



**Early
Years Quality Improvement Team's
Weekly Bulletin
Thursday 2nd October 2025**

Welcome to this week's bulletin,
recent bulletins can be found [here](#)

Keep in touch



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www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/



Facebook: www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/
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Advertise your job vacancies for free

www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/childcare-and-early-years-settings/ 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 [Microsoft Teams form](#)

New Practitioners Academy

Are you training or been in early years for less than a year?

Join our new practitioners' academy by completing this [FORM](#) and we will be in touch before each session to share the links with you.

These are free to attend and will help you in your new or future role (there is no need to book, just complete the form).

23rd September	4 to 5pm
18th November	9.45 to 10.45am
20th January	4 to 5pm
10th March	9.45 to 10.45am
19th May	4 to 5pm
7th July	9.45 to 10.45am

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!

Something to do this week!

Make sure that you are ready if you need to recruit staff and volunteers

Safe recruitment is the first line of defence to prevent unsuitable people working with children and should include volunteers as well as paid members of staff including apprentices. [The Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework \(EYFS\)](#) has been updated to strengthen this essential tool in keeping children safe. There is now a specific requirement on safer recruitment that includes details on obtaining references for new staff members and providing references for current or past staff.

Providers/Childminders who are employing assistants must obtain a reference **before** employment.

You should:

- not accept open references e.g. 'to whom it may concern'
- not rely on applicants to obtain their own reference
- ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer, training provider or education setting and have been completed by a senior person with appropriate authority
- not accept references from a family member
- obtain verification of the individual's most recent relevant period of employment where the applicant is not currently employed
- secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the applicant worked with children (if not currently working with children). If the applicant has never worked with children, then ensure a reference is from their current employer, training provider

or education setting

- ensure electronic references originate from a legitimate source
- contact referees to clarify content where information is vague or insufficient information is provided
- compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any discrepancies with the candidate
- establish the reason for the candidate leaving their current or most recent post, and
- ensure any concerns are resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.

(Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework)

You can find very detailed guidance on requesting and giving references in Lancashire CSAP's policies and procedures document, safer recruitment section

<https://panlancashirescp.trixonline.co.uk/>.

The CSAP (Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership) has an E-learning course on safer recruitment:

https://blackburn.melearning.university/course_centre/course_details/205

Childminders employing new assistants will need to report recruitment to Ofsted

[Childminders: report new adults in the home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If there is a change of manager or committee member at a setting, Ofsted must be informed.

[Childcare providers: telling Ofsted about significant events - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If new staff are being included in the ratios for the care of the children, then you must check their qualifications are relevant to be included - [Check early years qualifications - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

All people who work within Early Years are required to have DBS checks and have the right to work in the UK. Safer recruitment guidance should be followed, you can read more about this here –

[Recruiting and managing staff - Lancashire County Council](#)

****NEW** Record of self-evaluation and improvement plan for the new Early Years Inspection Toolkit**



Would you like a tool that will support you in evaluating your setting in
all areas within the new Early Years Inspection Toolkit?

The fully updated **Record of Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan** publication sets out each of the evaluation areas to support you in considering your current systems and practice. Providing you with space to capture your strengths, areas that you want to build on and any areas of concern. Then capture your next steps using the improvement plan template.

It's an **electronic publication** so you can keep adding and amending as many times as you want!

Take a little peak here: <https://youtu.be/uRoBeAX2olk>

Order your copy using the [order form](#)

Or book your place on the associated training course and receive a **free copy** as part of the training. Next session is the 24th of November, 9.30 to 4, County Hall, Preston Places are limited
[Record of self-evaluation and preparation for Ofsted - Lancashire County Council](#)

Well Done!



We are shouting a big Wednesday Well Done to all those settings who were inspected last week or who had their inspection reports published. ❤️

Last week inspection reports captured how well settings in Lancashire offered broad, sequenced and ambitious curriculums to support children's learning and development They noted that

- 🌟 "The childminder has a clear and ambitious curriculum. Children make good progress from their starting points."
- 🌟 "Leaders have developed an ambitious curriculum that enables children to benefit fully from personalised learning plans."
- 🌟 "Leaders have developed an engaging curriculum that focuses on ensuring children are ready for their next stage of development, future learning and education. Staff begin with what children know and can do."
- 🌟 "Staff plan a broad curriculum to help build on children's existing skills and knowledge and to spark new interests."
- 🌟 "The curriculum is carefully sequenced and engaging, allowing children to consolidate skills and make meaningful connections."

