



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin



17th October 2024

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

Contact the team: EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk or 01772 539058

Webpage: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/ (training courses, support and information from the team)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/ www.facebook.com/groups/lancsearlyyears/

Advertise your job vacancies on our webpage

www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/childcare-and-early-years-settings/ (uploaded weekly, no charge) complete this [form](#):

New academies:

New Managers Academy: Are you new to the role of managing a PVI nursery?

Perhaps you have only been a manager for the last 6 months or so. 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 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 short [Microsoft Teams form](#)

New Practitioners Academy: Are you training or been in early years for less than a year?

Join by coming on any (or all) of the free meetings - there is no need to book just click on the links below on the date at 4pm. 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!
[Tuesday 19th November](#)
[Tuesday 18th March](#)
[Tuesday 13th May](#)
[Tuesday 8th July](#)

Something to do this week – take a look at the Safeguarding Section of our website

Have you visited the Safeguarding section recently?

It has a range of **tools and information** for Designated Lead Practitioners to use and share with their colleagues. These include **templates**, a **jargon buster** and **quiz**.

There are now twenty nine **'Focus On' briefs** that succinctly unpick specific topics such as Contextual Safeguarding, Car Seat Safety, Social Media and Trauma to name a few!

There is a **safeguarding suitcase** which includes a mix of resources that can be used to support the ongoing learning and development of childcare practitioners. The activities will help promote confidence and knowledge as an individual practitioner or can be used for a whole team learning together



Find these and much more here: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/safeguarding/

Don't forget to update your policies and procedures with the new CSAP webpage address:
<https://lancshiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/>

Let's Celebrate!



This week we are saying a fabulous well done to two settings in Lancashire who have recently had their Ofsted inspection reports published. **St Peter and St Pauls Church of England Preschool** in Rishton where the inspector noted how: 'Children at this setting have lots of opportunities to share their opinions and have their own voice. Children choose their own topics, such as 'dinosaur world'. Staff use these topics to plan activities to aid their development. As a result, children have a positive attitude to learning'. Manager, Hilary, shared that the inspection went very well and the inspector put them all at ease. She wanted to talk in depth about the curriculum and also shared that she had gained a lot of information from the setting's Facebook page. **Hilary's top tip is - not to be nervous and sell yourself!**

The **Mericoourt Nursery** in Preston are also celebrating their positive inspection. Owner Barka Rani shared that she was actually on holiday when the inspection took place, but the inspector was happy to talk to her on the phone. Their inspector noted how well: 'Effective monitoring and assessment procedures help staff to plan for children's learning. Staff use children's interests well to plan activities which capture their imagination and enthusiasm.' The inspector seemed impressed with their use of Wellcomm to screen children's language development. **Barka's top tip is not to do anything different for the inspection and make sure everything you do is for the children and their development.**

On behalf of everyone in the Early Years Quality Improvement Team, we would like to say thank you for your continued dedication to providing quality childcare and education in Lancashire.

New Flexibilities for Childminders

The Department for Education is introducing new flexibilities for childminders from **1st November** to help more childminders join and stay in the profession. The new flexibilities will:

Create a new category of childminder (childminder without domestic premises) who work entirely from non-domestic premises

- Increase, from 3 to 4, the total number of people that can work together under a childminder's registration (including the childminder)
- Give childminders and providers of childcare on domestic premises (CODPs) more flexibility, allowing them to spend more time operating outside of domestic premises, such as a community hall or school
- Increase the number of people needed for CODPs to operate from 4 or more, to 5 or more people providing care. Note: CODPs that were registered, or applied to register, before 1 November can continue operating with 4 or more people.

The department has published an article on the Foundation Years website to give an overview of the changes and answer main FAQs – see [Newsflash – New Flexibilities for Childminders - Foundation Years.](#)

Sharing best practice with the team

A big 'thank you' to two childminders who allowed our Development Officers to share fantastic elements of their practice with the Early Years Quality Improvement Team at our October Team Meeting. Thank you to **Alicia Evans**, a very lovely childminder in South Ribble who was happy to share how the wide range of different pets at her setting has helped children to develop responsibility, empathy, their sense of well-being, patience, knowledge of life cycles and extend their vocabulary. Also, thank you to **Mamta Parekh** in Preston, who gave us insight into the benefits to her children, their families and the wider community of her sharing her Hindu faith throughout her routines, taking the children to visit temple and celebrating the wonderful diversity of the city of Preston.

