



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 9th January 2025

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 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](#)

The next meeting for the New Manager Academy will be **Thursday 23rd January 10.30 – 12 Noon**. Book your free place now using the form above.

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

Happy New Year

Welcome to the first edition of the Early Years Quality Improvement Team's weekly bulletin. We hope that you have had a good New Year and are looking forward to the year ahead with new ideas and inspiration for your settings.

The bulletins aim to bring you key information from the sector for the week and also the ways in which we can support you with our latest training, publications and updates on our website.

Attached you will find the latest training brochure for your setting.

We hope that you enjoy reading our weekly bulletins and find the information contained useful to your setting's ongoing professional development.

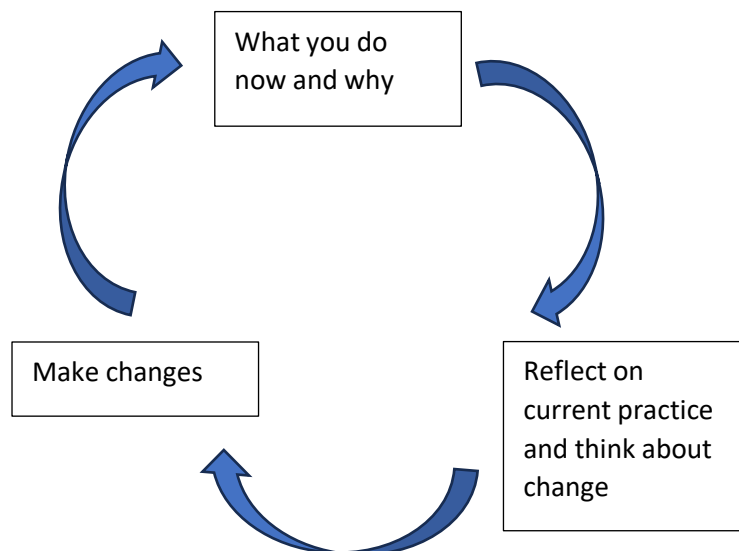
[Early years support and training - Lancashire County Council](#)

Something to do this week! Self Evaluation and Reflective Practice

What is reflective practice?

Reflective practice is a way of looking at what you do now and to see if this is still the most efficient and up to date way of doing things or whether it can be improved.

It is an ongoing process where you think about and analyse your practice with a view to modifying, changing or developing it.



To be able to reflect, you need to be able to celebrate your strengths but also recognise your own weaknesses and what can be improved. This can help you to identify any training or support needs and this will help you to feel more confident in your practice.

How to be a reflective practitioner

- Celebrate your strengths and acknowledge where you need to make changes
- Be professional in your approach and look to the quality of your provision and how it impacts the children in your care
- Think about why you do things a certain way and research different approaches
- Talk to other practitioners about their practice in order to evaluate your own way of doing things
- Try out new ideas and ways of doing things and give time to see if they work better for you
- Identify any barriers that are stopping you from making change and see if these can be overcome

Ways to reflect

You could use a diary to record thoughts, experiences and feelings and this is a great starting point for reflection. Ask yourself the 'but why' question to think more deeply about why you do things a certain way at the moment.

Log your Continued Professional Development. This will help you to see what training or development you have done and will assist you in planning what you need or want to do in the future.

Reflect on individual activities with the children. Think about why you set up the activity (intent) and how you will do it this time (implement). During the activity, think more deeply about the intent and implementation and how you could change it to be better for next time. How did the children enjoy and achieve during the activity (impact).

Ofsted reports can be used to reflect on your practice or the regulations. Ofsted often make suggestions for improvement on their reports and you can reflect upon these points and see how you can improve.

The Ofsted Early Years Inspection Handbook contains the grade descriptors which can be used to reflect on your current practice. [Early years inspection handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

You could use quality improvement tools or attend local authority training which helps you to reflect on current practice. [Training and information for all early years settings - Lancashire County Council](#)

Peer review is an invaluable tool to use – discussions with other practitioners can broaden our horizons, give us new ideas and new ways of thinking.

Social media and websites can give practitioners a wealth of new ideas, particularly activity ideas to try out.

Gathering the views of the children and their families can give practitioners a great insight into what they would like to do or change and this can be a great source for reflection.

Let's Celebrate!



