



## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 5<sup>th</sup> December 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! Review your safeguarding children arrangements

Take some time to consider how well the protection of children is working in your setting. You might be a childminder working on their own, a small pre-school or a large nursery or school - protecting children from abuse or neglect will always be a priority.

### Consider if you and your team (if applicable):

- Know the possible signs of abuse and neglect

- Are well supported by the setting's Designated Lead Practitioner
- Are clear on when to make a referral
- Know where to go to for advice (inside or outside your setting/school)
- Know where to make a referral

### **What does good safeguarding of children look like?**

[The Early Years Inspection Handbook](#) (Paragraph 59) states that ' All early years providers should have an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first. This means they:

- protect children from serious harm, both online and offline
- are vigilant, maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'
- are open and transparent, sharing information with others and actively seeking expert advice, when required
- ensure that all those who work with children are trained well so that they understand their responsibilities and the systems and processes that the provision operates and are empowered to 'speak out' where there may be concerns
- actively seek and listen to the views and experiences of children, staff and parents, taking prompt but proportionate action to address any concerns, where needed

Have appropriate child protection arrangements, which:

- identify children who may need early help, and who are at risk of harm or have been harmed. This can include, but is not limited to, neglect, abuse, grooming, exploitation, sexual abuse and online harm
- secure the help that children need and, if required, refer children in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help
- manage safe recruitment and allegations about adults who may be a risk to children
- are receptive to challenge and reflective of their own practices to ensure that safeguarding policies, systems and processes are kept under continuous review'

### **Useful tools:**

The NSPCC have a useful Safeguarding and child protection self-assessment tool that might be helpful to audit your current arrangements. <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-self-assessment-tool>

Our Safeguarding Resources on our webpage: [Safeguarding - Lancashire County Council](#)

Children's Services Support Hub and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/safeguarding-children/childrens-services-support-hub/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/safeguarding-children/childrens-services-support-hub/)

[Lancashire Children's Services Support Hub Leaflet](#)

**Let's Celebrate!**

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

🌟 Jenny Duncan from Burscough was credited in her report with the inspector noting 'The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and develop. Overall, she uses this knowledge alongside children's interests to plan a broad and interesting curriculum. The childminder understands how to sequence children's learning'

Jen shared that she really enjoyed her morning with the inspector and she made her feel so relaxed. In the call, the inspector had told Jen that any activity should be simple with no “frills or bells” and to have any parent feedback ready. The inspector asked about CPD and how this has helped Jen move forward with her practice. Jen's Top tip is to keep it simple and be confident.

🌟 Jessica Bowden from Buckshaw Village shared that her inspection went very well. Jessica said the inspector was really friendly and didn't ask many questions as Jessica feels this was covered in their discussions. Jessica had made lunch in the slow cooker that day to make it easier and had also written down a list of the things she wanted the inspector to know since her last inspection. Jessica notes how reading through this the night before helped. The inspector noted how- 'Children's independence is promoted well. The childminder and her assistant encourage children to build on what they already know and can do. Children practice their developing skills, such as dressing themselves for outdoor play.'

Jessica's top tip would be to sell yourself.

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 🌟🌟❤️



## Ofsted Best Start in Life Curriculum Roadshows

“Best Start in Life Curriculum Roadshows – what does our research mean for you and what’s next?” has just been published on the Ofsted: early years blog.

In November 2024, we completed our annual programme of Best Start in Life Curriculum Roadshows on the prime areas of learning. In this blog we reflect on where our roadshows have taken us this year, what we spoke about, and ...

Read the new post: <https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk/2024/11/29/best-start-in-life-curriculum-roadshows-what-does-our-research-mean-for-you-and-whats-next/>

## Childminders - Best Start in Life Curriculum Roadshow

Childminders - register for the Ofsted free on-line roadshow about the Prime Areas of Development, taking place on –

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 7 pm to 8 pm**

Register here - [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](https://gotowebinar.com)

## Selected DfE Updates

- [Statistics: early years foundation stage profile](#)

Annual statistics on early years foundation stage profile assessments in England relating to the 7 areas of learning and the 17 early learning goals.

- Updated: 28 November 2024

- [Early years foundation stage profile handbook](#)

Guidance on completing the early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile assessment.

- Updated: 28 November 2024

- [Breakfast clubs early adopters scheme](#)

Information for schools on what the breakfast clubs early adopters scheme is and how to apply.

- Updated: 27 November 2024