



## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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

### Keep in touch



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

01772 539058



[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 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).

<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!

## **Your sector representatives**

Please contact your PVI representatives on the Early Years Consultative Group, **Rafael Schiel** [rafael@giantleapchildcare.co.uk](mailto:rafael@giantleapchildcare.co.uk) or **Sharon Fenton** [sharon@risingstarslancaster.co.uk](mailto: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 sun safety**



Sunscreen. No one likes it. It's sticky, it's greasy, it's messy. It's an oily, sticky mess that can get on your clothes and hair. But it's the only way to protect your skin from the sun's harmful rays. So, make sure you're using it. There's no such thing as too much protection.



With the warmer weather on its way, this is a timely opportunity to review how you keep children safe in the sun. Children's skin is much more sensitive than adults' and damage caused by repeated sun exposure in childhood can significantly increase the risk of skin cancer later in life.

[Stay sun safe with our 'More, More, More'... | British Skin Foundation](#)

## Reviewing your sun safety arrangements

When reviewing your practice, you may wish to consider the following:

- Are you consistently following NHS sun safety guidelines, including applying sunscreen and re-applying at least every two hours?  
[www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/)
- Do you make appropriate changes to routines during hot weather, such as planning outdoor play for cooler parts of the day?
- What arrangements are in place if a child arrives without sunscreen or suitable protective clothing?
- How do you support parents' and carers' understanding of sun safety and the risks of overexposure?
- How do you help children learn how to protect themselves in the sun, for example through routines, reminders and age-appropriate discussions?
- Are all adults confident in recognising the signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke and do they know what action to take?

Join the **National Sun Awareness week 2026** which runs from **11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May**. Organised by the **British Association of Dermatologist (BAD)**, this campaign highlights the dangers of UV exposure, promotes skin cancer prevention and kicks off summer-long safety education, often focusing on sun protection.

For **advice and downloadable leaflets** please visit their website: [Sun Awareness - BAD Patient Hub](#)

Further useful guidance:

- Hot weather advice for early years and education settings:  
[Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals - GOV.UK](#)
- Resources to share with parents:

[Sun safety advice for parents | British Skin Foundation](#)



United by skin

## Outdoor environments in hot weather

Have you also considered how your outdoor environment is affected by strong sunshine?

In hot weather, play equipment, flooring and wall surfaces can become extremely hot. AstroTurf, in particular, can heat up quickly in direct sunlight. Mirrors and reflective surfaces can also concentrate the sun's rays, potentially causing plastic to soften or metal surfaces to become hot enough to burn.

### To reduce these risks:

- **Carry out a thorough risk assessment during hot weather**
- **Check surfaces and equipment regularly**
- **Ensure there are shaded areas available for children to play safely**

Taking these simple steps can help protect children from avoidable harm and ensure they can continue to enjoy outdoor play safely throughout the summer.



## Reminder, Manager's Time to Talk



Managers, a quick reminder that the '**Manager's Time to Talk**' meetings will be taking place over the coming weeks (13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May).

If you want to find out when your meeting is for the summer term, please see our website: [Manager's time to talk - Lancashire County Council](#)

## Publications brochure



Our brand-new Publications Brochure will be ready for distribution next week! Keep an eye on your inbox and be among the first to explore and order our latest publications.

## Members' workshop



Members, look out for your email containing the link to the next workshop – The power of positivity in mathematics!

In this one-hour workshop, we will explore the power of positivity in mathematics and how this can successfully influence children's attainment within the subject.

Please see the attached flyer for more details of the workshop.

## Best start in life

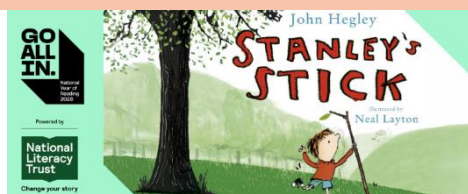
## Practice cards



Collect and share the latest card for practitioners working with 2 year olds. The topic this week is '**Tiny problem solvers**' 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.

## Where sticks become stories – A musical journey



You are invited to step into a world where imagination leads, music stirs curiosity and a simple stick can become anything at all.