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

🌟 Kids Planet in Cleveleys are thrilled with how well their inspection went. Manager Vicky Henderson, said some of her staff were nervous as they hadn't been through an inspection before and the inspector was very mindful of this and put them all at ease immediately. The learning walk went really well, Vicky explained the displays and had some prompts to help her. The inspector noted how well – 'The provider has high expectations for all practitioners, and this is reflected in everyday practice. Less-experienced staff are provided with a mentor. This helps to develop their teaching skills rapidly. Staff's well-being is a priority. Staff are happy in their roles, and morale remains high. These approaches help to provide continuity of care and ensure that outcomes for children are at the highest level.'

🌟 Yvonne Rayner a Childminder from Preston is also delighted with her Outstanding outcome. Yvonne felt the inspector was very reassuring and lovely and as a result she felt relaxed. The

inspector shared that she liked how well the children led the way and how everything flowed with that naturally. She wanted to look at a recent 2 year check and safeguarding and first aid dates. They also discussed CPD. Yvonne was told that she did 'diversity beautifully' as were her interactions with the children. Her report states: 'The childminder has an impressive understanding of how young children learn and develop. She develops a unique, creative and ambitious curriculum. The childminder's superb understanding of each child's current stage of learning and development enables her to recognise the learning potential in whatever children choose to do.'

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 🌻🌻❤

CSSH/MASH/Partner Agency Professional challenge protocol



The aim of this document is to add detail to the PAN-Lancashire Resolving Professional Disagreements (Escalation and Conflict Resolution) process, when professionals disagree with a decision made by the MASH.

https://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_resolving_prof_disagree.html#app1

As stated within the PAN-Lancashire procedures, generally there are very good working relationships between agencies, but occasionally there will be a difference of professional views. This protocol is designed with the intention of clarifying the actions required where there is a professional disagreement. It is consistent with, but extends the conflict resolution protocol within the Continuum of Need and Response framework.

All challenge should be undertaken in a professional manner and the child and family should remain the focus of the discussion/challenge.

The latest version of the Lancashire document is attached.

Team Around the Schools and Settings



Have a look at our website and the new TASS in Action tab for examples of how TASS is working in your locality. You will also see the highlight reports from each Locality Group for the last half term.

[TASS in action - Lancashire County Council](#)

Have you thought about...

How you support Children's Schemas



When we notice certain patterns of behaviours in children, we often wonder if they are showing a new schema.

This handy pack containing individual laminated cards can be used individually to share with practitioners focusing on an individual child showing a new schema.

The cards focus on

- the schema itself
- what you might notice
- how to respond to extend children's thinking
- resource ideas

They are a must for anyone working with children from babies and beyond and can be used in your early years setting as well as being shared with parents to support their understanding.

To purchase your own copy of 'A window into your child's learning' (schemas) please order here:

January special offer
NOW AVAILABLE AT HALF PRICE FOR JUST £11 (plus £4 pp)
[Publications Orders 2024-25](#)

You can view other publications available:

[Publications for sale - Lancashire County Council](#)

OFSTED Big Conversation Northwest



Here at Ofsted we are excited to announce that the North West Ofsted Big Conversation is back with a fresh approach to their meetings. We have revamped our events to create a more intimate and engaging experience, specifically designed for childcare providers who are key decision makers.

Join us on Tuesday 14th January 2025 from 7 pm to 9 pm

The Bridge, 109 Bradford Street, Bolton, BL2 1JX

(limited to 2 delegates per setting, price £15 including refreshments)

For an evening dedicated to 'Simply Ofsted' – where we'll take the conversation back to basics. This event is tailored to facilitate meaningful discussions with Ofsted, ensuring you leave with valuable insights. For more information, please follow the link below -

#NWOBBC January 2025 - Simply Ofsted - #NWOBBC
nwobc.co.uk

Research in Practice

An opportunity to get involved with Ofsted's project

Are you interested in the opportunity to take part in a project to consider how can Ofsted conceptualise 'vulnerability' in its work within the education and social care sectors? Further information and how to book:

[How can Ofsted conceptualise 'vulnerability' in its work within the education and social care sectors? New dates added | Research in Practice](#)

Online session dates using MS Teams:

- 23rd January 09:30-11:30 – Early years professionals specifically
- Additional twilight session 22 January 2025, 16:00-18:00 for professionals in Early Years, Education, Further education and skills or children's social care settings regulated and inspected by Ofsted.

WELLCOMM



PVI settings now using the digital reporting tool need to be aware that the information needs to be inputted **on the day of the assessment**.

You not the ability to input scores at a later date.

Thank you for your continued commitment with this initiative that is making a huge difference to the communication and language development of our children.