



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin Thursday 16th 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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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!

Check that you are correctly registered with Ofsted



Have you made any changes to the organisation that you registered under with Ofsted? If you have changed the legal entity from a sole trader to a limited company or purchased a setting, for example. Ofsted have made checks on that original registration so you cannot open under the new organisation until you have made a new application to Ofsted and had this agreed.

Childminders and Childcare on Domestic Premises: have you informed Ofsted of all those over 16 who live or work in your home (including children who turn 16)? You must also Inform them of adults who stop living or work with you. You may need to inform them of regular visitors. Assistants cannot be included in the ratios or work unsupervised until you receive the suitability letter from Ofsted. Full details of what to do are [here](#)

Out of Schools and PVI Nurseries: Ofsted need to check the suitability of people who take on certain roles in your organisation including committee members, directors, trustees, partners etc. This is done through DBS checks and completing the EY2 form. Full details can be found [here](#) and Ofsted also have a [blog about committee run childcare](#)

If you are not sure who Ofsted are aware of then the nominated individual for your setting can email Ofsted (enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk) from the email address known to Ofsted with your setting's unique reference number (URN) and check.

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 promoted positive behaviour and how consistency and high expectations contributed a calm and nurturing environment.

They noted that

- "The childminder has high expectations for all children, particularly of their behaviour. She is clear and consistent in the application of her rules and boundaries. The childminder helps children to understand why sharing is important. Children behave incredibly well for their age. This contributes to the harmonious learning environment."
- "Behaviour is managed calmly and consistently. The childminder helps toddlers to share, swap toys and take turns. She uses positive praise and clear explanations so that children learn fairness and respect."
- "Leaders describe strategies for promoting positive behaviour. Older children share the club's code of conduct with the inspector and talk about why they have the rules."
- "Staff manage children's behaviour with consistency and respect. They acknowledge that waiting is difficult but explain why it matters and encourage children to practise patience."
- "Staff support children's behaviour consistently and positively. They explore the rules during group time and reinforce them throughout the day such as reminding children to use 'good listening'."
- "Staff are clear about their expectations for positive behaviour and remind children about the importance of sharing and taking turns."

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

Let's talk SEND for Practitioners meetings.

Please be invited to the Let's Talk SEND for Practitioners meetings.

The Let's Talk SEND for Practitioners sessions form part of the SEND Partnership Workforce Development Plan for all practitioners across education, health and care services.

The proposed topics / presenters will be:

1. Oct - EHC dashboard – Andrea / Lauren
2. Nov - Navigating the Local Offer - Anna
3. Dec - Support at School – Sapphire / Sarah
4. Jan - ND Pathway – Peter / Lauren
5. Feb - Support for Families – Laura
6. March -Transitions and PfA – Neil / Hannah / Lauren
7. April - EHCP / AR process – Kirsty
8. May - Short Breaks - Lisa
9. June - Community activities / Support services – Anne / Richard
10. July - School anxiety - Sarah

Please forward the invitations to your networks and colleagues.

We will record the sessions for anyone unable to attend and add to our recording from 2024 here [Network meetings and briefings - Lancashire County Council](#)

Process to make a referral to Children's Social Care



Lancashire Children's Social Care is using a new service to request support from them. The first time you use the service you must **register for a children and families service account**. Once registered you will be able to make referrals and follow the progress of these. All **communications** between yourself and the social care team will be **via your account**. Each time you log in you will receive a code by email to verify your account.

You can create an account in advance of making a referral which will save you time and additional pressure at the point of contact.

Go on to the CSAP website [Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership –](#)

Top right of the home screen click in the blue box Report a Concern

Click in the green box Requesting Support from Children's Services in Lancashire

Scroll down to the section entitled Make a request for support (for professionals only) section and read the step by step guidance [children-and-families-service-request-for-support-form-guidance-30-may-2025.pdf](#)

Finally create your account. Pick up the form by clicking in the green box Register for your children and family services account.

