



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 6th November 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!

Find out about the Family Information Brokerage Service

Lancashire County Council's [Family Information Service \(FIS\)](#) provides families with information about finding suitable childcare and support available to help pay for it.

When families contact you to care for their child you may not always be able to meet their needs and will direct them to the Lancashire Family Information Service where they can search for other childcare available in their area. They can also provide an individual brokerage service for parents who are having difficulty finding suitable childcare.

Take a look at the website and find out more about the Family Information Service and the information provided to families. Check out the information you have provided them on your setting and update if needed. www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/early-years-childcare-and-family-support/finding-childcare/childcare-advice/



Well Done!



We are shouting a big 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 have given thought and

consideration in designing sequenced and ambitious curriculums to meet the needs of the children in their setting.

They noted that

- The childminder plans and delivers an ambitious curriculum that supports all children to develop the knowledge and skills they need for a successful transition to school
- Staff understand how young children learn and develop. They offer an ambitious and well-sequenced curriculum that is designed to prepare children well for their future learning and eventual move on to school.
- Leaders design a curriculum that builds on children's interests and supports their learning and development across all areas of learning
- Leaders and staff have developed a sequenced curriculum that supports all children to make good progress. At times, staff work thoughtfully with children and encourage and support them in making their next steps

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

Record of self-evaluation and preparation for Ofsted publication and training



COST: £15

This 70 page electronic publication is an invaluable tool supporting you as a leader to self-evaluate your provision and practice in each of the evaluation areas of the Early Years Inspection Toolkit.

It will help you improve your provision and 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.

As an electronic publication you can keep adding and amending as many times as you want.

Order your copy here: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/publications-for-sale/

This publication is also provided as part of the [Record of Self Evaluation and Preparation for Ofsted Training](#) that runs each term

Explore our full selection of publications designed to inspire, inform, and support your professional journey in early years education. Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding, refresh your practice, or spark new ideas, these reads are perfect for your CPD toolkit. For full details and to purchase any of our publications please visit [Publications for sale - Lancashire County Council](#)

Record of self-evaluation and Preparation for Ofsted Training for Nurseries

This popular training course on the 24th of November is now full, but we have added an extra date on the **5th of December in Accrington**. If you would like to book a place or find out more, please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/nursery-settings-and-schools-training-courses/record-of-self-evaluation-and-preparation-for-ofsted/

Members workshop



Members workshop takes place on

Wednesday 18th November 1.30 to 2.30 and 6.30 to 7.30 pm

The workshop theme is '**Phase one phonics: hear it, feel it, say it!**'

Members, for more details, see the attached flyer.

If you would like to join the membership and attend the workshops, please see our website here: [Early years packages of support - Lancashire County Council](#)

Educational psychology early years offer 2025-26

Firstly thank you to all those that attended our first Wednesday Workshop a couple of weeks ago titled 'Little Hearts, Big Emotions.' It has been great to receive positive feedback about the session but to also to see how engaged and motivated you all are to continue to reflect and develop practice for our children in Lancashire.

I am pleased to share with you leaflets for both our **Parent Carer sessions** and our **Collaborative Journeys Wednesday Workshops**. The Parent Carer sessions take place online in the evenings for all Parent Carers of an EY child and are focused on general child development. Our Wednesday Workshops also take place online and are open to EY practitioners from settings, childminders, Parent Carers and any other colleagues working in EY (including internal LCC colleagues). There is also a booking link for our **EP group consultations** in the summary



document. If you could share these with Parent Carers, have them up in your settings and of course **book on yourselves** that would be great. There are web versions of the leaflets with links and print versions with QR codes to book.

If you have any questions about the offer, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please see the attached five flyers for more details

Power of Pictures (POP)

In this PechaKucha presentation, Michelle Jones, HLTA, explores the concept of **awe and wonder**, highlighting its profound impact on early years children. It examines how adults can nurture children's natural curiosity and fascination, thereby enriching their learning experiences. The presentation delves into the extraordinary moments found in everyday life - those that inspire a sense of amazement, vastness, or beauty that can take one's breath away. It offers practical examples of how we can foster deeper connections between children and the world around them, including nature, inspiring individuals, and meaningful experiences that spark a desire to learn more.

<https://youtu.be/uB3EwneSP1g>



Childminder members cluster meetings

Virtual option

Date: 27 November 2025

Time: 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Virtual via Teams link

North

Date: 17 November 2025

Time: 6.30pm - 8pm

Venue: TBC

[Book your place here](#)

For more information, contact your Development Officer.

