



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin Thursday 23rd April 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 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).

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!

Your sector representatives

Please contact your PVI representatives on the Early Years Consultative Group, **Rafael Schiel** rafael@giantleapchildcare.co.uk or **Sharon Fenton** sharon@risingstarslancaster.co.uk if you have any comments or questions that you would like them to take forward to the County Council on your behalf.

Something to do this week

Review your mandatory training needs

First aid

This must be an approved Paediatric First Aid training course and must always be in date.

This course must be renewed every 3 years.

Safeguarding

Introduction to Safeguarding Children (Early Years)

This course is specifically for people who need to refresh or build up their knowledge of safeguarding in early years, or who are new to working in childcare.

This course must be renewed at least every 2 years.

Safeguarding for the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Early Years)

This is essential training for those who undertake this role, for them to confidently understand what this means in practice and how to lead the team in keeping children safe.

This course must be renewed every 2 years.

If you complete this course and keep it up to date, there is no requirement for you to undertake the Introduction to Safeguarding course again if you have completed it at least once. This course is above that of the introduction and covers in much more detail the role you play in safeguarding children.

The safeguarding training has been developed to meet the needs of all Lancashire Ofsted registered childcare providers. Elements within each training course refer to specific policies, procedures and processes within Lancashire. To get the most out of the training it is recommended that all delegates complete the [Early Help Assessment and Plan \(EHA/EHP\) e-learning](#) prior to attending Lancashire's face-to-face training courses.

To book onto one of our safeguarding course please see our website: [Early years safeguarding training - Lancashire County Council](#)

The [safeguarding section of our website](#) contains a range of documents and resources to help you to safeguarding children. Visit regularly to ensure that you have the most up to date information.

For more information regarding the packages of training we offer please follow the link below -

[Training and information for all early years settings - Lancashire County Council](#)

Best Start in Life

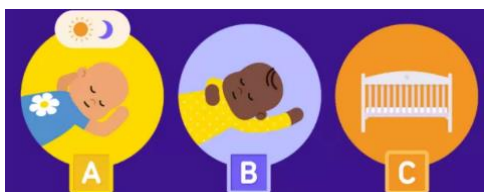
Working with 2 year olds – practice cards



Best Start in Life Collect and share the latest card for practitioners working with 2 year olds. The topic this week is '**Big feelings, little bodies**' 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.

DfE guidance to create and maintain safer sleep environments



The Department for Education have published guidance to help you [create and maintain safer sleep environments for babies and young children](#) in your care.

This guidance has been developed in collaboration with The Lullaby Trust and supports planned updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, expected to come into effect from September 2026.

It includes information on:

- how to provide an appropriate sleep space for babies and children
 - safe use of cots, mattresses, bedding and sleep bags, including relevant British Standards
 - how to supervise children while they are sleeping
- what to do when babies and children fall asleep while travelling, managing temperature, positioning and the use of comforters

By following this guidance, you can help keep children safe and meet EYFS requirements, while supporting consistent practice across early years settings.

Further information is available through NHS guidance on sudden infant death syndrome and from The Lullaby Trust.

[Sudden infant death syndrome \(SIDS\) - NHS](#)
[Safer sleep overview | The Lullaby Trust](#)

Members update



Members look out for your **Spotlight magazine** which will be emailed out to you shortly. Packed with the latest **updates, news and insights** from the early years sector across Lancashire, the magazine will provide **practical guidance, key messages and highlights** to support your role.

Alongside this, members will also receive access to the **recorded termly update**, offering a convenient way to catch up on **key messages, developments and sector priorities**. Ensure you don't miss important information and stay up to date by watching.

Help improve the 'check an early years qualification' online service

The Department for Education is inviting **early years professionals** to share their feedback on the '**Check an early years qualification' online service**. If you're a setting manager, childminder, or a practitioner, your experience matters.

They would love to hear about your experience by completing the survey below.

https://dferesearch.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvzLkfocZqIldye?Origin=newsflash

Your feedback will help understand what works well and where the service could be improved, to better support people working in early years.

If you have any questions, please contact us at research.early-years-quals@education.gov.uk

Please feel free to **share this survey with colleagues or staff who may be interested**

[Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) Posters for parents



'The **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)** aims to improve outcomes for socio-economically disadvantaged children from the age of 9 months to 4 years. You could be receiving an **additional £570 per eligible child per year**. How are you ensuring your parents are aware of this additional funding? Display and share the two EYPP posters

with parents upon induction as well as at the start of each new term.

Our **EYPP posters** provide parents with **key information** and help ease concerns about claiming this additional funding and its impact on benefits.

Used wisely and through a targeted approach, this **additional funding** will support you to create a legacy and, importantly, ensure every child, no matter their background or family income, can flourish and progress, therefore **narrowing attainment gaps.**'

Training for May



Join us this May for all your training needs!
Please find attached the May training opportunities for your sector.

Take a look and see what's on offer.

Starting reception

Starting school is an exciting milestone. To help make the transition into Reception as smooth and positive as possible we encourage you to share the following resources from Starting Reception with parents and carers:



[Starting Reception website](#)

[Starting Reception Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Starting Reception is a free, practical online resource designed to support parents and carers in preparing their child for school. It offers simple activities, helpful advice and clear guidance on the key skills and routines that help children feel confident and ready for their first day.

Starting Reception have also provided guides for Potty Training and Children's Toothbrushing. Children being able to use the toilet independently and having healthy routines such as brushing their teeth is an important part of getting ready for starting school.

