



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 9th 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/



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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!

Are you keeping up with the new inspection changes



New inspection Toolkit: [Early years inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK](#) (from 10th November 2025)

From 10th November 2025, Ofsted inspection will have a new look. Ofsted tell us in their **Early Years inspection operating guide for inspectors** that their inspections will be based upon 3 principles:

Principle 1

- Throughout the inspection, the toolkit will help inspectors gather evidence to celebrate the setting's strengths, validate leaders' priorities and progress and highlight where improvement is needed. In doing so, inspectors will consider the extent to which children:
 - achieve** – develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to secure the best start in life
 - belong** – feel safe, welcomed and valued
 - thrive** – benefit from the right systems, processes and levels of oversight, so that they are kept safe and are able to flourish, whatever their background or individual needs.

The toolkit will give assurance that inspectors are building a clear and typical picture of all aspects of the setting's work.

Principle 2

- Leadership, inclusion and whether there is an open and positive safeguarding culture are key areas of focus when inspectors are gathering evidence.

Principle 3

- The 'expected standard' in the evaluation areas in the toolkit is the starting point for inspectors to plan inspection activities.

It is therefore important that settings familiarise themselves with the inspection changes and the inspection toolkit.

You can watch the Ofsted webinars about the new inspection framework for your sector here:

[Ofsted education inspection framework: childminders](#)

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

Ofsted YouTube updates: [\(29\) Ofstednews - YouTube](#)

Updated record of self-evaluation and preparation for Ofsted (ROSE) training and self-reflective tool on the new inspection toolkit

This training will consider the key themes in the New Inspection Framework and how inspections are carried out. It will look at the Ofsted judgement areas and provide an opportunity for you to explore how you can conduct and record effective self-evaluation for your early years practice and provision.

The **Record of Self-Evaluation publication** is included in this training

You will be taken step by step through each inspection judgement area spending time understanding and evaluating all aspects of your setting and creating your own personal improvement plan.

The course will focus on:

- how inspections are carried out
- how to be 'inspection ready' to make the most of the opportunity
- key themes in the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework
- the Ofsted judgement areas in detail

Session dates and times

Date: 24 November 2025 Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm (including lunch)

Venue: The Exchange, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XB

Other dates: 10 February 2026 and 4 June 2026 see the website for more details: [Record of self-evaluation and preparation for Ofsted - Lancashire County Council](#)

[Book here](#)

To purchase the ROSE publication:

Cost: £15

This document is an invaluable tool and will support you as a leader and manager to self-evaluate your provision and practice using the good and outstanding grade descriptors from 'The Early Years Inspection Handbook for Ofsted Registered Provision'.

It will help you improve your provision or maintain its high standards and includes the views of others and the progress made by the children to determine what needs to improve. The rating system will help to evaluate your current position and then prioritise and plan next steps for improvement.

Optional summary formats for monitoring and evaluation are also included in the document for different age groups and cohorts of children.

[Order here](#)

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 supported and facilitated professional development and growth and how this contributed to the quality of education and care children receive.

They noted that

- "The childminder is passionate about her ongoing professional development. She completes a range of training and professional development opportunities, such as liaising with other professionals."
- "Leaders ensure that supervisions for staff are effective and include opportunities to discuss individual staff's training and development needs. Staff receive effective coaching from leaders that improves the quality of education that children receive."

- "Leaders work alongside staff, coaching and mentoring them. They provide staff with regular supervision sessions and support their well-being."
 - "Staff have regular opportunities to meet with leaders to identify their strengths and training needs. This contributes to the positive ethos and ongoing development."
 - "Leaders foster an open and inclusive culture, supported by regular training, supervision and team meetings. Staff development and well-being are prioritised, with innovative approaches."
- 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.