East

Date: 19 November 2025

Time: 6.30pm - 8pm

Venue: Early Years Professional Development Centre, Accrington

South

Date: 20 November 2025

Time: 6.30pm - 8pm

Venue: Valley Conferencing, Fourfields, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6GS

How Martyn's Law will affect education settings

Martyn's Law has now come into effect within education settings. The law pays tribute to Martyn Hett, one of 21 people tragically killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack. The **Department for Education** have worked in conjunction with the Home Office on how the legislation will apply to the education sector. Martyn's Law is intended **to improve protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK**, as it introduces a tiered framework, categorising premises and events based on the number of individuals to be present at any one

time. It will require those responsible to take steps to **mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack** and **reduce harm** in the event of an attack occurring - this includes all education settings.

The [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025](#), also known as Martyn's Law became law 3 April 2025.

The Government has published the below guidance for education settings, to provide information on how education settings, **including early years settings**, will be affected when this law is implemented.

[How Martyn's Law will affect education settings - GOV.UK](#)

Please refer to the attached three factsheets for more information

Recording choking incidents



The EYFS 2025 includes detailed guidance that must be followed to ensure the safety of children while they are eating. This includes advice to reduce the risk of children choking. A choking incident includes any incident where a child coughs or splutters/struggles to breathe when eating or putting anything in their mouth right up to fully blocked airways and death.

When a choking incident occurs providers should record details of where and how the child choked. These records should be reviewed periodically to identify trends or common features of incidents that can be addressed to reduce the risk of choking and more serious incidents occurring. Providers must have ongoing discussions with parents/carers about the stage their child is at in regard to introducing solid foods. Assumptions must not be based on age. Remember - Think stage not age.

A child dies in the UK every month from choking and hundreds more require hospital treatment. Kent Safeguarding Partnership developed the EatSafe Campaign following an incident in one of their nurseries where a little boy choked and sadly died while eating pasta. The campaign has been designed to support early years providers to ensure safeguarding at mealtimes and to reduce the risk of serious harm to children whilst eating. As the campaign is led by Kent Local Authority settings in Lancashire will be unable to access the free course but the really helpful EatSafe resources are available to all [EatSafe - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership](#)



Visual food texture guide: Taken from the practitioner resource pack - [KSCMP-Eat-Safe-Safer-Eating-in-Early-Years-Settings-Practitioner-Resource-Pack-v4.pdf](#)

October 2025 edition of the Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership newsletter



This month's newsletter highlights the ongoing work of our multi-agency partnership, dedicated to ensuring safeguarding measures are met and that vulnerable children and adults across Lancashire are protected from harm and abuse.

Inside, you'll find updates on recent initiatives, upcoming training opportunities, and key safeguarding developments across the region.

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

Road safety week 16th to 22nd November 2025

Road safety week is an annual campaign organised by the charity Brake, aimed at promoting road safety awareness and reducing traffic related injuries and fatalities.

Every year, more than 1700 people die on UK roads. Another 30,000 receive serious, life-changing injuries. The numbers are shocking and there has been no significant reduction for more than a decade. This year the focus will be on vehicle safety. Safe vehicles are designed to prevent road crashes and protect people inside and outside the vehicle if a crash does happen. Safe vehicles...

- **Prevent crashes** – automated driver assistance systems keep vehicles in the right lane and below speed limits, detect hazards and brake in an emergency.
- **Protect people inside and outside the vehicle** – seatbelts, airbags and 'forgiving' vehicle parts protect people inside and outside the vehicle in a crash. Vehicles must pass stringent crash tests.
- **Manage driver safety** – vehicle technology detects unsafe driving behaviour (eg. Due to tiredness) and informs authorities.
- **Are roadworthy** – vehicles are maintained to the highest standards and drivers carry out checks before every journey.
- **Record crashes** – event data recorders record what happens in a crash and notify emergency services immediately.

Safe vehicles are an important part of the safe systems approach to road safety – a shared approach to prevent death and serious injury from road crashes.

The Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire child death overview panel will be supporting road safety week and sharing key messages. You can get involved by helping to spread the word on social media and raising awareness with the children and families you work with.



The **Brake toolkit for road safety week** are attached, along with information on the annual RoadPeace World day of Remembrance service held by Lancashire County Council.

