

# Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin



17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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 – check out the support for children with SEND in Lancashire

The SEND team have a page on the Lancashire County Council Website:

[Early years SEND toolkit and resources - Lancashire County Council](#)

Childminders can get SEND Support here - [SEND support for childminders - Lancashire County Council](#)

[The 'Early Years SENCO handbook](#) gives information to support both you and for you to signpost families for support.

For support for children, young people and families you can also signpost them to the family hubs– you can find out more information here - [Lancashire Family Hubs Network - Lancashire County Council](#)

You can also direct families to the "getting help" part of the Lancashire County Council website. [Getting help - Lancashire County Council](#)

You can also direct families to their Health Visitor or GP for support.

**Portage** Page 38 of the SENCo handbook has a contact form for portage, the handbook states – Portage is an educational home visiting service for pre-school (0-3 years old) children who have significant special educational needs and disabilities. The Portage Home Visitor works in partnership with parents and carers in their own home. The aim of the service is to empower parents and carers in developing their child's play and learning and promote positive outcomes. Lancashire Portage service is registered with the National Portage Association (NPA). Referrals can be made by early years settings and other professionals by completing a Portage referral form. Parents can also self-refer by completing the Portage Referral Form. [Portage - Lancashire County Council](#)

## Let's Celebrate!



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

**Cherry Tree Pre School in Rossendale** - Manager Angela Trow, shared that the inspector was really nice and put everyone at ease. She only looked at statutory paperwork, DBS etc. and did not want to look at any child development records. She was a good listener and listened carefully to everything Angela had to say. The learning walk went well and it felt like a professional conversation rather than an inspection. The inspector commented on their wonderful curriculum, particularly in Communication and Language Development.

*'The curriculum for communication and language is good. Staff access further training to support children's developing skills. They use this to assess and provide intervention where appropriate. Furthermore, staff are positive role models, and they model correct language back to children during play.'*

Angela's top tip is not to panic. Have professional conversations with the inspector showcasing who you are in an honest way.

**Laura Bradshaw** a Childminder from Accrington shared that the overall inspection experience was wonderful and it couldn't have gone any better. The inspector explained that the children gained so much learning from the activity chosen and was differentiated for all levels of learning perfectly. The inspector noted in her report how

*'The childminder plans exciting learning experiences for children. She ensures the children develop a strong sense of belonging and their independence is truly nurtured. The childminder provides children with carefully planned, differentiated resources that meet the needs of all of the children in her care.'*

Laura's top tip would be to ensure your curriculum is exciting, engaging, broad and varied to meet children's level of development and to ensure all children are being challenged.

**Sophie Hesketh** a Childminder from Leyland shared that her inspection felt really relaxed. The inspector sat on the floor playing with the children. The inspector didn't look at any paperwork except for her car insurance document. She asked Sophie what she felt her strengths and weaknesses were and followed up a recommendation from her last report about healthy eating, asking what she was doing now with regards to that. The inspector noted how

*'The childminder is a positive role model and has high expectations for the children. For example, she encourages children to take turns and use good manners. Children are kind and caring to each other, which supports their personal and social development.'*  
Sophie's top tip would be to know your children well and their next steps.

**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**

## New Practitioner Academy

Don't forget the next meeting is next week and all new practitioners are very welcome. No need to book, just click on the link to join.

4pm - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025

[Join the meeting now](#)

Find out more at [New nursery manager's and new practitioner's academies - Lancashire County Council](#)



## Inclusion Newsletter

In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- The news in brief
- Annual review guidance for Y9+
- Round-up of SEND CPD opportunities
- EHCP audit – call for volunteers

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 14 January 2025](#) or please see attached.



## Nuffield Education Foundation Project

[www.thebabyroom.blog](http://www.thebabyroom.blog)

### Getting it right in the baby room

Come join us at this FREE Saturday conference for baby room educators and nursery managers! We've got inspiring speakers, engaging conversation, and delicious food.

There are limited places, so sign up now:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/getting-it-right-in-the-baby-room-104394816931>

We're coming to  
the following cities:



London: March 8  
York: April 26  
Norwich: May 10  
Manchester: June 14  
Falmouth: June 28  
Bristol: July 12

From 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

This free conference is for baby room staff and nursery managers. Limited places, to book a place follow this [link](#)

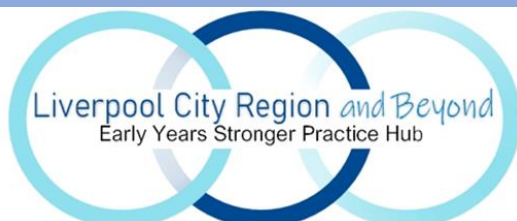
Why are we doing this all for FREE?

We're putting on these conferences as part of the **Nuffield-funded research project 'Achieving high quality provision in the baby room of English nurseries'**. You can read more about the research project at

<https://thebabyroom.blog/>



## Stronger Practice Hub



Happy New Year.

Your comments and feedback have led us to planning future Learning Walks for 2025 around Early Years settings for you to visit the environment, ask questions, look at planning and find the ethos behind this.

We also have another **Sustainability Conference booked for Morecambe**, but open to all that may want to travel, due to the feedback and impact that has had on practitioners that have attended previous conferences.

Please contact us to book onto any of these sessions, and please take a look at our website and newsletters for details on webinars, DfE funded support and the vision of the Stronger Practice Hub.

Please see details attached

[www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/strongerpracticehub](http://www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/strongerpracticehub)

[strongerpracticehub - ENSFC](#)

The Liverpool City Region and beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub is one of 18 DfE designated Stronger Practice Hubs across England. The Liverpool City Region Hub will cover the Liverpool City Region Local Authorities and Beyond, offering bespoke support, EEF evidence informed training opportunities as well as conferences and opportunities to network with others working in Early Years.

[www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org](http://www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org)

## New Year, New Courses with Lancashire Adult Learning! (No charge)

Start the new year by learning new skills and having fun with our wide range of ONLINE courses in an array of subjects starting this January and February with Lancashire Adult Learning. Click on the title to find out more and enrol today. Best of all they are all free. Please also share with parents.

<a href="#"><u>Introduction to Gardening Skills</u></a>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 1pm
<a href="#"><u>Quick Ways to Improve Your Mood</u></a>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2pm
<a href="#"><u>Working with Children and Young People - Is it For Me?</u></a>	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am
<a href="#"><u>Experimental Drawing and Painting - Learn the Basics</u></a>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 1.30pm
<a href="#"><u>Simplify Your Life</u></a>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 1pm
<a href="#"><u>Simplify Your Life</u></a>	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am
<a href="#"><u>Beat the Winter Blues</u></a>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am
<a href="#"><u>Beat the Winter Blues</u></a>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 9.30am
<a href="#"><u>Building a Resilient Life</u></a>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2pm
<a href="#"><u>Get Into Working in Schools and Colleges</u></a>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am
<a href="#"><u>Magic of Meditation</u></a>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am
<a href="#"><u>Magic of Meditation</u></a>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 9.30am