Designated safeguarding lead training extra date



Following increased demand for the Designated Safeguarding Lead Training, we have added another date to the list of available dates:

Thursday 29th January 2026, 9.30 – 3 pm

at the Early Years Professional Development Centre, Accrington

Book here: [Booking Form](#)

For all dates and booking: [Designated Safeguarding Lead Training - Lancashire County Council](#)

Exciting event announcement for October

Foundation years are thrilled to announce an exciting online event designed for early years educators:

Supporting Children with SEND for Smooth Transitions

This **free** event is your chance to hear from inspiring speakers and discover fresh ideas to enhance **transition practices for children with SEND** in your early years setting.

When? Thursday 23 October

Where? Microsoft Teams

Time? 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

What to expect:

- ✦ Expert speakers, including representatives from the **DfE, Ofsted** and **Dingley's Promise**.
- ✦ Gain valuable insights to improve transition practices for children with SEND in the early years sector.

Spaces are limited – register now to secure your spot:

Secure your spot

Seven effective tips for supporting transitions in early years

Transitions, whether between activities, spaces or routines, are pivotal moments in early childhood. Supporting young children through these changes helps them feel secure, confident and ready to learn.

Here are seven effective tips to try:

- Create a 'Transition Treasure Box'
 - Use role reversal play
 - Pack a 'Goodbye Bag'
- Use visual timelines with real photos
 - 'Spy Missions' to the new setting
 - Create a 'Feelings Forecast'
 - Make a 'Connection Chain'

For detailed guidance on how to use these tips in practice, see the [Foundation Years website](#) for [7 Effective Tips for Supporting Transitions in the Early Years](#) written by [Begin Bright](#)

[Read more](#)

Free maths programme for early years settings



The Education Endowment Foundation are recruiting over 1,800 eligible settings for our fully funded Maths Champions programme. Maths Champions is an evidence-based, professional development programme that will increase early years educator skills, knowledge, awareness and confidence in supporting children's early mathematical development.

Register your interest and find out about our Maths Champions programme:
[EEF Accelerator Fund Maths Champions Expression of Interest](#)

Sharing the science: The early childhood explainer series



15 October 2025 12:00- 13:00

Register [here](#)

In this lunchtime webinar, Sally Hogg, Assistant Director at the Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood, will share the centre's work to support educators to promote **social and emotional development in babies and young children**. This will include explaining how different services are using the Early Explainer Series, **a new suite of bitesize films** and resources that support adult-child interactions.

Power of pictures



Our latest Power of Pictures:

[Mathematical Vocabulary – Time to Talk](#)

In this PechaKucha-style presentation, Sarah, our EYFS Consultant, explores the value and importance of mathematical vocabulary within the early years. To explore this subject further, why not purchase Sarah's updated publication 'Time to talk: EYFS Mathematical Vocabulary', which covers some of the topics below and more:

- + Promoting different types of mathematical vocabulary
- + Extending thinking with mathematical conversations
- + Mathematical routines
- + Promoting mathematical mark making

You can purchase this publication here: [Publications for sale - Lancashire County Council](#)

[The Power of Questions in Early Years](#)

How we ask matters. In this short presentation, Jill Anderton, EYFS Consultant, explores how the questions we ask shape children's learning. She discusses why not all questions are equal and why sometimes, a thoughtful pause or a simple statement can be more powerful than asking something.

The presentation also explores:

- When to use open v closed questions
- How to support deeper thinking
- Why silence and listening matter
- How to match questions to a child's stage
- Ways to encourage children to ask their own questions

When we slow down, listen closely, and ask less, we give children the space to think and express themselves.

Further training to support this would be:

Building Blocks Communication and Language – it has a dedicated module on questions which explores how to use questions effectively in early years. [Building Blocks - Communication and Language *NEW FOR 2025* - Lancashire County Council](#)

High Quality Adult Role – looks at alternatives to questions to promote sustained shared thinking. [High quality adult role - Lancashire County Council](#)

Marketing and promotion tips for early years educators

Marketing and promotion are important tasks for all providers, schools and childminders to support ongoing business sustainability.

Need some inspiration and practical tips? Check out the Childcare Works resources:

- [Early Years Toolkit](#) for marketing advice and guidance.
- ‘[The 3 Ms of Marketing](#)’ A series of three recorded presentations to support childcare providers with successful marketing and promotion:

1. **Market** - Who is your target market? Identifies different segments of your market and explores different purchasing roles to help you reach and engage new and potential customers.
2. **Message** - How to bring all the market information together to create messages for those involved in buying your services.