You can find more information and resources below:

- [Brake website](#)
- [General resources and toolkits](#)
- [Resources for schools](#)
- [Resources for employers](#)
- [Child Accident Prevention Trust – Road Safety](#)

The [Young Driver Risk 7 Minute Briefing](#) produced by the Lancashire Road Safety Team and Lancashire Police can be found on our website and attached to this email.

Inclusion newsletter

In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- EBSA Coaching for Schools
- SLC and Verbo Webinar for Schools
- Mainstream or Special School: The Case for Making Inclusion a Revolving Door
- SEND Quality Assurance Briefing: Quarter 2
- Break Time Registration 2025
- SEND Survey: summary of feedback
- SEND Partnership: *Let's Talk SEND for Practitioners*
- World Diabetes Day, 14 Nov 2025
- A number of other updates
- CPD, webinars



[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 04 Nov 2025](#)

For accessibility options

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

Select 'Accessibility view'

NCFE CACHE level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship



We are excited to announce that Pen Green in partnership with Apprenticeship Connect, is launching a new course: the **NCFE CACHE Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship**. This **fully funded** programme is designed to support practitioners in developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead in early years settings.

The apprenticeship will commence in **January 2026** and is ideal for practitioners looking to enhance their leadership capabilities and professional development within the early years sector.

To provide more information and answer any questions, we are hosting an **information session** for interested practitioners and settings. You can book your place here:

<https://www.pengreen.org/event/level5-information-session/>

We encourage all early years practitioners and settings interested in progressing their careers to join us and learn more about this exciting opportunity.

Osted's approach to AI

Ofsted outlines how they use artificial intelligence (AI) for the own work and set out how they look at AI during inspection and regulation: [How Ofsted looks at AI during inspection and regulation - GOV.UK](#)

Ofsted's Big Listen action monitoring reports

You can read about the commitments Ofsted have made in the Big Listen and the response to Dame Christine Gilbert's independent learning review here: [Big Listen action monitoring report: September 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

What do you think about Birth to 5 Matters?

An **online survey** has been launched to hear views from across the early years sector to guide the **review of Birth to 5 Matters**. The Early Years Coalition (EYC) is calling for people to get involved to help shape priorities for the new edition.



[Tell us what you think about Birth to 5 Matters – and bring a friend! – Birth To 5 Matters](#)

Catch up on the early years webinars about the renewed inspection framework

Ofsted have published recordings of their recent webinars for childminders, pre-schools, nurseries and other early years registered settings on their

[YouTube channel](#).

You can also find a video explaining the new early years report cards and Facebook Live event, where they answered your questions.

Free guide: getting the most from your Early Years Pupil Premium

The government's recent increase in the **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)**, now worth £570 per eligible child, means it's the perfect time to reflect on how you can most effectively spend it.



Education
Endowment
Foundation

This **free, step-by-step guide** from the Education Endowment Foundation includes tips and advice on how you can use the funding to: improve the quality of your team's practice, tailor personalised support for children, and make changes last.

Explore the guide now: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/pupil-premium>

Supervised toothbrushing champions



Are you an early years setting who would love to showcase the great work you are doing with supervised toothbrushing? We are looking for a range of settings who are taking part in supervised toothbrushing who are happy to be shared as an exemplar setting for the programme.

This may be a new or established supervised toothbrushing scheme. The most important thing is that you are happy to share your enthusiasm and how you are making it work for your setting.

We have regular requests from MPs interested in the programme, including opportunities to visit settings – this is your chance to champion children's oral health!

If you would like to be one of our supervised toothbrushing champions, please complete the short form accessible at <https://forms.office.com/e/FxTThEAfKp>.

If you have any queries, please contact supervisedtoothbrushing@dhsc.gov.uk

Recruitment and retention support for early years settings

Recruitment and retention of staff is one of the sector's biggest challenges. Childcare Works has created a resource to support you with childcare workforce recruitment which includes:

- Actions you can take to support childcare workforce recruitment and retention
- A summary of the Timewise Childcare Pioneers Project with suggested actions to attract and retain staff
- Practitioners' view, an example of one early years setting's approach to recruitment

Find out more [here](#) on the Childcare Works HUB for providers, a one-stop-shop connecting you with useful and reliable content.

Childcare Works is the Department for Education's delivery partner, supporting Local Authorities, providers and schools to deliver the expansion of the early years entitlements and wraparound childcare programme. Find out more at: [Childcare Works](#)

Five minute business tips for childminders



In this week's 'Five minute business tips for childminders' we talk about **completing your tax return**. By watching this short video, you will learn tips and tricks for completing your tax return accurately and be ready to submit it to HMRC with confidence.

