



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 18th June 2026

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/



Facebook: www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/
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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](#)

Are you a new manager at your nursery setting?



**Congratulations on your
new role!**

Please let us know by
completing this quick form:

[New PVI Nursery Manager – Fill in
form](#)

This will ensure that the member of
the team supporting your setting
knows who you are and can support
you.

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).

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 'control of substances hazardous to health' (COSHH) systems



[COSHH basics - COSHH \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/coshh-basics/)

What COSHH is

The law requires you to adequately control exposure to materials in the workplace that cause ill health. This is the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH). This also applies to the children in your care.

Harmful substances

Many materials or substances used or created at work could harm your health. These substances could be dusts, gases or fumes that you breathe in, or liquids, gels or powders that come into contact with your eyes or skin. There could also be [harmful micro-organisms](#) present that can cause infection, an allergic reaction or are toxic.

Harmful substances can be present in anything from paints and cleaners to flour dust, blood or waste. Ill health caused by these substances used at work is preventable. Many substances can harm health but, used properly, they almost never do.

What would this mean in a childcare setting – cleaning fluids, damp or mould on walls or windows, paints the children use, items you use for messy play, nappy changes, blood or oozing spots.

The hazards

Some substances can cause asthma or other diseases, including cancer. Many can damage the skin, and some can cause serious long-term damage to the lungs.

The effect can be immediate, such as dizziness or stinging eyes, or can take many years to develop, such as lung disease. Many of the long-term or chronic effects cannot be cured once they develop.

What you have to do

You can prevent or reduce workers exposure to hazardous substances by:

- finding out what the health hazards are
- deciding how to prevent harm to health ([risk assessment](#))
- providing control measures to reduce harm to health
- keeping all control measures in good working order such as extractors or dehumidifiers
- providing information, instruction and training for workers and others
- providing monitoring and [health surveillance](#) in appropriate cases
- planning for emergencies

Looking to strengthen your knowledge of health and safety in childcare? Lancashire County Council offers a comprehensive **Level 2 E-learning course in Health and Safety**, designed for childcare practitioners.

Instant access training is a flexible way to build confidence, refresh knowledge and ensure you are meeting key safety requirements at your setting.

To find out more and purchase the course, see: [Health and Safety in the Workplace for Childcare Practitioners \(Level 2\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

Members updates

The Members' Summer Workshop is now available as a pre-recorded session, with the access link already sent to your email. This engaging workshop explores 'The 8 senses', offering valuable insights and practical understanding to enhance your knowledge and skills.

Reminder: Childminder Cluster meetings will be taking place:

Thursday 25th June 6.30-8.00, Lancashire FA

Wednesday 1st July 6.30-8.00, Carnforth Cricket Club

Thursday 2nd July 6.30-8.00, Early Years Professional Development Centre and online on Thursday 9th July 6.30-7.30 via Teams link

Childminder members will have received details of these meetings.

[Childminder Cluster Meetings - Membership holders only - Lancashire County Council](#)

Best Start in Life



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

The topic this week is ***fine motor skills*** and ***gross motor skills*** and the cards are 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

Childminders invitation to Chat, Play, Read summer event



Supporting children, young people and families to succeed in Lancashire



Childminders in South Ribble are invited to Kingsfold Family Centre in Penwortham for 'Chat, Play, Read' sessions for 2 – 4 year olds, starting weekly on Wednesday 22nd July 1.30 to 2.30 pm and running until 26th August.

For more details, please see [LCC Events](#)

To **find a local Family Hub** in your area and see the list of events they are running, please see: [Lancashire Family Hubs Network - Lancashire County Council](#)

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub June Newsletter



Newsletter
June 2026

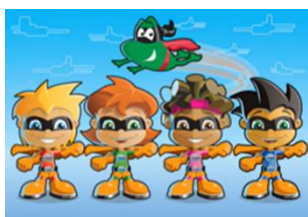
[LCR Hub Newsletter June 2026](#)



Included in this newsletter is opportunities to support collaboration, inspire practice and strengthen outcomes for our youngest learners in our region.

