



## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin

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

### Keep in touch



[EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk)



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[www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/](http://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/](http://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?**

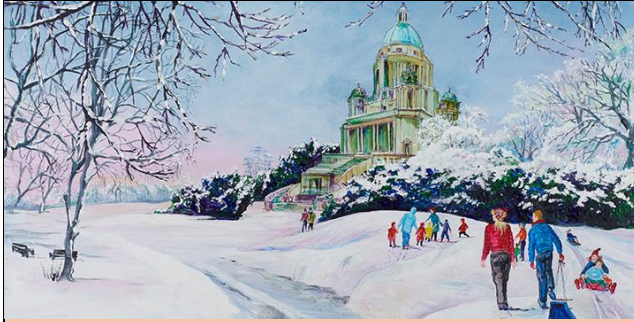
Join our new practitioners' academy by completing this [FORM](#) and we will be in touch before each session to share the links with you.

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).

<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	4 to 5pm
<b>18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	9.45 to 10.45am
<b>20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	4 to 5pm
<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9.45 to 10.45am
<b>19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	4 to 5pm
<b>7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	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!



**Season's Greetings and  
Happy 2026 from the  
Team!**

## Something to do this week!

December can be a chilly month with dark evenings but also a busy time of year for those who work with children!

This week take a moment to think - when was the last time you did something just for you? Just because you wanted to and not because you should.

Now, make yourself a promise to do just that and if you cannot do it today then put a time in your schedule and stick to it! Maybe connect with a friend, read a book or magazine for pleasure, play a sport or online game, take a walk, pamper yourself or draw a picture.

Not sure what you want to do? Visit the Action for Happiness website for lots of ideas each month:

<https://actionforhappiness.org/all-calendars>

### Resources for leaders to support wellbeing

[Early Years Staff wellbeing: a resource for managers and leaders](#)

[Wellbeing measurement for early years settings](#)

Instant Access Training - [Wellbeing for the adult](#)

Publication - [Promoting Staff Wellbeing](#)



## WellComm News!

### Training and information for all early years settings

Our new course programme for 2025-26 is now available. Training for nursery settings and schools, childminders and out of school settings. Also includes online courses and free training opportunities for all early years settings.



[View and order publications](#)

### The Early Years Professional Development Centre

The Early Years Professional Development Centre is here for all early years practitioners to support them in their professional practice.

### Leading practice in Lancashire

Find out about early years lead practitioners within childminding, PVI

### Supporting children

- Narrowing the gap
- Early years pupil premium (EYPP) funding
- Two year old progress check and Lancashire's integrated creche pathway
- Pre-school transition documents
- Creating a curriculum (PDF 183 KB)
- Vulnerable children (children in our care)
  - CLA and adopted children



We now have a dedicated section on our website for **WellComm** which is where you will find all the resources including training dates, how to get started, toolkit, digital reporting tool and parent cards.

[WellComm - Lancashire County Council](#)

## Inclusion Newsletter



### Including:

- A message from Andrea Riley and Sapphire Murray
- EHCP Consultations
- New Providers for Short Breaks
- Break Time Registrations

- The Power of Participation and Co-production – E-learning available
- Early Years SEND Support update
- Early Years Community Education Psychology Offer

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 16 Dec 2025](#)

## Health protection and flu in children

### Five reasons to have the flu vaccine

- 1. Protect your child** - the vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends** - vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family.
- 3. No injection needed** - the nasal spray is painless and easy to have.
- 4. It's better than having flu** - the nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record.
- 5. Avoid costs** - if your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare.

### What actions can I take to avoid catching or spreading respiratory illnesses?

Here is a list of simple actions you can take to reduce the spread of respiratory infections, and protect those at highest risk:

- Get vaccinated if you are eligible.
- If you are feeling unwell, stay at home.
- If you're meeting people indoors, open a window for fresh air. Just keep in mind the room temperature and whether anyone might be sensitive to the cold.
- Practice good hygiene:
  - cough into your bent elbow, or use a tissue and dispose of it afterwards in the nearest bin;
  - wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap;
  - clean your surroundings often, especially areas that are touched frequently such as door handles.
- Wear a mask when you are unwell and need to go out.

### Other things schools/settings can do to prevent and control the spread of infections include:

- Reinforce public health messaging around hand and respiratory hygiene for children and staff. For more information visit [e-Bug](#) which has lots of resources to support infection prevention and control messages for children.
- For ventilation of indoor spaces: Whilst conscious of heating costs and keeping rooms warm - if you can, open windows/ventilate staff areas and classrooms when possible during the day, possibly at breaktime and after school, to help reduce the spread of infection.

### Childhood flu vaccine

#### Eligible children

The flu vaccine is offered free to:

- children aged 2 or 3 years old (on 31 August before flu vaccinations start in the autumn)
- school-aged children (Reception to Year 11)

- children with a health condition that puts them at greater risk from flu
- For further information: [Children's flu vaccine - NHS](#)

### **Why your child should have the flu vaccine**

- Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children causing fever, extreme tiredness, aching muscles and joints, stuffy nose, dry cough and sore throat.
- Children usually begin to feel better within about a week.
- Complications of flu include acute bronchitis, painful ear infections and pneumonia - some children may need to go to hospital for treatment, including intensive care.