The team was truly inspired!



SEND Support for Childminders

Dear Childminder Colleague,
We trust this email finds you well and that the Autumn term is going well.
We are contacting you with a reminder – if needed – that with regards to Request for Involvement (RFI) submissions, the 'Other Professionals Involved' form is an **essential** document, along with an up to date developmental tracker/detailed EYFS tracking

information and Targeted Learning Plan (TLP) with previous TLP which has been reviewed.

The RFI form and 'Other Professionals Involved' form are available on our website:

[SEND support for early years settings - Lancashire County Council](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/925876/other-professionals-involved-sheet-2021.docx)

www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/925876/other-professionals-involved-sheet-2021.docx

www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/917503/complete-rfi-form-2021.docx

Regards,

Anya Hopkinson

Specialist Teaching Service Manager

Important Reminder for all settings registered with Ofsted

All settings: We have been asked to remind all our settings that they must inform Ofsted if they make changes to the organisation that is registered with them. For example if you have changed from a sole trader to a limited company. Ofsted have made checks on the original organisation not the new one so you cannot open under the new organisation until you have applied to Ofsted and been registered.



Childminders and Childcare on Domestic

Premises: have you informed Ofsted of all those

over 16 who live or work in your home (including children who turn 16)? You must also inform them of adults who **stop** living or working with you. You may need to inform them of regular visitors. Assistants cannot be included in the ratios or work unsupervised until you receive the suitability letter from Ofsted. Full details of what to do are [here](#)

Out of Schools and PVI Nurseries: Ofsted need to check the suitability of people who take on certain roles in your organisation including committee members, directors, trustees, partners etc. This is done through DBS checks and completing the EY2 form.

Full details can be found [here](#) and Ofsted also have a [blog about committee run childcare](#) and a [blog about who needs to complete EY2 forms](#)

[The Early Years Statutory Framework](#) has details of the changes you must inform Ofsted of (Childminders 3.86 and Group settings 3.87/3.88)

If you are not sure who Ofsted are aware of then the nominated individual for your setting can email Ofsted (enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk) from the email address known to Ofsted with your setting's unique reference number (URN) and check.

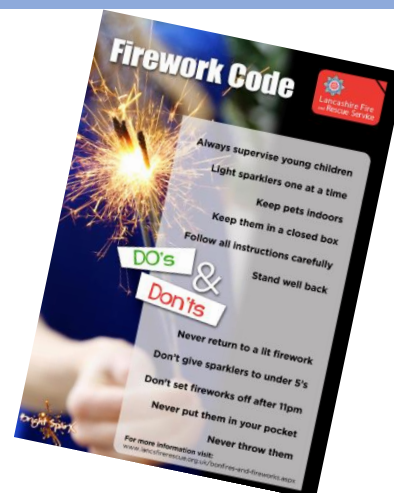
Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

October's newsletter is now available (attached) and you can find it on the website: www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/strongerpracticehub You can also subscribe to receive a copy of the newsletter direct to you www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/subscribe

Bonfire and Fireworks Safety - Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

The Bonfire and Fireworks period will soon be upon us and we would be grateful if you could display these posters at your setting and share with parents and carers either as hard copies and/or as electronic versions.

Many thanks, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service



DfE and Ofsted Updates

[Best start in life: a research review for early years](#) (updated 8th October)

Best start in life part 3: the 4 specific areas of learning' has been added to this subject-based curriculum research review focused on early years education.

[Early years education too important to be left to chance](#) (published 8th October)

Ofsted has today published the final part in its series of Best start in life research reviews relating to early years education.

[Early years and childcare: Ofsted's enforcement policy](#) (updated 15th October)

Ofsted's policy on how we regulate childcare providers explains what we may do if a provider is not following the regulations. Updated to include how we manage suspected unregistered childminder agencies.