Level 3 experience-based route for early years settings

The Department for Education have published [information about using the experience-based route in your early years setting](#). This route allows for suitable and experienced staff, who do not hold full and relevant qualifications, to **be included in the staff:child ratios at level 3 following a period of supervised practice**.

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

You can also [contact DfE online](#) for more information about the experience-based route. Mark your request for the attention of the early years qualification unit.

Early Years renewed framework for childminders Webinar recording

Did you miss the live webinar from Ofsted about the renewed inspection framework? The recording of the webinar is now available on YouTube for you sector.

Childminders - https://youtu.be/hSgASYBEwoM?si=2ytL_mvQgLtHG_MF

Out of school clubs - [Ofsted education inspection framework out of school providers registered on the Early Years Register](#)

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

Childminder live webinar with Ofsted – ask an inspector your questions about the new inspection approach

Childminders, here is your chance to **ask an Early Years Inspector those burning questions** you have about Ofsted's renewed approach to inspections. Ofsted's Wendy Ratcliff HMI, Principal Officer, Early Education Policy and Sam Sleeman-Boss, Quality and Practice Lead, Early Education Policy and will answer your questions.

When: Nov 13, 2025 07:00 PM

To book your place - [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Greg Bottrill Communication and Language Conference

On Saturday 11th October, practitioners who have completed the Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP) and Language Leads were treated to an inspiring adventure with Greg Bottrill.

Greg spoke about our interactions with children being an *adventure*, encouraging us to enjoy *time together* in our *learning landscapes*. He reminded us that childhood doesn't end at age 5 and that we all carry an inner child.

We explored 'Story Dough!' sessions, a simple yet powerful way to immerse children in story dreaming, chat, mark making and finger strength.

Thank you to all the practitioners who attended and left feeling enthused. I'm sure copious amounts of playdough were made over the weekend in preparation for Story Dough this week! If you are not yet a Language Lead and missed out, please do sign up - everyone is welcome!

[Language Leads Application Form](#)



Play Talk Radio



The writers of 'Play Matters' have now launched [Play Talk Radio](#)

Experts in early years will share the importance of play through conversations with practitioners, discuss research and talk to policy makers about the importance of play.

Join the Lancashire Virtual School Microsoft Team



Lancashire Virtual School is excited to launch a **new Microsoft Team** designed specifically to support Children's Social Care staff in promoting the education of children looked-after, previously looked-after, children on Child in Need (CiN) or Child Protection (CP) plans, and those in kinship care.

This space offers **guidance, resources, and a place to share best practice** — helping you make a real difference in the lives of the children you support.

We want this team to be as effective and useful as possible, so please let us know if there's anything you'd like to see included that would support your work.

Email your suggestions to philip.jones@lancashire.gov.uk.

This is an evolving Microsoft Team, and we're committed to shaping it around the needs of our Children's Social Care colleagues.

Please ensure that any documents that you may use in your work are always taken from this team such as PEPSA request forms as these will always be the most up to date versions.

In time, the content from this team will form a dedicated section of the new intranet.

 [Lancashire Virtual School](#)

Equality and Diversity Team Newsletter



Please find a link, below, to the most recent equality & diversity team newsletter:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/LApNiomAe5JFw6Ku?ref=Link>

Heads up from Health Protection

Please see the link below for the latest Heads up Health Protection bulletin.



[Heads Up from Health Protection - October 2025](#)

The Health Protection team is committed to raising awareness and providing valuable information to help you stay healthy and safe. They 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

- [Parents supported to navigate early years misinformation online](#)

Government kicks off a new national campaign to help parents cut through the bombardment of sometimes unreliable advice and false expectations online.

- Updated: 14 October 2025
- [Martyn's Law for education settings - GOV.UK](#)
Information about the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 and how it will affect early years and education settings.
 - Updated: 10 October 2025