



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin



30th 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 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 – have a look through these great toolkits and find a new resource!

We have been asked by Childcare Works to let you know about the two new toolkits that they have created as part of their DfE funded work to support childcare providers. There is a toolkit for Early Years providers and another for Wrap around providers to help you find what's relevant to your setting.

They are for all sectors; PVI nurseries, schools, childminders and out of school clubs.

They contain trusted, relevant and free information and resources for providers to use. The toolkits will be updated regularly and there is a recently added section to see what is new. You can search by 'topic' or 'stage of business'.



Categories:

- Business Planning
- Running of Your Childcare Provision
- Business Growth
- Leadership and Management
- Partnership Working
- SEND and Inclusive Practice



[Childcare Works - childcareworks.org.uk](http://childcareworks.org.uk)

Have you met Amy?

We are truly delighted to recently welcome Amy to the team.

Development Officer **Amy Sykes** supports childminders in the north of Lancashire, covering the Lancaster, Preston, Fylde and Wyre areas.



Amy specialises in nature-centred early years learning and is a qualified Forest School and Beach School leader.

Before joining the Lancashire Early Years team, Amy was an Early Years teacher and Outdoor Learning Lead in schools in Cheshire and Manchester, and in 2016 opened a nature-based childminder setting in the Lancaster area.

She has also worked with nurseries across the Lancaster area supporting the delivery of sustainability initiatives, growing projects and playful outdoor learning to children and families.

Let's Celebrate!



This week we are shouting a magnificent well done to three childminders in Lancashire who have recently had their Ofsted inspection reports published.

Corina Penney from Leyland shared her positive inspection experience. Her inspector looked at a 2 year progress check and a summative assessment, but other

than that, didn't want to look at any other paperwork. Corina was asked about diversity and Prevent Duty in her discussions. The inspector noted that; *'The childminder*

promotes diversity well and celebrates children's uniqueness. She teaches children about other cultures, the dynamics of other families and festivals, such as Eid, Diwali and Lunar New Year. This helps children to learn about people and families that may be different to their own.' **Corina's top tip** would be to know your children well (and their next steps), make sure your safeguarding knowledge is up to date, and know your own policies.

Rifaat Shah from Accrington shared that she is thrilled with her inspection outcome. Rifaat said that the inspector was thorough, friendly and knowledgeable. She made everyone feel at ease and the children liked her. The inspection was around 7 hours at the setting with the inspector regularly checking whether everyone was feeling okay. The inspector noted how well Rifaat *'... places a great deal of emphasis on helping children to have a smooth transition to their next stage of learning. She has developed strong links with local schools and takes children to visit before they move to full time education.'*

Lynne Tyson from Garstang shared that her inspector was very pleasant, and it was like sitting and chatting with an old friend. During her inspection, Lynne was caring for a 10-month-old and an 18-month-old and made sure to demonstrate her extensive knowledge of child development and quality practice throughout the early years age range by talking about how she would differentiate all the day's activities for both older and younger children. The inspector noted: *'The childminder provides a friendly environment with a strong family feel. She invites parents to stay for settling-in sessions so she can learn about children's unique needs. The childminder is alert to children's care needs and does all she can to follow routines and practices that children have at home'.* **Lynne's top inspection tip** is to know your children – and keep talking!

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

Brand NEW! Building Blocks Training Package for Communication and Language

A recorded training package to develop understanding and knowledge of communication and language.

This training package consists of 12 modules that focus on key areas of speech, language and communication development. Once purchased, you will have continued access to these videos in your setting to support you with the induction of any new members of your team.

Watch this video to explore the content: <https://youtu.be/TudISz8-bx4>

Module 1	Communication and language explained	Module 7	Interactions
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Module 2	Typical development ages and stages	Module 8	Communication friendly environments
Module 3	When to be concerned	Module 9	English as an additional language
Module 4	Listening and attention	Module 10	Vocabulary
Module 5	Speech sounds	Module 11	Questions
Module 6	Routines	Module 12	Test your knowledge...putting it into practice

Included in the purchase is a Communication and Language Compendium packed full of information, reflective prompts and audits.

**£100 for group settings
£34 for Childminders (£28 for members)**

To book your training package please complete the form here <https://forms.office.com/r/Ux1fMTReJL>



Member's meetings coming soon!

Are you an out of school club member? Don't forget the next Cluster meeting is next week. You will have been sent an email with the invitation and all the details!

