



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 Manager/Deputy 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 systems for the progress check at 2

This mandatory check on children's learning and development must be completed when the child is between the ages of two and three.

The progress check at age two aims to:

- review a child's development
- celebrate areas where the child is making good progress
- identify any areas of concern or where progress is not as expected, so that parents, practitioners and other professionals such as speech and language therapists, physiotherapists or dieticians can put appropriate support in place
- help parents to understand their child's needs and enhance their child's development at home
- invite parents to share their unique knowledge about their child, family and culture



Find out more:

- Download the [Progress Check at age two guidance](#)
- Visit our website for information on [Lancashire's Integrated Pathway](#): including a webinar that includes how this checks integrates with the Health Visitor's 2 to 2 ½ year old health check. There is also a template permission slip to place your summary into the child's 'red book'.
- Visit [Integrated reviews - Help for early years providers - GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

Wanting to strengthen practice in this age range – take a look at the Building Blocks package for those working with under 2's. Thirteen recorded videos that are yours to keep once purchased. Also a separate set for those working with 2 year olds! [Building Blocks - Working with under threes - Lancashire County Council](#)

New - WellComm Leaflets

We now have a set of translated parent information leaflets available to support communication with families around WellComm screening.

The leaflet explains what the screening involves, why we use it and how it supports children's early language development. Please save the attached translated version(s), ready to share with parents as needed, to ensure all families have clear, accessible information.

Available in:

- Bengali
- Urdu
- Gujarati
- Pakistani Punjabi
- Polish
- Ukrainian



You can find the original leaflet, training, resources and much more in the Wellcomm section of our website: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/supporting-children/wellcomm/

Best Start in Life Practice Card



Collect and share the latest card for practitioners working with 2 year olds.

The topic this week is **Happy, Healthy Snack Times** and the card is attached for you to use in your setting and share with parents.

Watch this [short video](#) to find out more about our **Best Start in Life Campaign** and how your setting can get involved



Apprenticeship Celebrations!

We all know that we have some amazing apprentices in Lancashire settings and it's great to hear that two of them have been recognised through the Themis Lancashire, Inspire and Achieve awards. Thank you to **Bright Futures Early Learning** (Bacup) and **Good as Gold Childcare** (Rossendale) for sharing this news with us all. Congratulations to **Zoe** and **Meadow** for their well deserved awards.

Zoe Richardson - Higher Apprentice of the Year



"Zoe, after having time away, began working at Bright Futures, where she quickly began to develop her leadership skills and knowledge. Leaders of Bright Futures Early Learning soon noticed the hard work and dedication Zoe put into supporting all staff members. Utilising her skills and knowledge, Zoe was soon asked to take on a level 5 higher apprenticeship course whilst also becoming the setting's apprentice mentor. The role of apprentice mentor is one that Zoe grabbed with both hands and one which has further developed her confidence and skills.

Judges noted her professionalism and drive, all of which have shown through her own journey and the journey of others."

Meadow Young - Childcare and Teaching Apprentice of the Year award and Intermediate Apprentice of the Year.



"When we received an email about the awards at Good as Gold Childcare, I felt Meadow would be a worthy winner as she has been an exceptional student from day one. I wrote the nomination and was thrilled when she was shortlisted as a finalist. She then had to make a presentation in front of three judges and

answer questions as to why she should win the award.

I knew as soon as they started talking about the winner it was Meadow and we were thrilled. What we didn't know, and neither did her tutor, was that she had been nominated for the overall award and were shocked when her name was read out again!

Meadow thoroughly deserved both of the awards, she is a joy to teach and mentor and she has exceptional ability. The children all adore her and she has a promising career ahead of her. Meadow passed her level two with distinction and is well on her way with level 3. She is still only 17!"

Training, Clusters and Member's Workshops in March

Find out all the training and events to support CPD in **March** here:

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

Climate Action Plan Q and A, Drop-in

Did you know that it is now a legal requirement for all education settings on **non-domestic premises** to have a nominated **Sustainability Lead and a Climate Action Plan**? Would you like to feel more confident about where to begin with climate and sustainability planning?