[Potty Training Guide website](#)

[Potty Training Guide \(Downloadable PDF\)](#)

[Children's Toothbrushing Guide website](#)

[Children's Toothbrushing Guide \(Downloadable PDF\)](#)

Best Start in Life Preparing for school launch

As part of the Government's Early Years strategy, the **Best Start in Life campaign** brings together trusted advice and support to help families recognise how everyday moments support children's development and build the skills they need for starting school.

Today, we've launched **Preparing for School** – part of the wider Best Start in Life campaign – **to support parents in preparing their child for starting school this September**. The campaign highlights that being prepared is about developing everyday skills, not just having the right uniform.

At the heart of the campaign is the **Steps for School song** – a new music video featuring a rap by award-winning teacher-turned-rapper **MC Grammar**. The video highlights simple, practical steps parents can practice with their child to support their development and build confidence and independence.



You can watch and share the video here: [Steps For School Song | @Best Start in Life + @MC Grammar](#)

We're also encouraging parents to explore the new **Preparing for school webpage** on Best Start in Life, which brings together helpful guidance and tips: [Preparing for school - Best Start in Life](#)

Further campaign resources will be available shortly via the [Campaign Resource Centre](#), including **communications toolkits** and **social media assets**. If you haven't already, please sign up to access and use these materials as soon as they are released in the coming weeks. [Register for an account | Campaign Resource Centre](#)

Members workshop

A quick reminder about the members workshop coming up on 13th May on **'The power of positivity in mathematics'**. The **link for the workshop will be emailed to member settings** – look out for it.

Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Not a member yet, you can find our brand new offer for each sector here:

[Early years packages of support - Lancashire County Council](#)

Lancashire educational psychology service

Here at the Lancashire educational psychology service, we hope you are all doing well and are enjoying the sunshine this week is bringing. We wanted to send a reminder about the upcoming Early Years sessions delivered by Lancashire Educational Psychology Service.

We continue to deliver **group consultations online**, where EY SENDCo's can come and take part in group problem solving with other SENDCos facilitated by an EP. Consultation is a way of thinking through any concerns about individual children or groups of children. This can be related to learning, emotions, their experience of their environment etc. Through consultation, SENDCos and the EP will aim to identify a way of moving forward using solution-orientated frameworks. Strategies and approaches will be created in collaboration utilising all of the expertise in the room to create change based on psychological formulation. Next steps are agreed based upon what will work best for you and the children you are working with. Feedback from SENDCo's who have attended these has been really positive. The next sessions are on **Thursday 23th April 9.30 am- 11.30 am and Tuesday 28th April 10 am- 12 pm**. You can book your place on these or future sessions throughout summer term here [clickDelegate Early Years Online Group Consultations](#).

Additionally, our next session in the Collaborative Journey's series is on **Wednesday 29th April 9.30 am- 10.30 am**. The topic will be **Play Matters: Enhancing Learning Through Mediation and Modelling**. Anyone working in the early years and Parent Carers are welcome to join these sessions. Places are bookable here [clickDelegate Collaborative Journeys: Play Matters: Enhancing Learning Through Mediation and Modelling](#)

We also have our next Parent Carer workshop on **Wednesday 29th April 6 pm- 7pm**. This workshop will focus on **Technology in the Early Years** Parent Carers can book their place here [clickDelegate Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success. Topic: Technology in Early Years](#)

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to let us know. We hope to see you there!

Educational Psychology service group consultation for settings working with Lancashire Virtual School learners

We would like to introduce you to a new opportunity to seek expert help from both **educational psychologist** and **educational peers** to help answer questions or resolve difficulties relating to **Virtual School learners**.

This offer is for **Lancashire professionals working with children in care, previously looked after children, those in kinship care** and children with a social worker with emerging, not crisis level, needs (CIN/CP).

These sessions will:

Provide space for CPD and collaborate case discussion.

Enable schools to present cases for group problem-solving, facilitated by the EP team with support from Virtual School colleagues. All case discussion will be anonymised to maintain confidentiality.

Co-produce next steps with SENDCos and EPs.

Promote inclusivity by valuing all expertise, encouraging peer support and supporting continuous professional development.

Create anonymised record of outcomes for each session, share them with schools, and arrange follow-up sessions as needed.

Areas for discussion may include SEMH needs, early intervention to support challenging or distressed behaviour, and systemic approaches to meeting the needs of Virtual School learners.

Apply for these Teams sessions: [Early Years/KS1 - Wednesday 20th May - 09:30-11:30](#)

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub



We would like to invite you to follow our Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub **Facebook page**.

Our page is a space where we **share fully-funded offers** from the Hub, **best practices, and updates** that we hope will support you in your work within early years.

By following us, you'll also have the opportunity to **connect with other professionals, exchange ideas, and be part of a supportive network**.

You can find and follow us here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1236737084491871/>

Using Ofsted logos and copyright

Ofsted have updated their guidance on using their **copyright logo**.

You can find the **updated information** here:

[Using Ofsted logos and copyright - GOV.UK](#)

NSPCC podcast on Emotional resilience



NSPCC Learning has published a podcast on **building emotional resilience in children**, discussing the work of the NSPCC's Emotional resilience programme. With contributions from NSPCC colleagues, the episode covers: what emotional resilience is and why it is important; how the programme was developed; how practitioners can be trauma informed when delivering emotional resilience work; the successes and challenges of running the programme; and advice around best practice for setting up an emotional resilience programme.

Listen to the podcast: [Podcast: How to build emotional resilience in children](#)

Listen on YouTube: [How to build emotional resilience in children](#)

DfE selected updates

- [New practical advice for families to get children school ready](#)

New government guidance and practical advice launched on primary school offer day to help families get children ready for school, backed by language support.

- Updated: 16 April 2026