If you would like to share your inspection experience with us or would like a shout out / recognition for effective ways of working, please do let us know .

Once again we would like to thank you for the continued commitment to delivering quality childcare and education to children in Lancashire.

Ofsted inspection update webinar

Did you miss the Ofsted live webinars about the new Early Years Inspection Toolkit and the way in which inspections will take place from November 2025?

You now have the opportunity to watch a recording of the webinar.

You can access it here:

[Ofsted education inspection framework: nurseries, pre-schools, other registered early years settings](#)

Answering your questions on food brought in from home (packed lunch) policies



Since September 2025, early years providers have been required to have regard to the [Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance](#). This guidance supports settings to meet the EYFS requirement that meals, snacks and drinks provided to children must be healthy, balanced and nutritious, whether meals are served in the setting or brought from home.

This forms part of the Government's commitment to give children the best start in life by supporting healthy eating habits in the early years and helping to reduce health inequalities.

If your setting has chosen to implement a policy on food brought in from home, **the Department for Education wants to hear your questions and early concerns about how implementing the policy is working in practice.** This will help us understand what further information and support would be helpful for providers to get the most out of this guidance.

Please submit any questions you have to foundationyears@beginbright.com by **Monday 13 October**.

For information on nutrition in early years, please see the [Help for early years providers: Nutrition](#) page.

[Read more](#)

Consultation on the Early Years Block Funding arrangements 2026/27

Please find attached the final consultation document and the supplementary consultation information relating to the Early Years Block Funding Arrangements 2026/27. Each setting will have received this consultation by email last week. If you have not already responded to the consultation, please use this link to respond with your views. An analysis of the consultation responses will be reported to the Schools Forum meeting on 14th October 2025. The deadline for the consultation is **10th October 2025** and a link for responses is [here](#).

Out of school cluster meetings

Cluster meetings for Out of School Club members

Date: 21 October 2025 **Time:** 6.30pm - 8pm **Venue:** Live virtual via Teams link

Date: 8 October 2025 (East) **Time:** 6.30pm - 8pm **Venue:** Go Outdoors After School Club, Burnley

Date: 15 October 2025 (South) **Time:** 6.30pm - 8pm **Venue:** Little Hoole Primary School, Dob Lane, Preston, PR4 5QL

Date: 13 October 2025 (North) Time: 6.30pm - 8pm Venue: Cadley Kids Club, Fulwood and Cadley Primary School, Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3QT

Would you like to join the membership to take advantage of the benefits: [Out of School Club Membership - Lancashire County Council](#)

Publication Brochure

Next week we will be sending out the new **Publications Brochure** full of must-have publications to help your setting learn, grow and thrive. Look out for the new brochure designed specifically for each sector, coming in your email in-box coming soon.

Supporting the Big September Switch Campaign

Our Campaign to promote working in the Early Years includes the promotion of switching to a career in Early Years. Please could settings promote this campaign through your own communication channels as there may be parents or carers who would be interested in a childcare career.

[The Big September Switch](#) launched on Friday 5 September to inspire career switches, especially parents, to join the Early Years workforce. At the heart of the campaign is the Early Years Careers Guide. It's an easy-to-use resource that shows people what a career in early years could look like and the many routes into the profession. We'd love your support to raise awareness of the campaign by:

- Sharing the guide with your networks,
- Referencing the campaign in relevant conversations or meetings
- Highlighting the guide as a resource for anyone considering a career switch
- Re-sharing DfE social posts on Instagram to amplify campaign messages

We have a series of parent-facing influencers including Kate Lawler who is fronting the campaign. They will be sharing their own 'switch' stories or highlight the vital role early years professionals play in children's lives; and we'll be sharing case studies and media coverage over the coming weeks, which we'll circulate so you can use them in your engagement.



[Click here to promote the new campaign](#)

Ofsted News

Ofsted's September 2025 newsletter with news from the Early Years Sector.