Inspired by **Stanley's Stick**, written by **John Hegley**, illustrated by **Neal Layton**, and published by **Hodder Children's Books**, this exclusive live moment celebrates National Share-a-Story-Month with a joyful blend of rhythm, narrative and creativity for young children.

Early years children will love this musical story experience and interactive workshop, as part of the **National Year of Reading**.

**20 May, online, FREE**

Book now: [Go All In Together! event: Where sticks become stories: A musical journey | National Literacy Trust](#)

## Have your say: Shaping the new Lancashire PEP

From September 2026, Lancashire Virtual School will be commissioning Welfare Call to host our Personal Education Plans (PEPs). This move will introduce a much more effective, user-friendly and simplified system, designed to make the PEP process clearer and more streamlined for everyone involved.

Alongside this change, we are taking the opportunity to redesign the Lancashire PEP. Our aim is to ensure the PEP is as impactful and purposeful as possible, supporting children and young people to make the progress they need and deserve. This includes a sharper focus on quality, clarity and meaningful planning that genuinely drives educational outcomes.

We are inviting schools and settings to take part in consultation sessions to share their views, experiences and ideas and help shape what the new Lancashire PEP will look like.

Ahead of each session, draft PEP documents will be shared with all attendees, allowing time to review and reflect before providing feedback. Each session will begin with a short introduction, however these are flexible, drop-in sessions. If you are unable to join at the start or attend for the full duration, you are very welcome to join at any point to share your thoughts and feedback.

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### **Consultation Sessions (via Teams)**

**Monday 18th May | 12:00–13:30**

School/Setting PEP consultation session

<https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=69047>

**Tuesday 19th May | 14:30–16:00**

School/Setting PEP consultation session

<https://clickdelegate.lancashire.gov.uk/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=69048>

**Liverpool City Region and Beyond Stronger  
Practice Hub learning walk**

**Science, Technology, Engineering and  
Mathematics (STEM) Learning Walk**

**Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub  
have the following CPD opportunity on offer:**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 9.15a.m. – 11a.m.**

**East Prescott Road Nursery School  
86 East Prescott Road, Knotty Ash, Liverpool, L14 1PW**



**Learning walk aims and outcomes:**

This session will focus on the importance of creating an environment that promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) opportunities for young children. It will also cover how you, as early years educators, could embed STEM in your environment, interactions and through the experiences you provide every day.

**At East Prescott Road Nursery you will see:**

- How the team have developed their environment so that it invites children in to investigate and experiment.
- How the role of the adult supports children's development in STEM through high quality interactions.
- How East Prescott Road Nursery School sparks children's creativity through STEM.

Please contact [sphubNW@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:sphubNW@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk) to reserve your funded place.






Funded by  
UK Government

## **Pathways to progress: Stronger practice in early language, literacy and mathematics**

We're thrilled to announce an exciting FREE online event designed for early years educators:

### **Pathways to Progress: Stronger Practice in Early Language, Literacy and Mathematics**

-  **When?** Thursday 14 May
-  **Where?** Microsoft Teams
-  **Time?** 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

#### **What to expect:**

- ✦ Expert speakers, including representatives from BookTrust, Early Childhood Maths Group and DfE.
- ✦ Gain valuable insights to improve practice in early language, literacy and mathematics

✎ Spaces are limited – register now to secure your spot:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pathways-to-progress-tickets-1983945405113?aff=oddtcreator>

## 'Natter matters' The first 1000 days for babies

A free 25-minute conversation on the first Thursday of every month for nursery managers and owners who **lead baby rooms**. It's a chat about babies, your baby room and you. It's a chance to have a tiny bit of space to reflect and think and consider the research and its implications for your settings.

It will be a place to **natter, ask questions, consider, support and engage with others who also want the very best for their babies**. A moment a month to think about the baby room. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

**First Thursday of every month. 10am. FREE.**

Date & Time

- Jun 4, 2026 10:00 AM
- Jul 2, 2026 10:00 AM
- Aug 6, 2026 10:00 AM

Register here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)