



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 23rd 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](#)

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](#)

Something to do this week! Review your security



There is a huge variety of premises used for childcare; including childminders in domestic homes, small nurseries or out of school clubs in community centres and schools and larger settings in their own buildings. Whatever your set up, the Early Years Statutory Framework is

clear about providers responsibilities around the security of their premises.

- Children do not leave the premises unsupervised
- They take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises and have an agreed procedure for checking the identity of visitors
- They consider what additional measures are necessary when children stay overnight

The Childcare Register also states:

- make sure that no child can leave the premises, and no one can enter the premises, without someone who is providing childcare being aware

These questions will help you to reflect on how you are keeping your premises secure:

- Do parents and carers understand your systems when dropping off and collecting their child and don't compromise security eg. Not to hold the door open for other?
- Childminders - do your family members support you by closing doors and gates etc?
- Group care - are staff deployed to support the security of the premises eg. are they able to open the door to parents and monitor gates in outside areas?
- Do risk assessments identify doors, gates and boundaries as things that need to be checked regularly?
- Shared premises – do you ensure that other users of the premises cannot enter the part of the premises where children are being cared for?
- Are fire exits clear of obstacles and open easily from inside?

Let's Celebrate!

Well Done



This week we are shouting a magnificent Wednesday Well Done to three Childminders in Lancashire who have recently has their Ofsted inspection reports published! 🍌

🌟 **Elaine Hodgson** from Kirkham is thrilled with her inspection outcome. Elaine shared that she was dreading Ofsted coming but it was all good. Elaine showed her safeguarding file, training certificates and the Communication and Language tool kit. The inspector noted the positive relationships Elaine has with her children and liked the fact that she asks the parents to supply photographs of important people in the child's life and makes these into an album that is freely available for the child to look at. Her reports notes-

'The childminder is a positive role model and she has high expectations of children. For instance, she reminds children to use good manners. The childminder teaches children about different emotions as they share books together. 'Elaine's Top tips: Have notes about children's progress, to hand to share with the inspector in case your mind goes blank when asked ..And don't worry!

🌟 **Michelle Livingstone** from Carnforth shared that she also has a positive inspection experience. Michelle reports that the inspector really put her and the children at ease. As well as the closing feedback, the inspector gave Michelle positive feedback throughout the day, commenting on children's levels of independence and resilience at snack time as they persevered to spread their own butter on their toast. In her report the inspector notes: 'Partnerships with parents are a real strength. The childminder shares meaningful information every day and gives ideas to parents about how they can support learning at home. Parents are very complimentary about the care their children receive. They say that the childminder 'gives incredible care' and children 'love going. 'Michelle's top tip is not to focus too much on the activity that you forget the importance of the day-to-day interactions, as these matter just as much if not more.

🌟 **Dawn Smith** from Preston reported that her inspection went quickly and smoothly and was more relaxed than her previous ones. The inspector asked about children's next steps and wanted to look at a 2 year progress check and DBS, safeguarding and first aid certificates. She also asked to see family members DBS certificates. Dawn was asked how she keeps her knowledge updated through professional development opportunities. In her report her inspector noted – 'The childminder has developed an ambitious curriculum and provides rich experiences to support children's learning across all areas. She instils values of compassion and respect for one another. The childminder interacts with children very well to help them to develop their imaginations and confidence.'

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 🌟🌟❤️

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stranger Practice Hub



Future conference – Save the Date:

**Saturday 8th February 2025 9.30a.m. – 12.30p.m. at The Mazuma Stadium,
Morecambe Football Club, Christie Way, Westgate, Morecambe, LA4 4TB.**

Our theme for the conference is: Sustainability and the Under Threes through the 3 Pillars and the Sustainable Development Goals with Diane Boyd (Early Years Consultant)

who will share examples of how young children under three and sustainability can be explored with the educators who work with them.

To book email sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk

Have you thought about ... Parental Engagement?



Priced at just £22, this Parental Engagement Toolkit contains a wealth of tools and ready-made resources to help strengthen parental engagement and the home learning environment. You will also receive an electronic copy of the Toolkit so you can easily share resources online with your families.

