hard to develop and maintain strong, secure relationships with children and their families. Children are happy and show emotional stability. They settle quickly into the day.' Louise's top tip is to be yourself and showcase everything you do.

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

Ofsted announces sector engagement programme to ready education providers for November start to inspections

The programme of **webinars** and **regional events** will continue throughout the autumn term, offering providers a range of opportunities to familiarise themselves with the changes, ahead of inspections under the renewed framework beginning in November.

Ofsted will hold live webinars for different provider types across each education remit, setting out the key changes to inspection. Recordings of each webinar will be available on [Ofsted's YouTube channel](#) afterwards.

- For the early years sector, there will be separate webinars for childminders; group-based provision; and out-of-school-clubs.

For more information and to book your place: [Ofsted announces sector engagement programme to ready education providers for November start to inspections - GOV.UK](#)

Best start In life - Newsletter



Department
for Education

The Department for Education's new **communication channel** for early education and childcare providers brings you this new way to stay up to date with the latest on early years and childcare from the Department for Education.

This channel will share with you:

- News and updates
- Resources, helpful information and tips
- Training and events

To read the full newsletter:

[Early Years and Childcare Providers update: Giving every child the best start in life, campaigns resources, training opportunities and more](#)

To sign up for the newsletters to come direct to your email address, complete the sign up form:

[Department for Education](#)

Do Something Big campaign - advertising vacancies on Find A Job for summer recruitment activity

Be part of something big

Working with small children is a big deal. It's a job that makes a difference by helping to give children the best start in life.



The summer wave of the [Do Something Big campaign](#) is running until 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 is running across TV, radio, digital, social media, billboards, and the rail network.

Your support in amplifying the campaign would be welcomed - 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.

Watch these [video tutorials](#) for help creating a Find a Job account and posting your jobs (make sure you include the term 'early years' in your job advert titles and select 'Education and childcare jobs' as the job category).

Thank you for your continued support.

[Do something big - Early Years Careers](#)

Climate action plans for a sustainable future



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

You will be guided to identify key actions, engage colleagues, and access support to integrate sustainability.

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

Revised EYFS Safeguarding reforms

As you may be aware, the revised **EYFS safeguarding reforms** will be coming into effect from **1st September 2025**.

To support this transition and ensure all staff are fully prepared for the changes, it is essential that **all safeguarding training aligns with the updated requirements** outlined in the summary document (page 12):

<https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2024/10/Summary-of-EYFS-changes-for-publication-PDF.pdf>

What this means for you:

- **If you have attended safeguarding training delivered by Lancashire County Council**
If your setting has completed safeguarding training delivered by Lancashire County Council and it is still valid (the training has not expired), we will be sending **additional content via email** (for both the Introduction to Safeguarding and Designated Lead Practitioner Training) that will cover the additional requirements outlined in Annex C of the revised guidance. Please ensure this is read and all necessary information is shared and actions are taken to remain compliant with the revised requirements.
If your training has recently expired or you are booked onto a course from July onwards, the course has been revised to cover the additional content to ensure you receive all necessary information needed from September.
There will be a change in title of the DLP training to **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** moving forwards to align to the new terminology.
- **If you have attended safeguarding training delivered by other training providers**
If your setting has used a different training provider, you may need to **contact them directly** to confirm that your training meets the new **Annex C** criteria or book some additional training to cover any gaps in knowledge.
- **Training Renewal Requirement**
From September 2025, all safeguarding training must be **renewed every 2 years**. It is your responsibility to ensure that training renewal dates are updated accordingly to meet this requirement and that training is undertaken within the revised timescales in line with the updated requirements.
- **Future Training Support**
The Department for Education (DfE) has proposed making safeguarding training **freely available from Spring 2026**. However, no further details have been released at this time. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Measles increases in the North West

As you are aware there has been a rise in Measles recently in the North West. Please can you share the attached travel letter with your parents this week which advises them of this but also

of the risks around not been vaccinated while on holiday.

Inclusion Sway



In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- SEND Roadshows for professionals and parents/carers
- Formal consultation process for summer break period
- Home to school transport options
- Samaritans Awareness Day, 24 July
- Several other updates and reminders

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 15 Jul 2025](#)

For accessibility options

- Click on the link to open the sway
- Click on the three dots (top-right)
 - Select 'Accessibility view'

Selected DfE Updates 9th - 14th July

- [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)
The standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5.
 - Updated: 14 July 2025
- [Transforming children and young people's mental health provision](#)
A summary of the delivery of commitments in the transforming children and young people's mental health provision green paper.
 - Updated: 10 July 2025
- [The writing framework](#)
The writing framework outlines a common approach to teaching writing based on evidence and existing good practice.
 - Updated: 10 July 2025
- [DfE Update](#)
Our weekly newsletter containing actions and information for DfE-funded organisations.
 - Updated: 9 July 2025
- [Breakfast club early adopters grant: 2025 to 2026 academic year](#)
Guidance for schools and local authorities on funding for the breakfast club early adopter schools from September 2025.
 - Updated: 9 July 2025