### **The benefits of the vaccine**

- Having the vaccine will help protect your child from what can be a very nasty illness in children.
- Children under the age of 5 years have one of the highest rates of hospital admissions due to flu.
- Having the vaccine will also reduce the chance of others in your family, who could be at greater risk from flu, such as grandparents or those with long-term health conditions, getting flu from your child.
- It can help you avoid having to take time off work, or other activities, to look after your sick child or if you become sick yourself.

Further information for teachers, parents and carers:

[Supporting vulnerable people before and during cold weather: for teachers and educational professionals - GOV.UK](#)

[Keeping warm and well: staying safe in cold weather - GOV.UK](#) in different languages/formats that can be shared with staff, parents and carers.

[The role of immunisation and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)

Please find attached:

- Easy read leaflet for children;
- Key messages leaflet for parents, carers and staff.

## **Foundation Years**



### **Special Approach to Making it REAL webinars**

Please find below links to the next dates for the Special Approach to Making it REAL open access webinars:

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - 1 to 3pm

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972531484770?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972531484770?aff=oddtcreator)

5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 9.30 to 11.30am

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972539756511?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972539756511?aff=oddtcreator)

24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 7 to 9pm

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972540773553?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972540773553?aff=oddtcreator)

### **Safety Alert – baby sleep pillows**

These are workshops providing practitioners with an overview of how to support the home learning environment for families with children with SEND.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a Safety Alert to warn about the risks associated with baby sleep pillows.

The Safety Alert advises that baby sleep pillows should not be used, as they pose a risk of suffocation and increase the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Babies should always be placed to sleep on a firm, flat mattress, free from pillows, soft bedding or other items.

Baby sleep pillows are sometimes marketed with claims that they can improve sleep or help prevent flat head syndrome; however, there is no evidence that they are safe for use and they can obstruct a baby's airway or cause overheating. Everyone who cares for children are urged to stop using baby sleep pillows immediately and follow safer sleep advice to reduce the risk of harm. Childcare providers are encouraged to share the safety alert with parents and carers:

[www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-baby-sleep-pillows-psa8](http://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-baby-sleep-pillows-psa8)

### **Share your experience as an Early Years Teacher (£50 thankyou)**

We're looking to speak with Early Years Teachers with EYTS, EYPS or QTS working in nursery settings about your experiences and the challenges you face in your role. We'd love to hear your perspective and get your feedback on some ideas we've been developing. Your insights would be incredibly valuable in helping us better understand what matters most to practitioners like you.

#### **What's involved:**

- A one hour session where we'll chat about your experiences and ask you to help us review some service ideas.
- £50 voucher as a thank you for your time

If you're interested, please fill in this short form (takes about a minute) and we'll be in touch with more details: [Early Years Teacher Research – Fill out form](#)

### **National Year of Reading -sign up now ready for January!**

The National Year of Reading is a bold, year-long Department for Education initiative delivered in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust.

The Early Years offer will be a termly cycle of professional development and resources for educators, and memorable events for children.

To get involved, all you need to do is choose your preferred sign-up option:

- **Option 1:** Go All In (Whole setting approach) – Nominate a representative from your setting to register for our Learning Management System for a guided journey through termly activities – plus, take part in a participatory award with prizes.
- **Option 2:** Dip In (Individual approach) – Sign up to individual events and download resources as they go live.

Get ready for January:

1. [Decide your level of involvement and sign up: Go All In or Dip In](#)
2. [Download our starter toolkit which includes a calendar and an all staff briefing presentation on the National Year of Reading](#)
3. [Sign up to our All-Phase Introduction Webinar on 15 Jan to kick start 2026](#)

Let's make 2026 the year we put storytelling at the heart of early years learning and give every child the best start in life.

## Child Protection Authority – have your say

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on the creation of a new national body to improve child protection in England. The Child Protection Authority (CPA) will aim to provide national leadership and oversight, use data and intelligence to spot risks early, and advise on policy at local and national level. The consultation is seeking views on the CPA's proposed functions, governance and interaction with existing bodies. Responses are invited from children and families with lived experience of the child protection system, frontline practitioners, local authorities, inspectorates, professional bodies, and voluntary, community and statutory organisations involved in safeguarding. The consultation closes on 5 March 2026.

**Find out more:** [Establishing the Child Protection Authority in England](#)

## DfE and Ofsted Updates

For transparency the [Early Years Operating Guide](#) now includes links to additional guidance for inspectors:

- Principles for carrying out early years inspection and regulatory work without notice
- Principles for deciding when more than one inspector is needed

We have updated the [guidance on toilet training](#). This article was written by the Department for Education (DfE) in consultation with senior health professionals in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for Early Years Providers](#) website.