Here are some of the time-saving resources you will find in the Parental Engagement Toolkit:

- *Audit tools to help you to review your current practice*
- *Ideas for parent information boards*
- *Parent information leaflets - advice on bedtime routine, toilet training etc.*
- *Chat, Play, Read ideas*
- *Example calendar to plan parent events*
- *Sensory play cards*
- *Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning leaflets*
- *Access to a Padlet where you will find a range of websites and further tools to support parents*

To purchase a copy of the 'Parental Engagement Toolkit' click the link and complete the online order form

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

Asthma and Anaphylaxis recommendations

The National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) recommendations around child deaths from asthma and anaphylaxis has recently been published and are attached for further information.

There were 54 child deaths due to asthma between April 2019 and March 2023. Some themes associated with these deaths were: smoking by family members, pets in the house and allergies.

There were 19 child deaths due to anaphylaxis between the same period. The most common allergen that triggered fatal anaphylaxis was milk.

Health colleagues recommend multi agency partners who have regular contact with children and young people complete a free E-learning course to enhance knowledge and confidence. Here is the link to the course

[Asthma \(Children and young people\) - elearning for healthcare](#)

Only Tier 1 needs to be completed which should take approximately one hour to do. On successful completion you can then add it to your personal Continuous Professional Development file.

Further support for children can be achieved by adopting the Asthma Friendly Schools initiative

[Asthma friendly schools - Transformation Partners in Health and Care.](#)

This link includes the schools guide where there are templates that can be adapted for use in your setting.

Lancashire's revised Universal 2 year pathway



Free to download:
[Progress check at age two –
Non-statutory guidance for
the early years foundation
stage](#)
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

Please find attached the updated Universal 2 year pathway. For more information and to watch a video about the revised pathway, please see our website at -

[Two year old progress check and Lancashire's integrated review pathway - Lancashire County Council](#)

New Section added to the Early Years website



We are often asked about the support we offer to our very busy leaders of Lancashire settings. So, we have pulled this information together all into one place on our website called 'Leading your setting'

Please have a look to find out how we can help childminders and nursery and out of school club leaders.

Visit:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/

New launch of the Early Years Sustainable Hub Website



Highfield Nursery School in Ipswich has partnered with Everton Nursery School in Liverpool to develop an Early Years Sustainable Hub website. The two Nursery Schools, who are both Stronger Practice Hubs have put together the Early Years Sustainable Hub website. The website is developed with the Early Years sector at its heart.

To access the Early Years Sustainable Hub, please use the link below:

[Early Years Sustainable Hub | ENSFC](#)

In an Early Years setting, the role of the adult is pivotal in shaping children's understanding of the world around them, particularly regarding environmental sustainability. Adults serve not only as educators but also as role models, demonstrating a passion for the environment that can inspire young learners. By integrating environmental education into daily activities, adults can cultivate a sense of responsibility and stewardship in children, encouraging them to become ambassadors for sustainability.

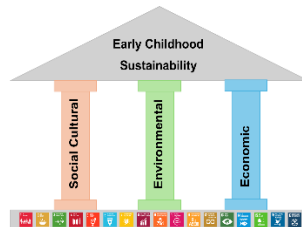
The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



The aim of the Early Years Sustainable website is to share practical resources and support to help you design your **Climate Action Plan**. The DfE suggests all Early Years settings have both a **Sustainability Lead** and a **Climate Action Plan by September 2025**. Listen to Dr Diane Boyd (Independent Consultant) sharing information about the Climate Action Plan here -

https://1drv.ms/p/c/4e48b4b693fd1fec/EU3WWU7Y3rNAP6vp1ouOB_wBTfyxE2vh2SS838d8nOTQeg

Your Climate Action Plan (CAP) does not have to follow any design and can be drawn up to meet the unique needs of your setting. However, we have designed a simple, easy-to-use template based on the 3 Pillars of Sustainability (Environmental, Economic and Social) that you can adapt to your setting. Have a look on the website for a template of a climate action plan as a starter. [Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education - GOV.UK](#)



Please contact us on sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk if you would like to add to the website with any suggestions and resources.

Selected DfE updates

- Updated: 17 January 2025
- [Benefits of breakfast clubs](#) How universal free breakfast clubs have helped give children a supportive start to the school day.