



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin

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/



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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.

Training in July and August

<p><u>An Introduction to Safeguarding</u> a pre-recorded virtual session that can be booked for the 1st or 15th of the month. The pre-recorded webinar and resources which will be available for two weeks from the date you choose.</p>		
<p>New - Creating amazing outdoor spaces for childminder settings</p>	<p>Clare Glover</p>	<p>Face to face training Saturday 4th July 10 to 12.30pm Early Years Professional Development Centre, Accrington</p>
<p>Designated safeguarding Lead</p>	<p>Catherine Isherwood and Lynda Ward</p>	<p>Face to face training Tuesday 7th July 9.30 to 3pm Early Years Professional Development Centre, Accrington</p>
<p>Paediatric first aid</p>		<p>Face to face training Friday 17th July 9.30 to 4pm Early Years Professional Development Centre, Accrington</p>
<p>Designated safeguarding Lead</p>	<p>Catherine Isherwood</p>	<p>Face to face training Thursdays 13th and 20th August 6 to 8.30pm West Lancashire Investment Centre, Skelmersdale</p>
<p>Paediatric first aid</p>		<p>Face to face training Monday 24th August 9.30 to 4pm Morecambe Football Club, Morecambe</p>

Something to do this week – review your lockdown procedures

Recent incidents have prompted early years practitioners to reflect on how they would respond if a lockdown were required in their setting.

A clear, well-rehearsed lockdown procedure is an essential part of keeping children, staff and families safe, and every early years setting should treat it with the same importance as fire evacuation planning. A robust procedure ensures that, in an emergency, practitioners can act quickly, calmly and confidently to protect the children in their care.

Nursery managers, childminders and out of school clubs are encouraged to review their current arrangements, considering how they would secure their

premises, communicate with staff, reassure children, and liaise with emergency services.

A well thought out plan, supported by regular staff training and simple practice drills, helps create a culture of preparedness, strengthens safeguarding and ensures that everyone knows exactly what to do when it matters most.

Best Start in Life



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

The topics this week are ***Moving and Grooving*** (18) and ***I can dress myself*** (19) 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

Pre-loved equipment and resources for sale

Are you a nursery or childminder wanting to add to your resources and equipment?

All nursery stock for sale - a fully operated, Ofsted registered nursery equipment and resources - stock is from baby room, toddlers and preschool. Wooden shelves, tables, chairs, blocks, jigsaws etc. resources from all areas of the EYFS.

Please ring or text 07747042189 or email noahsarkaccr@gmail.com. All stock must go before end of the term.

Summer 26 Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for Lancashire Children Looked After (CLA)

Please check the PEP meetings have taken place for all your CLA. If not, contact the social worker to arrange a date urgently.

The PEP is a statutory document that **MUST** be completed EVERY term to ensure the regular monitoring and review of ALL Lancashire CLA. It is the joint responsibility of the social worker and the setting to produce a thorough, well thought out education plan for the term that meets the individual child's needs and moves them towards school readiness.

OFSTED are now contacting the Virtual School when inspections are taking place to gather feedback about the setting's engagement with professionals and PEP completion and ensuring vulnerable children's needs are being met.

All summer PEP meetings for CLA age 2 years - 4 years should have either taken place or booked in before the end of June.

- Please check you Portal using this link <https://professionalportal.lancashire.gov.uk> and the email address used to register the account by the Virtual School and complete any PEPs awaiting your attention. Save the document as you go and save a PDF copy before **submitting** the document.
- If the PEP meeting has not been arranged, contact the child's social worker and request the meeting is arranged urgently.
- If the meeting has taken place but the form has not been delegated to you, please contact the social worker to request delegation.
- All PEP documentation must be completed and **submitted** within 2 weeks of the PEP meeting taking place. Once the PEP has been submitted, you will no longer see it in your portal.
- Please state any concerns you have around the child's development and what is being done to support the child within the PEP.
- Please ensure all education targets are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound) and that EYPP spending links to the child's targets (EYPP is issued for vulnerable children by the authority based on your termly head count).
- Support and new quality assurance standards can be found at [Personal education plans \(PEPs\) guidance - Lancashire County Council](#).

If you are experiencing technical issues or need to make amendments to your portal account, please contact pepqueries@lancashire.gov.uk as soon as possible for support.

The EYs consultant at the Virtual School is required to attend 1 PEP meeting each year for all CLA. Please email sharie.mayren@lancashire.gov.uk with the date of the next PEP for the children in your setting, or if you require any support.