If so, come to our informal online question and answer drop-in session where we will explore all of this together and answer your questions to help you feel confident and ready to begin. Or build further on your setting's work.

Date: 10th March

Time: 4 to 5pm

There is no need to book onto this session. Please just follow the link below to join:

[Join the meeting now](#)

See attached flyer for more information

Developing Lancashire's Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan - we'd like your input

LCC are working with CIPFA, supported by People too, to develop a Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan. This plan will help us understand how we can make sure funding for children and young people is used sustainably in the years ahead. Like many areas nationally, Lancashire is managing a DSG deficit. While the Government has agreed to address historic deficits nationally, future overspends must be managed locally. It is therefore essential that we



develop a realistic, deliverable plan that supports inclusion and financial sustainability across the system.

We want to work with education providers across early years, schools and post-16 settings to understand current pressures, identify what is working well, and shape practical solutions together. To help us build an accurate picture, we would be grateful if you could complete a very short survey. It contains eight questions and should take no more than a few minutes to complete.

[Developing Lancashire's Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan – Fill out form](#)
The survey will close on 30/3

We will provide a further update on our work through this bulletin in April. Thank you in advance for your time and for everything you do to support children and young people in Lancashire.

Inclusion Sway

In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- Digital EHCNA Request Process Now Live
- SEND Survey Information
- Inclusion Hubs Central Newsletter - link
- Community Roots free sessions for parents and carers
- CPD opportunities
- Several other updates



[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 3 Mar 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 and abuse.

[Newsletter](#) or [Go to this Sway](#)

Do something Big Campaign



The Do Something Big campaign has partnered with ITV's **The Masked Singer** to create **Little Makers** - a three-part series where a mystery celebrity surprises a real nursery, joins children and educators in creative activities, and finishes with a big reveal.

The series features host **Joel Dommett** alongside a Masked Singer character, whose identity is revealed in Episode 3. It's a warm, engaging way to highlight the creativity and fulfilment of early years careers - and we'd love your help sharing it.

Episodes 1 and 2 are available now on [YouTube](#) and [ITVX](#), with Episode 3 airing on Thursday 5 March on **World Book Day**.

We'd love your help liking and sharing the content to inspire more people to consider a career in early years, and you can contact EarlyYears.Careers@education.gov.uk for ready-made posts to share.

Starting Reception Webinar

Join Kindred2 and the LGA for a webinar on helping children and families get ready for starting school. They will share practical examples from the [Starting Reception website](#) and offer easy, useful tips to strengthen your school readiness approach ahead of National Offer Day on 16 April.

They will also introduce the new Children's Toothbrushing Guide, created with leading dental organisations, which provides clear, evidence-based messages to support healthy oral routines in the early years.

Wednesday 18th March
9.30 to 10.30 am

To register for a place visit: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Stay Strong, Get Vaccinated

A major new national campaign, "**Stay Strong, Get Vaccinated**", launched on 16th February 2026 by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, and the UKHSA, to boost uptake of routine childhood vaccinations, and will run until 31st March 2026.



The initiative comes as the UK continues to see rising cases of preventable diseases, including measles, which spread rapidly among unvaccinated children.

The key messages document attached is aimed at parents and guardians of 0-5 year olds, so they can consider the benefits of childhood vaccinations.

The LCC Health Protection Team is committed to raising awareness and providing valuable information to help your communities and the people in it, to stay healthy and safe. We work to ensure that they have access to the resources and knowledge to help them make informed choices to protect themselves and their loved ones.

DfE and Ofsted Updates

- [Ofsted launches new QR code badges for promoting inspection findings](#) - Press release announcing that Ofsted has launched a new way for education providers to celebrate and share their inspection report cards with parents, carers and the wider community.

- [Renewed education inspection framework: supporting evidence base](#) - Published 'Renewed inspection framework: an overview of research', a report summarising the evidence underpinning the development of the framework.
- [Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades](#) - Added an Easy Read version of the guidance (in PDF).
- [Big Listen action monitoring reports](#) - Added 'Big Listen action monitoring report: December 2025'.
- [Ofsted Academy](#) - All inspector training videos about the renewed education inspection framework are now available