



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin Thursday 5th February 2026

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

Keep in touch



EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk



01772 539058



www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/



Facebook: www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/
www.facebook.com/groups/lancsearlyyears/



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 / 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).

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!

Review your recording of pre-existing injuries



If a child arrives to your setting with any injury, a written record is an essential tool to help detect possible abuse or neglect of a child. Discussion that takes place with parents/carers also helps to monitor the child's wellbeing if it is a recent or

significant injury. These records may also help safeguard practitioners from false allegations.

A record should be made as soon as the injury is seen, with the parent/carer present. Sometimes an injury is not noticed until later (for example when clothes are taken off or nappies changed) and a record should be made at this time. In either case, always make sure that the injury is discussed with the parent/carer and their explanation is included in the record and they sign to acknowledge a record has been made.

Key questions you could consider:

- Are all parents/carers aware of this procedure and the reasons why?
- Do all staff and volunteers understand the importance of noticing, questioning and recording these injuries?
- Are all adults involved in the process, making clear and accurate records?
- Are records kept in a confidential manner?
- Are records reviewed to consider any patterns in injury that could indicate abuse or neglect?
- Am I being professionally curious?

[CV-19-7mb-Professional-Curiosty.pdf \(lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk\)](#)

Practitioners should always consider if the injury, the explanation for it (from adults or the child) or other information they have, raises any concerns for them. If so, they should know to inform the Designated Lead Practitioner (for childminders this is themselves) and seek advice. The pre-existing injury form may then feed into your cause for concern record and may form part of the information you would share with children's social care.

Building blocks and bitesize videos

Building blocks

Are you accessing our brilliant Building Blocks Series of Webinars? We have FIVE sets within the series that are currently available. Once purchased, these are yours to keep supporting you with the induction of new members of your team over time. Please see the attached flyer for more information and details on how to purchase.



Bitesize videos

This is a suite of training videos to support the induction of early years practitioners into your setting. These can be purchased as two sets for £55 per set. Once you have purchased the videos you can use them in your own setting as many times as you like, your access will be unlimited. Please see the attached flyer for more information and details on how to purchase.



IMPORTANT – Product safety recall

Product: **Hobbycraft Giant Box of Craft**
(recall issued 27 January 2026)

A product recall has been issued by Hobbycraft for the Giant Box of Craft as vials of sand included within the set may contain a small quantity of asbestos.

Asbestos is a banned substance because it poses a risk to health even at low levels of exposure.

Hobbycraft has withdrawn the product from sale and has initiated a recall from consumers.

Immediate Action Required



[Product Recall: Hobbycraft Giant Box of Craft \(2601-0364\) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/product-recall/2601-0364)

Please check all your supplies to see if you have any of the above. If you do have the product at your setting, **please see the attached flyer for important information on safe disposal.**

National Years of Reading – Get involved!



National Year of Reading 2026 – Get Involved!

This year is the **National Year of Reading**, a fantastic chance to celebrate the joy and lifelong benefits that reading brings to young children. We're encouraging all Early Years settings to join the **Go All In** campaign, which supports children to read for pleasure every day.

Go All In promotes simple, meaningful actions such as:

- Daily opportunities for shared reading
- Giving children choice over the books they explore
- Embedding stories and language into play
- Involving families in fun, inclusive reading at home

Find out more and sign up at: [National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)

Education Support Webinars – Upcoming sessions



Please see details on the attached flyer of the upcoming education support webinars and learning circles. The first session will take place on **Thursday, 12 February**.

Childcare sufficiency assessment parent survey

Last term (November) you were sent a parent survey to gather views on the availability, quality and accessibility of childcare. This is part of our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) and a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006.

The survey will close on **13th Feb 2026** and we would very much appreciate your support with encouraging your parents/carers to complete this very short online survey for us if they haven't already.

Please could you share the link below and poster attached, as widely as possible in your community, at your schools and settings.

We particularly need more responses in **FYLDE, PENDLE, ROSSENDALE** and **HYNDBURN** districts.

Link for survey: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/1e757o>

Schools and childcare providers are not identifiable and responses are anonymous. Feedback will be used in our district reports for Lancashire.

Thank you on behalf of the CSA Team.

January 2026 - Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter



[January 2026 - Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter](#)

Lancashire Safeguarding is a multi-agency partnership established to ensure safeguarding measures are met, vulnerable children and adults across Lancashire are protected from harm & abuse a...

Reminder: New Digital Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment Process Now Live



A reminder that our new digital process for submitting Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment requests is now live.

Requests can now be submitted through a new online form, replacing the current process. This change is part of our wider work to make the EHC needs assessment process more efficient, consistent and accessible for everyone involved.

To help you prepare any requests, an attachment is included which sets out the types of information that will be requested as part of the new digital form. This is provided for information only, to support early familiarisation ahead of go-live. We have also attached a poster and digital graphic that you may want to use for your parents and around the school. We would also appreciate your support in ensuring that any signposting on your own websites, intranet pages or online guidance is reviewed and updated where necessary, so that it directs users to the new digital EHC needs assessment page. The link for this is www.lancashire.gov.uk/ehc-plans

Thank you for helping us ensure a smooth transition to the new process and for continuing to support children, young people and families through this change.

Selected DfE updates 28th January – 2nd February 2026

- [List of family hub sites](#)

A list of each family hub location in England funded by government.

- Updated: 3 February 2026