Methods - How marketing activity reaches your target audience in a way that is affordable.

Read more here: [Business Growth - childcareworks.org.uk/early-years-toolkit](https://childcareworks.org.uk/early-years-toolkit)

Join the national education nature park



National
Education
Nature Park



The National Education Nature Park invites children and young people across the country on an exciting journey to explore, understand and care for nature. Together, they're making their outdoor spaces better for wildlife and their nursery or school community.

This autumn, a tailored version of the Nature Park programme launches for early years settings.

Free, quality-assured activities are designed to meet early learning and development goals, while building curiosity, empathy and confidence in the natural world. By taking part, you'll be supporting children to develop a lifelong connection with nature and the skills to become its future advocates.

The programme has been commissioned by the Department for Education and is led by the Natural History Museum with the Royal Horticultural Society and additional partners, and has seen more than 7,500 schools, colleges and nurseries get involved so far!

[Get Involved](#)

Share your experiences and help shape the future of the early years pupil premium

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is inviting early years settings to take part in a short survey about their experiences of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

Your insights will directly inform future policymaking and help shape how EYPP funding is used to support children from lower-income families.

- The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete
- Responses are anonymous and confidential
- At the end, you can choose to take part in a follow-up online interview (with a £50 thank you)
- Deadline: 24 October 2025

Take part here: <https://www.iffresearch.com/EYPP3>

For further information please email EYPPDecisionsSurvey@IFFresearch.co.uk

Wellcomm parent cards

The Wellcomm Parent Cards are a valuable resource designed to help families support their child's speech, language and communication development at home. Each card links directly to a specific area of the Wellcomm Toolkit, allowing parents to reinforce the learning that is already happening in your setting.

These cards are simple, practical and easy to use. They offer everyday ideas that fit naturally into home routines, helping parents feel confident and involved in their child's progress.

As a practitioner, you can use these cards to:

- **Share targeted support** with families based on the section of Wellcomm their child has been signposted to.
- **Encourage home learning** that complements your setting's language-rich environment.
- **Build strong partnerships** with parents by giving them tools to actively support their child's development.

You might choose to:

- Print and hand out individual cards during parent meetings or reviews.
- Upload them to your **digital platforms** (e.g., nursery apps, websites, or parent portals) for easy access.
- Use them as part of your communication strategy to keep families informed and engaged.

By making these cards available, you're helping to create a consistent and supportive approach to early language development, at home and in your setting.

Thank you!

Help the DfE understand how you check qualifications in early years

The Department for Education wants to hear from early years educators to understand how they check qualifications. Whether you're a setting manager, childminder, or an educator, your experience matters.

Give your thoughts by completing the survey below.

https://dferesearch.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0k4DPGMvf8VWrS6

By sharing how you currently approach checking qualifications, you'll help design a service that better meets your needs.

Questions? Contact us at research.early-years-quals@education.gov.uk

Share with colleagues or staff who may be interested.

Childcare workforce recruitment and retention – Advice for early years and childcare providers

Childcare Works is the Department for Education's delivery partner, supporting Local Authorities, providers, childminders and schools to deliver the expansion of the early years entitlements and wraparound childcare programme.

We know that recruitment and retention of staff is one of the sector's biggest challenges so we have created [Advice for early years and childcare providers \(PDF\)](#) to support you with childcare workforce recruitment. This resource includes:

- Actions providers can take to support childcare workforce recruitment and retention
- A summary of the Timewise Childcare Pioneers Project with five recommendations for providers
- Practitioners' view
- Childcare workforce background information

Inclusion newsletter



Inclusion Newsletter

In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- First SEND Roadshow takes place
- EHC Dashboard update
- POWAR update
- Supported Internships update
- Link to SEND Newsletter magazine
- ADHD Awareness month, Oct 2025
- CPD, webinars

[**Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 7 Oct 2025**](#)

For accessibility options

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