This term we have a full agenda, the focus is 'Your EYFS children' and with this, we will be looking more closely at what the statutory requirements are in relation to your Early Years children and what we might class more as good practice. We will also be exploring spatial reasoning and awareness games and activities and you will gain ideas to take away with you.

We will go through any relevant updates, give you the opportunity to network with staff from other clubs and pick out some themes from recent inspections.

You attend in person at the Early Years Development Centre or virtually on Microsoft Teams – whatever suits you best!

We look forward to seeing you on the 5th of February from 10.30 to 12.30.

Are you a PVI Nursery member?

Manager's Time to Talk Meetings are starting on the 3rd of February for two weeks, across the County. Look out for your emailed invitation from your Early Years Consultant with all the details.

Not a member but would like to find out how we can support you? Please visit: [Early years packages of support - Lancashire County Council](#)

Educational Psychology Service free CPD events

This academic year (2024-2025) there are a series **free CPD events** taking place half-termly for early years practitioners and childminders. To book onto a session, please click the links in the attached flyer. Our next session is on **Wednesday 19th March 9.30am -11am** titled '**Voices before words: nurturing early communication skills in the early years.**'. The first part of the session will be a learning development session on the topic, 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.

We would like to run **free group consultations for childminders** to allow for anonymous case discussion using a process facilitated by the EP. It will offer a collaborative space for practitioners to learn from each other and share good practice whilst supporting practitioners to leave with a range of supportive suggestions.

To try and make these accessible for childminders, please could you complete the following 2 minute survey so we can gauge when and where may be convenient to host these. <https://forms.office.com/e/k71cQKjZcC>

We are also running **free CPD events** for Parent Carers. These are aimed at **any** Parent Carer in Lancashire with a child aged 0-5 years. Our next Parent Carer session is on **Wednesday 29th January 6pm-7pm** titled **The power of play: Fun ways to connect with your child through play**'. Please can you share the attached advert with Parent Carers of children in your setting and advise that they can book onto a session using the links in the attached flyer.

Finally, we will also be running **free group consultations** across districts in the family hubs. These are for **EY SENDCos only** and will last two hours. The consultations will provide an opportunity for anonymous case discussion using a process facilitated by the EP. It will offer a collaborative space for EY SENDCos to learn from each other and share good practice whilst supporting SENDCos to leave with a range of supportive suggestions. For more information on how to book onto a session please visit [clickDelegate Early Years Group Consultations](#). Where possible, SENDCos should try to book a slot at their closest family hub.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Dr Naomi Boswell (lead specialist educational psychologist) naomi.boswell@lancashire.gov.uk

Inclusion Newsletter



In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- Capital Programme update
- *Solving the SEND crisis*: Government call for evidence
- SEND Strategy activity/competition for children and young people
- Spotlight on the nasen Teacher Handbook
- Book onto our *EP myth-busting* twilight webinar for Headteachers and SENCOs
- Request for feedback on the SEND Newsletter magazine

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 28 January 2025](#)

For accessibility options

- Click on the link to open the sway
- Click on the three dots (top-right)
- Select 'Accessibility view'

Alternatively, the Newsletter in pdf format is attached.

DfE Early Years Qualification Announcement



Department for Education

This week we have announced a package of early years qualification initiatives that will both support entry and progression within the workforce and ensure that the staff working with young children have the right skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality provision.

To support early years settings to recruit and retain staff and meet this increased demand, from 3 March 2025 eligible educators will be able to access an [experience-based route](#) to working in the Staff: Child ratios at level 3. This new route recognises the significant contribution that skilled and experienced staff can make to the education and care of young children. This is an opportunity for educators without currently approved qualifications, to develop their careers, and for providers to maximise the potential of their talented staff in a way that works best for the children in their care. The full consultation response can be found [here](#).

Alongside this we have announced the publication of the [Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship standard](#). This new, graduate-level qualification will give everyone from school leavers and junior staff to senior leaders the opportunity to easily move into a specialist career in the early years sector.

We are also pleased to announce the **Check an Early Years Qualification digital service** which will be available later this Spring to early years managers. This service will guide managers through the process of checking the approval status of qualifications held by existing staff members and prospective employees, increasing their confidence

that they have appropriately qualified staff ahead of the September expansion.

These initiatives will support SoS' vision for a childcare system that supports the sector, creates the best possible experience for parents and gives all children access to the opportunities they deserve.

