



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 4th December 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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www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/childcare-and-early-years-settings/ complete this [form](#)

New Managers / Deputy Manager Academy

Are you new to the role of the manager or deputy manager at a PVI nursery?

Perhaps you have only been a manager for the last 6 months or so or have recently become a deputy manager. 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 virtually 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 - consider how you gather parent views and involve them in their child's learning

Methods to gather the views of parents

By obtaining the views of those that use your service, you are able to shape it to the needs of the families and children. There are several effective ways of gathering their thoughts and ideas

- Verbal discussions - informally at drop off or pick up times
- Verbal discussions - formally at meetings, either individual or group meetings
- Suggestion boxes near to the entrance
- Sticky notes on a notice board
- Feedback Questionnaires
- On-line feedback or polls

Involve parents in their child's learning

As professionals, we understand that the first educators of children are their families. It is important to establish a two way communication to discuss the child's daily and ongoing needs, learning and development. Families should be involved in the learning that takes place at our settings. This can be done via whatever method the setting and the parent feels works best for their individual family dynamics and their views on this can be sought through the methods above.

Direct families to our Early Years website where they will find a wealth of information about activities to try at home.

[Parental engagement and home learning - Lancashire County Council](#)

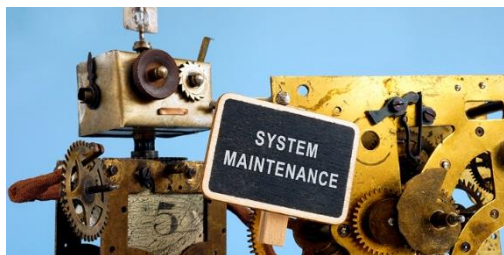
If you would like to develop this area of your practice

Instant Access Course - [Strategies to engage parents in their child's home learning - Lancashire County Council](#)

Lancashire Quality Award - [Relationships with Children, Parents and the Wider Community](#)

New Publication - Parent Engagement Toolkit ([Publications for sale - Lancashire County Council](#)) containing a wealth of tools and readymade resources.

WellComm- password reset



You may have received an email from GL Assessment asking you to change your password for the WellComm Digital Reporting Tool. This is a genuine email. You will need to reset your email in order to access the tool.

As part of our role as your data processor, we continuously monitor unusual activity connected to customer Testwise accounts.

We want to make you aware that we have recently detected an increase in malicious attempts to access customer accounts using valid login credentials.

Action required – please reset your password

As a proactive security measure, we have implemented a platform-wide password reset for all Testwise users.

To complete this process, please access either the Testwise or WellComm platform and click on *Reset Password*. Follow the on-screen instructions to set up your new password.

Please follow these three steps when you create your new password:

1. Use a completely new password

- Create a password that has never been used before on Testwise or any other system (such as other school systems, email accounts or any other systems or services).

2. Avoid common or predictable passwords

- Don't use predictable sequences like *Password1*, *12345678*, *Welcome* or *QWERTY*.
- Avoid simple substitutions (e.g. replacing *a* with *@*).

3. Create a strong, unique password

- Combine uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters.
- Consider using a paraphrase of unrelated words with numbers or symbols for added strength.

We are taking these steps proactively to ensure the continued security of your data and to help protect all our customers from current attack attempts.

If you would like any further assistance, please contact our Customer Services team on **+44 (0)330 123 5375** or by emailing info@gl-assessment.co.uk

Power of Pictures (POP)

In this latest PechaKucha presentation, Early Years Consultant, Rachel Hughes, introduces the notion of **Researchful Practice** and how it can impact upon practitioner confidence and the quality of practice.



<https://youtu.be/fcER93D32mQ>

Feeling inspired? Find out more about the Researchful Practice Lancashire Quality:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/lancashire-quality-awards-programmes/schools/lancashire-quality-award-researchful-practice

Applications open for My Nature Play

Learning Through Landscapes' new My Nature Play project helps young children fall in love with nature by improving their outdoor experiences in their early years settings. Between February 2026 and July 2028, My Nature Play will be delivered across 170 early years settings throughout England, Wales and Scotland, creating a long-term legacy of confidence, creativity, and connection to nature.



You can find out more and apply for your setting to be involved here: [My Nature Play | Learning through Landscapes](#)

Applications close at midnight on **4th January 2026**.

Early Years Inspection Operating Guide

Some settings in Lancashire have now been inspected under the new system. Although reports for these early cohort of inspections will not be published until January, feedback from settings is that everything you need to know about the day is contained in the **Early Years Inspection Operating Guide for Inspectors!**

This essential document can be found with the Inspection Toolkit, here: [Early years inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK](#)

The operating guide is part of a set of guidance outlining how settings will be inspected under the renewed Education Inspection Framework. It is for all early years settings including PVI nurseries, childminders and out of school clubs.

