



## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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

Contact the team: [EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk) or 01772 539058

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

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

#### 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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

## Something to do this week! Get to know your local Family Hub

Find out about Lancashire Family Hubs and what is going on in your local area to support families.

Family Hubs is a national framework which aims to ensure that all families have access to the same high-quality services and supportive relationships within their local area. There is now a new website about the Lancashire Hubs with all the information. So please visit the page and share the link with all your families.



[www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/family-hubs/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/family-hubs/)

There is also a page for professionals so you can see how you can be involved.

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/family-hubs-network/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/family-hubs-network/)

## Let's Celebrate!

This week we are shouting a magnificent Well Done to three settings in Lancashire who have recently had their Ofsted inspection reports published.

- ☀️ St Wilfrid's Nursery in Longridge have recently had their inspection where the inspector noted how well - 'Leaders place emphasis on the development of children's knowledge of their community and the wider world around them. Staff plan meaningful opportunities such as 'Walk Out Wednesdays' and 'Forest Fridays'. These experiences help children to engage with others and learn about new places.' Nursery Manager Miss Grayston shared that the inspector was lovely and listened to everything she told her. They sat and had a long conversation about the curriculum and the inspector wanted to know about provision for children with EAL and cultural differences and how they echoed this through the provision. Their top tips are to remain calm as the children are perceptive to your own nerves and make sure you impart all your knowledge to the inspector.
- ☀️ Taywood Nursery School Seedlings in Burnley also had a positive inspection experience. Manager Jennifer shared that the inspector was keen to explore the curriculum and their improvement plans, including CPD for staff. She checked the Progress Checks at aged 2 and asked about medical and health needs. The inspector noted in the report how well- 'Leaders have an excellent understanding of the curriculum. They have high expectations for all children. Leaders have carefully designed a curriculum that is aspirational and builds on what children know and can do over time. The curriculum gives priority to supporting children's progress across the prime areas of learning.'
- ☀️ Puddleducks @Rising Bridge in Accrington have recently had their inspection report published, in which it credits the setting with a good curriculum. - 'Children at the setting have a great start to their early education. They benefit from a strong curriculum that is progressive and develops their learning. This helps children to grow into strong, confident individuals'. Manager Leanne Hall shared that the learning walk went very well. They started in the baby room exploring routines, settling in sessions, children's inductions and information gathering. The inspector asked several times if her own conduct was acceptable and she reassured all staff that they were doing well during the inspection. Leanne's top tip is to remain positive and confident throughout the inspection.

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



## The Early Years Sign Survey

### Calling all Early Years practitioners!

Researchers from Newcastle University are interested in how sign systems such as Makaton and BSL are used by practitioners working with 0-5 year olds in Early Years settings in the UK.

Sign systems are thought to be commonly used in the Early Years, but there is no research yet to document this. We also don't know who uses sign in the Early Years, or how practitioners feel about the use of sign. The Early Years Sign Survey aims to fill these gaps in our knowledge. This is the first stage in building an evidence base for the use of sign in early years education.

The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete through JISC online and does not ask for any personal details.

Thank you so much for your help!  
Please [click here](#) to complete the survey.

## Virtual School – PEP Deadline approaching – 7<sup>th</sup> December

If you have had any CLA registered at your setting this term, please check you have fully completed the PEP and submitted it via the Professional Portal. Professional Portal URL – <https://professionalportal.lancashire.gov.uk>

PEP not delegated to you? Please contact the child's social worker to request delegation. Experiencing any problems that are preventing PEP completion or not sure if a PEP is required? Contact the Virtual School EYs consultant, [sharie.mayren@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sharie.mayren@lancashire.gov.uk) who will support and endeavour to move things along.

Do you have CLA who are due to start reception in Sept 25?

The Virtual School will be contacting you during the spring and summer term to check the progress of these children and ensure plans are in place to support their transition. Please see the Virtual School website for support.

[Pre-school to Reception - Lancashire County Council](#)

[Emotional health and wellbeing - Lancashire County Council](#)

## Reminder to inform Ofsted if you have any changes to your health

Have you, as the nominated person for your setting, or anyone working at the setting (or living on the premises for childminders), had any changes to your health?

Ofsted state –

'When we initially checked your suitability at registration, we asked you questions about your health. If there has been any change to your health and you think that change affects your ability to care for children, then you should notify us.

This also applies to any significant changes to the health of [anyone connected with your registration](#), whether or not they have given Ofsted their health information previously. We only require this information if it is likely to affect the individual's suitability to care for, or be in regular contact with, children.'

To report any changes, please click the link –

[Childcare: significant events to notify Ofsted about - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-significant-events-to-notify-ofsted-about)

## Local Area SEND partnership inspection

Our local area partnership is currently being inspected by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This inspection aims to provide an independent, external evaluation of the effectiveness of the Partnership arrangements for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It will also assess how well members of our local area partnership work together to improve the experiences and outcomes for these children and young people, including those at SEN Support and with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs).

We would very much appreciate it if you could take the time to complete a short OFSTED practitioners' survey.

Please see below for details as to how to access the survey including a message from OFSTED – we very much value your input.

<https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10327156>

**For more information, please see the attached letter from the SEND team.**



## Lancashire Educational Psychology Services

As part of Lancashire Educational Psychology Services' new early years offer, we are delivering a series of free CPD events for early years practitioners, including childminders. Thank you to all of you who completed the survey we sent out earlier this term as this has helped us to shape the sessions to ensure they suit your requirements and needs.

To book onto a session, please click the links in the attached flyer

Our first session is on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am -11am**. The first part of the session will be a learning development session on the topic and the second half will be a coaching session which will provide an opportunity for delegates to reflect on what has been learnt, think about implementation and share good practice with practitioners from other settings.

## SEND Newsletter

Inclusion Newsletter 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

[Go to this Sway](#)

## Selected DfE updates

- Updated: 22 November 2024
- [Early years foundation stage profile results: 2023 to 2024](#)

Statistics on early years foundation stage profile assessments in England, including on the 7 areas of learning and the 17 early learning goals.