



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin

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 / 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 - supporting children's mental health

We are in [Children's Mental Health](#) week (9th to 15th of February) so it's a great time to get some more ideas and resources. Place2Be is the charity that launched Children's Mental Health Week back in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health.

*'The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is **'This is My Place'**, and our aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong.'*

Visit the Personal, **Social and Emotional Development** section of our website for related resources, publications and training.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/areas-of-learning/psed/



Islam - PechaKucha



Do you have Muslim children and families in your setting? Do you have staff members with little prior knowledge about the religion of Islam? This PechaKucha presentation by Early Years Project Officer, Aisha Laher, aims to give you a clear understanding of the core values of Islam and how these can be meaningfully reflected within your early years environment.

With the fast-approaching month of Ramadan, when millions of Muslims around the world fast, this is the perfect time to deepen awareness and strengthen inclusive practice. We hope this introduction supports you in building confidence and understanding of the children and families you work with.

Watch here: https://youtu.be/LQ0QI2Q_IGY?si=WoEk7vbSfeXGVfQt

Product Recall - spread the word!

Please find attached details of further product recall and the action that you should take if you have it in your setting. Please spread the word to parents about the recall too.

[Hobbycraft Sand and Pom Pom Art Kit \(2602-0017\)](#)

[Hobbycraft Easter Bumper Craft Kit \(2602-0018\)](#)

A further product recall has been issued by Hobbycraft as the sand included within the above sets may contain a small quantity of asbestos. This is in addition to the product recall for the [Hobbycraft Giant Box of Craft and Sand](#).



Product Recall - spread the word!

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is asking parents, early years settings and other caregivers to check their infant formula against specific batches of **Aptamil and Cow and Gate** products listed in the Product Recall Information Notice published on Friday 6 February 2026.



As you might have seen in media coverage and on social media, Danone's recall has been issued due to potential cereulide contamination, which can cause illness including vomiting and stomach cramps. The issue only affects the batches listed in the [recall notice](#), in addition to the product included in Danone's [earlier recall on 23 January 2026](#).

The FSA's advice to parents and carers is that if they have any of the affected products, stop using them and switch to an alternative formula. If formula was prescribed, they should speak to a pharmacist or doctor before changing. If they have recently fed the formula to their baby and are concerned about symptoms, they should contact their GP or call NHS 111.

Additional recalls

This follows recent [recalls from Nestlé of SMA infant formula](#) products due to the same contamination issue.

The FSA have published the following:

- [Product Recall Information Notice](#) detailing the further recalled batches of Danone infant formula product
- our [infant formula recalls page](#) providing a full list of recalled products and the latest advice
- [news story asking parents and caregivers to check their infant formula products](#)

New Resource - Narrowing the Gap Strategy

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) provides extra government funding to help early years settings improve outcomes for disadvantaged children from 9 months upwards. The aim is to support practitioners to improve learning and reduce gaps in children's learning and development (this is what we mean when we talk about 'narrowing the gap'). It is important to have a well-thought-through EYPP strategy that is based on evidence of what works well to support the achievement and well-being of eligible children.

The **Narrowing the Gap Strategy document** will help guide your thoughts in creating a strategy. The document has been split into five parts, creating a 'pick and mix'. Each part can be used as a standalone tool; however, when used all together, the information gathered will support the narrowing of gaps. It is, however, advisable that parts one and two are completed.

There is a copy attached and you can find out more information and support in the Narrowing the Gap section of our website: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/supporting-children/narrowing-the-gap/

Do Something Big

The Department for Education's **Do Something Big** campaign is looking for early years professionals to share their experiences. They're building a bank of case studies from people across all roles and settings - whether you're a childminder, work in an independent nursery, or are part of a larger organisation.



What's involved

There are different ways to contribute, and the DfE campaign team will work with you to find a suitable format. Options include:

- Providing a quote about your career in early years
- Taking part in social media content
- Participating in media interviews

There are opportunities throughout the year, so once you've submitted your form, the team will keep your details on file and get in touch when something suitable arises.

If you or someone you know is interested, please complete the Do Something Big case study form: <https://forms.office.com/e/HJMeGY3bv9>

Inclusion Newsletter

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 10 Feb 2026](#)

In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- Jenny Ashton's Royal Visit
- New Digital EHCNA Request Process Now Live – Transition Window ends 28 February
- SEND Survey Information
- Introducing the Inclusion Hubs Central Newsletter
- Summary of Let's Talk SEND Sessions
- CPD opportunities and other updates

Useful documents attached



Health Protection Newsletter

Please see the link below for the latest Heads up Health Protection bulletin. Please could you share this with all your contacts who may find this information useful:



[Heads Up from Health Protection - February 2026 Bulletin](#)

Our team is committed to raising awareness and providing valuable information to help you stay healthy and safe. We 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.

National School Governors' Awareness Day

Thursday 12th February is **National School Governors' Awareness Day**, recognising the vital contribution governors make to schools across Lancashire. Many early years colleagues already volunteer as governors - **thank you** for the time and expertise you give.

If you're not a governor but interested in getting involved, it's a great way to support local schools and develop your skills. You **don't need to be a parent or work in education** to become a governor - just an interest in supporting your community and helping schools thrive. There are still more than 1000 vacancies across Lancashire, so schools really need your help!

To find out more or express interest, contact the **Governor Services Central Team** at ECSGovernors.CentralTeam@lancashire.gov.uk.

Governors for Schools are also hosting a national programme of free online sessions on Thursday, covering governance, safeguarding and how to become a governor: [National School Governors' Awareness Day - Governors for Schools](#)

Stronger Practice Hub

Early Years Climate Action Plan and Sustainability

Climate Action Plan & Sustainability Workshop (Early Years)

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub invite early years professionals to an online workshop exploring Climate Action Plans and sustainability in practice.

- Thursday 26th February
- 6.30pm – 8.00pm
- Zoom

Led by **Dr Diane Boyd**, this session will guide practitioners through writing a Climate Action Plan, sourcing information, and linking everyday practice to the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**.

Audience: Childminders, nursery practitioners, EYFS & Reception leads, and professionals working with under 5s.



This session will be held on Zoom
Meeting ID: 814 1824 8459
Passcode: 514311

Please ensure you are registered with Liverpool City Region. And Beyond SPH to access this session



Please contact sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk to reserve your funded place.



[Subscribe](#) to the monthly newsletter for all opportunities.

DfE - Best Start in Life



Peppa Pig helps parents get children 'school ready'

We have partnered with Hasbro, bringing the Peppa Pig family into the heart of the Best Start in Life campaign with NHS-approved early years advice to parents, through the [government's online hub for families](#).

You can watch the video on getting children 'school ready' via the [Muddy Puddle Parenting YouTube channel](#).

Olivia Bailey, Minister for Early Education said:

“Through our Plan for Change, we want to support families to get a record share of children school-ready by the age of five. Peppa Pig has been part of family life for a generation. When parents are already turning to her world for comfort, routine and reassurance, it makes sense to meet them there.”

Screen time guidance – call for evidence

On Monday 2 February, the [Early Years Screen Time Advisory Group](#) launched a call for evidence to help shape new guidance on screen time and usage for early years (0 to 5-year-old) children. This is an opportunity for you to provide evidence that will be considered by the advisory group to inform the development of the new guidance.

We want to gather evidence that draws on a broad range of knowledge and expertise across individuals and settings.

The call for evidence is open from 2 to 16 February – you can [find out more and submit evidence here](#).

DfE and Ofsted Updates

[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. Change made: An 'easy read' version of the page is now available in PDF (5th February 2026).