Sign up at the top of the newsletter to receive it direct to your inbox.

Healthy Heroes



Healthy Heroes Early Years Toolkit - This recording provides an overview of the updated Healthy Heroes toolkit for children aged 2–5. It focuses on helping you get the most out of the toolkit in your setting, refreshing key aims around promoting early healthy habits in a fun and accessible way. The recording below highlights practical ways to enhance your delivery using the ready-to-use materials, including the session plans, interactive challenge cards, and rewards such as stickers and certificates. With its playful, age-appropriate approach, the

toolkit supports you to build on your existing knowledge and confidently deliver engaging, meaningful activities that inspire young children to take part and learn through play.

Healthy Heroes Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/s8GLGJWi4y8>

Using the Healthy Heroes Early Years Toolkit – The recording below is designed to support you as a practitioner with the Healthy Heroes Early Years Toolkit for children aged 2–5. It provides a refresher on how to use the toolkit effectively in your setting, revisiting what is included and the key topics it covers, such as healthy eating, physical activity, oral health, and emotional wellbeing. The recording focuses on building your confidence in delivering health messages by making the most of the prepared, easy-to-use resources. It also reinforces the benefits for children, highlighting how the toolkit’s fun, interactive activities can support early learning and help embed positive, lifelong healthy habits.

Healthy Heroes Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/Le85Fe4aRHc>

If you have any queries about Healthy Heroes, please contact healthimprovement@lancashire.gov.uk

TWiTCH book sharing programme



Enrolment is now open for the **TWiTCH (Talk with Tales for Children) book sharing programme**, a free CPD opportunity for Early Years settings to support children’s language and communication through story time.

Running from **September 2026 to July 2027**, the programme offers expert coaching, **specially designed resources** and up to **£1,000 funding** for participating settings.

TWiTCH helps children build confidence, enjoy books and develop key skills linked to GLD, all within existing routines. **Scan the QR code** or **visit the link** on the **attached flyer** to find out more.

The [setting information sheet](#) gives the full details and the criteria to apply. **Although Lancashire was not on the original Local Authority list it has been agreed that Lancashire settings can now apply.**

Sign up: <https://research.shu.ac.uk/twitchefficacytrial>

Inclusion Sway



In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- A message from Paula Green, Head of Service, SEND & Inclusion
- *Inclusion Unlocked* training from the Specialist Teaching Service
- Use of New Technology to Help with EHCP Drafting
- Changes to ASD and ADHD Pathways: Invite to SENCOs
- LEHSS June Newsletter
- Help amplify young voices – share “The Big Future”
- Professional Development opportunities
- Several other updates and reminders

Water Safety: Drowning prevention week 13-20 June 2026



Please find Lancashire County Council's communication toolkit attached for you to adapt and use as necessary in your setting.

Introducing the new Lancashire PEP & welfare call system

Training for Schools/ settings & Children's Social Care Staff

In September 2026, we are moving to a new PEP and system to better meet the needs of our children looked-after, making support clearer, stronger and more joined-up.

Who should attend:

- Designated Teachers/practitioners
- Social Workers
- IROs

Sessions on Teams (choose one):

- [Thursday -10 Sep -15:30-17:00](#)
- [Wednesday – 16 Sep – 12:00-14:00](#)
- [Thursday – 24 Sep – 10:00-12:00](#)
- [Thursday – 24 Sep – 13:00-15:00](#)

Book your place now to prepare for the rollout
Please see the attached flyer for details.

Selected DfE Updates 12th – 16th June 2026

- [Free breakfast clubs: guidance for schools and trusts](#)

Guidance on setting up and running free breakfast clubs, including specific guidance for schools joining phase 1 of the national rollout from April 2026.

- Updated: 15 June 2026