[Early years inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information](#) - Published guidance for inspectors and providers on inspecting registered early years settings in England under the renewed education inspection framework.

[Ofsted: new early years report card](#) - A short video showcasing an example of the new Ofsted report card for early years inspections.

[Ofsted education inspection framework: childminders](#) - Video of a webinar explaining how we will carry out inspections of childminders under the renewed inspection framework.

[Ofsted's early years team answers your questions](#) - Video of a Facebook live stream in which our early years team answered questions submitted by the audience. Follow [our Facebook page](#) to catch the next stream live.

[Ofsted education inspection framework: nurseries, pre-schools, other registered early years settings](#) - Video of a webinar explaining how we will carry out inspections of early years settings under the renewed inspection framework.

[Becoming a childminder and running your business](#) - Updated to clarify when a childminder without domestic premises must tell Ofsted about new people at the setting.

[Expanding a registered setting into new premises](#) - Updated guidance to clarify that new premises must be ready to operate to be registered as an expansion to an existing setting.

[Childcare: significant events to notify Ofsted about](#) - Updated the Early Years Foundation Stage requirement numbers for changes that must be notified to Ofsted or the relevant childminder agency.

[Childminders: tell Ofsted about adults leaving the premises](#) - Updated guidance to include reference to childminders without domestic premises.

[Martyn Oliver's speech at the Childcare and Education Expo](#) - Sir Martyn Oliver spoke at the 2025 Childcare and Education Expo in Coventry.

Prevent accidents this autumn



Do you know in Lancashire we have a higher than average number of injuries and fatalities to young children as a result of avoidable accidents at home?

As we approach Halloween many families will be planning a night of spookiness and fun! This may include dressing up as a witch or even a cute pumpkin and meeting up with friends to go out after dark.

The **Child Accident Prevention Trust** has a great website full of resources to help ensure the safety of children. Their October newsletter features top tips to ensure Halloween is a great event and accident free for everyone.

Help us avoid a Halloween horror

Did you know some Halloween costumes are highly flammable? They can ignite almost instantly and burn fast. That's why our free poster highlights four key safety tips to avoid getting tricked into an unsafe costume. Please download and display in your setting to spread the word.

Get your free poster here : [Halloween safety poster: Buy safe costumes | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

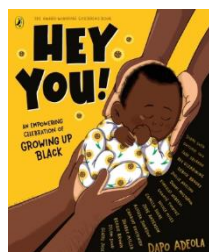
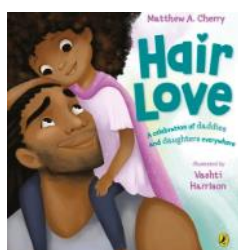
Online interactive training course on home safety for the under 5's

Designed for practitioners who work with families with young children, our online home safety training builds your knowledge, skills and confidence so you can better support the families you work with. [Book your space.](#)

Sign up for your own newsletters direct to you inbox here:

[Sign up to stay up-to-date | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

Black history month - October



The theme for Black History Month 2025 is “Standing Firm in Power and Pride,” which celebrates the resilience, strength, and contributions of the Black community globally. This theme emphasizes the importance of recognizing the achievements and struggles of Black individuals throughout history.

If you would like to celebrate Black History this October, here are a few links and ideas.

- Discover and celebrate authors and illustrators of Black Heritage.

[17 Children's Books to Read this Black History Month](#)

- [Picture News](#) have a free teaching resource (attached) plus a [free assembly](#) on Friday 3rd October, 9.15 to 9.45.

In the resource, there is a [link to an animated story](#) for children about one of Britain's first Black professional footballers — and a brave soldier in the First World War. [Walter Tull – The Courage to Lead](#)

The [BBC](#) have a variety of clips and quizzes

Selected DfE Updates 24th – 30th September

- [DfE Update](#)

Our weekly newsletter containing actions and information for DfE-funded organisations.

- Updated: 24 September 2025

- [Primary assessments: future dates](#)

This page summarises future assessment dates in primary schools, to assist schools with their forward planning.

- Updated: 29 September 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: 29 September 2025

- [Statistics at DfE](#)

The Department for Education publishes official statistics on education and children.

- Updated: 29 September 2025