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/SwnU8ygV9D0>

School readiness: Supporting the skills young children need to make a positive start

In the wake of PM Keir Starmer setting a target of 75% of early years children being 'school-ready' by 2028, much attention is now focused on what this means, and how best practice should be approached.

According to the Government, figures from 2022-2023 revealed one in three children 'were not ready for school' at the age of five.

In this webinar, sponsored by YPO, our expert panellists will explore 'school-readiness' and offer practical advice and guidance for practitioners and nursery leaders about how settings can close the opportunity gap, prioritising individualised education and care to all children.

Wednesday 3rd December 2025, 12.15 pm

REGISTER NOW

The panel will discuss:

- What 'school readiness' means and what 'healthy' school readiness should look like.
- What the pitfalls to avoid around this issue are.
- The reasons behind why so many children are not currently developing the key life skills needed by the age of five.

How settings can prioritise enabling all individual children to thrive.

Baby week 17th to 21st November 2025

Celebrating 10 Years of Baby Week

Baby Week brings together services to promote the best start in life, celebrating early childhood and raising awareness of the vital first five years through annual citywide events and national collaboration.

LGA – Baby Week Events 17th to 21st November

This year, *Baby Week* proudly marks its **10th anniversary**—a decade of celebrating babies, families, and the vital role of early childhood services. Since its launch in Leeds in 2016, inspired by UNICEF's *Semana do Bebê* in Brazil, Baby Week has grown into a national movement, sharing best practice across cities and uniting health, education, and community partners to promote the best start in life.

Join us for a series of learning webinars to celebrate this 10 year anniversary

18th November 11:00 - 12:30 **Booktrust's Partnership work with Family Hubs** [Booking Link](#)

This virtual event will give an overview of BookTrust's existing partnership work in Family Hubs and describe what our research tells us about how reading for pleasure supports early childhood development, infant and parents' mental health and bonding and attachment. The webinar will provide an overview of our partnership model, how we ensure our delivery reflects diverse local contexts, and how we keep families, children, and partners at the heart of our programmes. The session will also include case studies from a range of Family Hub partners across England.

18th November 1:00 - 2:00 **Achieving High Quality Provision in the Baby Rooms of English Nurseries** [booking link](#)

Based on the publication of their most recent report, *Opening the Door to the Baby Room: Learning from the Experiences and Perspectives of Baby Room Educators and Nursery Managers*, the presenters, Kayla Halls and Dr Sara Bonetti, will open the conversation around how local authorities can champion high-quality baby room provision. The session will involve an

introduction to the publication findings, guest speakers from Country Durham and Norfolk LA, and the opportunity to workshop ideas for supporting baby rooms in your LA.

18th November 2:00 - 3:00 **Boosting Communication and Confidence with CBeebies Parenting** [booking link](#)

CBeebies Parenting is a completely free resource created by the BBC, offering over **1,300 videos and articles** full of expert advice, trusted content, and simple, fun activities to help boost children's **speech, language and communication** – while also supporting parents and carers with everyday challenges like routines, potty training, emotional development and school readiness. We're inviting professionals to a **free, practical 45 min session** designed especially for those working with families.

19th November 12:00 - 1:00 **BookTrust Offer for Babies** [booking link](#)

As part of Baby Week, this virtual event will introduce our flagship programme Bookstart Baby and describe what our research tells us about how Bookstart packs supports early childhood development. The webinar will provide an overview of our partnership model, how we ensure our delivery reflects diverse local contexts, and how we keep families, children and partners at the heart of our programmes. The session will also include case studies from local partners within Baby Week regions on their experiences gifting Bookstart Baby and its importance as a tool to support bonding and attachment between parents or carers and babies.

19th November 1:00 - 2:00 **Celebrating 10 Years of Baby Week** [booking link](#)

Over the last ten years, Baby Week has engaged thousands of families, expectant parents, carers, and professionals through events, workshops, and community celebrations, all focused on creating healthier, happier beginnings. Reducing inequalities and barriers to access is one of our aims and each year we welcome families, including dads, non-birthing parents, foster carers, and special guardians. This year, we continue to champion inclusive parenting and recognise the vital role of culturally diverse communities in creating a child-friendly nation.

To learn more of the **Baby Week Conference** taking place in **Leeds** and events in your area follow the link <https://babyweek.co.uk/> **Tickets are free** and there is also an opportunity to join remotely.