It's a step by step guide for inspectors on how to inspect a registered early years setting. It is an essential read for setting leaders to help them understand:

- what happens before, after and during an inspection
- how they can prepare for an inspection
- their own role during an inspection
- what the inspector needs to know about the setting
- what the inspector needs to see during the inspection
- how inspectors will gather evidence to apply against the grading areas

The guide is roughly organised to reflect the timeline of an inspection - it starts with what the Inspector needs to do before the inspection and moves through to contacting the setting, during the inspection and after the inspection.

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](#)

Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership November Newsletter

This issue includes important updates, resources, and training opportunities to help us all work together to protect vulnerable children and adults across Lancashire. Highlights include:

- Upcoming safeguarding training and webinars
- New guidance and toolkits for professionals
- Key updates from local and national safeguarding initiatives

You will find the newsletter here: [November 2025 - Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter](#)

Inclusion Newsletter

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 2 Dec 2025](#)



In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- Farewell message from Cerys Townend
- EPS New Offer
- A number of other updates
- CPD opportunities

Please find attached, the SEND Roadshow Flyers for Professionals and for Families.

Foundation Years - Apply to become an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs help early years settings and childminders adopt evidence-informed improvements, promote system leadership, and build networks for sharing effective practice.

As one Hub explains: "It is a privilege to be an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub working with an incredible work force, helping to connect practitioners with the support, evidence and community they need to thrive. We work to bring people together, share what works, and help strengthen practice in ways that make a real, lasting difference for children across our region."

There are currently 18 hubs across England, and in line with the **Best Start in Life** strategy, we are expanding. Applications are invited from group-based or school-based providers with strong leadership and a drive for excellence.

Apply by **Friday 16th January 2026**. More details and the application link are [here](#). Application questions? Email EYSPH.applications@education.gov.uk or sign up for the [applicant webinar](#) on 8th December.



Stronger Practice Hub

Maths Champions Programme is an online professional development programme with 12 months access developed by the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA). The aim of the programme is to increase practitioner knowledge, awareness and confidence in supporting early mathematics in order to improve outcomes for children.

Participating nurseries will nominate a Maths Champion and Deputy Maths Champion who will lead the programme supporting and driving improvement.

The Stronger Practice Hub have **information sessions** on

- Friday 5th December - 10 to 10.30am
- Tuesday 9th December - 11 to 11.30am
- Wednesday 10th December - 3.30 to 4pm

Find out more, book on an information session and apply:

www.strongerpracticehubs.org.uk/hubs/nw/liverpool-city-region-and-beyond-eysph/ebp/maths-champions

Early Years Climate Action Plans - Please join us in partnership with Brighter Futures Stronger Practice Hub for an online session to discuss Early Years Climate Action Plans on **December 9th at 6.30pm**. More information is attached.

[Join from Zoom Workplace app - Zoom](#)

DfE and Ofsted Updates

[Ofsted: explore an area](#) - Ofsted launched a search tool for finding local education and childcare information for areas across England. See [blog post](#) by Michael Howe, Deputy Director, Data and Insight, explaining how this service will help users understand their local areas and make informed decisions.

[Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades](#) - This page explains Ofsted report cards for your child's education or childcare, including a video and guidance on what's changed from the old system.

[Our renewed inspection framework: what we've learned from pilots](#) - Published blog post by Lee Owston, National Director, Education discussing what we learned from pilot inspections, and detailing the feedback we've received and the steps we are taking to address concerns and offer clearer guidance.

[Education inspection framework: engagement programme](#) - Added links to the webinar recordings for each setting.

[Equality duties on education inspection](#) - Published guidance on the education inspection approach to providers' and inspectors' duties under the Equality Act 2010.

[Ofsted's code of conduct: collaborative inspection and regulation](#) - Updated this guidance to reflect the renewed education inspection framework and align language and terminology with renewed policies.

[Ofsted inspections and visits: deferring, pausing and gathering additional evidence](#) - Updated this guidance to reflect the renewed education inspection framework and align processes and terminology with new or updated policies.

[Evaluation of Ofsted's renewed approach to education inspection: terms of reference](#) - Published terms of reference for independent multi-stage research that we have commissioned to evaluate our renewed approach to education inspection.

[Statistics: early years foundation stage profile](#) - annual statistics on early years foundation stage profile assessments in England relating to the 7 areas of learning and the 17 early learning goals (updated 27th November 2025).