Starting school is a huge moment for children, especially those who are looked-after (CLA), previously looked-after (PLA) and those who may have a social worker. These children have often experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) or trauma and may need more support with this important transition.

For ideas to support vulnerable children with the transition of starting school, please see [Pre-school to Reception - Lancashire County Council](#) and don't forget to enter any actions in the Transitions action plan on the PEP.

Remember to invite the Designated Teacher from the school the child will be moving on to.

View the Virtual School's free training offer [Training and events by the Virtual School - Lancashire County Council](#)

Signpost parents/carers of CLA, children with a social worker, children previously looked after, adopted or kinship care [Parents and carers of children looked after \(CLA\) previously looked after children \(PLAC\) and children with a social worker \(CWSW\) - Lancashire County Council](#) for information, educational resources and free training.

You will find supporting documents attached:

- Questions to ask of the PEP targets – we expect to see 3 targets linked to the child's development areas. Please ensure all elements of SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound) are in the target setting
- PEP Checklist – please check your PEP against this before pressing submit
- PEP QA standards – so you know what we are looking for when quality assuring the PEPs.

New PEP System from Autumn 26

In September 2026, Lancashire will be moving to a new PEP system to better meet the needs of our children looked after, making support clearer, stronger and more joined-up. Your Designated Practitioner must book one of the 4 sessions taking place in September to ensure your setting is up to date and you are able to access the new system for PEP completion. Booking links are on the attached flyer.

Educational Psychology Group Consultation Offer – 8th July 2026 (9.30 – 11.30). Please see the attached flyer to book a place on the next Educational Psychology Consultation session available for early years.

Thank you for your continued support of Lancashire's vulnerable children

Updated Early Years Inspection Guidance - changes from September 2026



Ofsted have recently updated their inspection guidance to reflect the changes to the EYFS and in response to inspection activities. The changes include strengthening wording and making clarifications where needed as well as additional information on inspecting safer sleeping, eating and weaning.

This updated guidance for Inspectors and early years settings will come into force from **September 2026**. You can find the updated documents [here](#) alongside the summary of changes.

There is also a useful Ofsted Blog on the topic - [How safeguarding and children's welfare and wellbeing underpin the September 2026 updates to early years inspections](#)

Government advice on working with children before and during hot weather

You may find this guidance useful at this time and to plan for future hot weather. It includes information on the health risks from heat and advice for protecting children both inside and outside.

[Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals - GOV.UK](#)

Resources from the Early Years Alliance

You may be aware of a new BBC programme – [Nursery Scandals: What Went Wrong?](#) – which examines recent serious safeguarding incidents in early years settings.

To support nurseries and childminders in responding to potential concerns or queries from parents, the Early Years Alliance have produced a [free virtual resource pack](#) which includes:

- Advice and guidance for early years providers on how best to reassure parents and carers who have concerns about safety and safeguarding
- Downloadable guides to share with families,

If you have any questions about the resource pack, please email: feedback@eyalliance.org.uk

Families Frist in Lancashire



Help Shape the Future of Support for Families in Lancashire!



We're changing how support works for children, young people and families in Lancashire, and we want your views to help shape what comes next.

Attached flyer includes link to get involved - please feel free to circulate to your staff and families.

Supporting School Readiness – resources to share with families

To help families continue practising school readiness skills over the summer, Kindred Squared have launched [two new free resources](#) linked directly to the Starting Reception definition:

- Starting Reception skills reward chart
- Pack of activity ideas for families

The activities focus on developing practical skills such as getting dressed and following simple instructions. They are designed to make it easy and fun for children to practise key skills.

DfE and Ofsted Updates

[Improving help and child protection: revised framework](#) – We are seeking views on the statutory framework for help, support and protection of children.

[Shaping the future of early years teaching](#) – Seeking views from the sector and public on reforms that will define how early years teachers are trained and assessed in future.

The Institute for Government has produced two new reports around boys:

- [Early years policy making: How can government ensure that boys from low-income families are not left behind during delivery? | Institute for Government](#)
- [Insights from early years settings | Institute for Government](#)

[Working or volunteering in regulated activity with children -](#)

Guidance on the checks needed for workers and volunteers engaging in regulated activity with children. Updated to reflect the removal of the supervision exemption for volunteers and workers in regulated activity with children. The change comes into force on 1 September 2026.