Foundation Years News

Check an Early Years Qualification digital service launching in Spring

Early Years (EY) qualification requirements, particularly understanding whether a qualification is approved for working in staff: child ratios, can be tricky to understand. With this in mind, we have developed the Check an Early Years Qualification digital service to help EY managers check the approval status of qualifications held by existing and prospective staff members. We expect this to save managers' time and increase their confidence in having sufficient appropriately qualified staff to meet demand resulting from the expansion of funded childcare entitlements by September 2025.

The service has been tested with individuals and organisations from the sector during its pilot phase, and further iterated in line with feedback received. It will be made publicly available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) later this Spring.

We will let you know when the service is up and running, and provide a link to it, and would encourage EY managers to use the new service from that point.

Introduction of the Experience-Based Route for Early Years Staff

On 3 March 2025 the Government will be introducing an experience-based route for early years staff. This route will allow suitable early years staff without an approved qualification to be included in the staff: child ratios at level 3 following a period of supervised practice.

This measure was first proposed in 2023 as part of the consultation on proposed changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, and the Department for Education has now published its response to the technical consultation that was held in April 2024. This response can be found here: [Experience-based route for early years practitioners - GOV.UK](#).

The experience-based route recognises that staff members with the right experience and knowledge, even without an approved qualification, can significantly contribute to the care and education of young children. This optional flexibility supports the recruitment and retention of early years staff, allowing providers to use it where they believe it will best serve their staff and the children in their care.

Publication of the Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Standard

The Department for Education is delighted to announce a new Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship (EYTDA) leading to Early Years Teacher Status. A sector-led trailblazer group worked with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to develop the EYTDA, a full and relevant level 6 early years qualification.

A degree level apprenticeship gives everyone from junior staff to senior leaders the opportunity to easily move into a specialist career in the early years sector. The EYTDA enables employers to invest in the staff they already employ and provide progression opportunities, whilst allowing them to remain in their current role and continue to

contribute to the running of the setting. This apprenticeship will put foundations in place to provide a highly qualified workforce to support the next generation of young children whilst enabling future early years leaders and teachers to earn whilst they learn.

More information: [Become an early years teacher | Get Into Teaching GOV.UK](#)
Register your interest: EYTDA.ENQUIRIES@education.gov.uk

Do Something Big!

How To Love Your Job' new four-part early years series with Channel 4

The Do Something Big campaign team is delighted to share the first episode of our new four-part series with Channel 4, hosted by Anna Williamson. #HowToLoveYourJob follows four individuals searching for a more meaningful career, spending a day discovering the joy of working in early years.



In Episode 1, Carla, a former prison officer, visits a forest school nursery and embarks on a journey to rediscover herself and embrace the great outdoors! You can watch the episode in full on [Channel 4's YouTube channel](#).

We'd really appreciate your support in amplifying each episode to help reach a wider audience of potential candidates. **Please reshare the first episode on your social channels and through your networks if you can, using the links below.**

[Instagram](#)
[Facebook](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

NHS Male Suicide Prevention Campaign

We are currently developing a Male Suicide Prevention campaign for Lancashire & South Cumbria and wanted to give you the opportunity to shape the look of the campaign. The campaign needs to influence how we get men to access support and advice when they need it. We want the campaign material to capture people's interest, prompt them to take a look at the Staying Alive app and create a tagline that people will remember.

We are looking particularly for Males 40-54 living or working in the Lancashire and South Cumbria area who would be willing to give us a few minutes of their time by completing the survey below.

In the survey you will be able to view and give your opinion on the draft concepts and posters, and answer questions about what you feel would encourage men to seek support. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

The link to the online survey is here
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/malesuicide.campaign/>.

Please share this with any contacts you feel would like to contribute.

Any input into the development of the Male Suicide prevention campaign would be gratefully received. However, should you have any queries please contact Helen Parry, Suicide Prevention Lead at Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB at Helen.Parry17@nhs.net or email the ICB communications team at lscicb.communications@nhs.net.

DfE Toilet Training Guidance

We have published new information and guidance on [toilet training](#). The guidance provides advice on:

- when to start toilet training
- how to toilet train
- supporting children who experience toilet training challenges
- supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- working in partnership with parents, carers and colleagues within your early years setting

For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for Early Years Providers website](#).

Lancashire Virtual Schools Early Years Newsletter

[Lancashire Virtual School Early Years Newsletter - Spring 2025](#)



Please follow the link for the spring newsletter.

Stronger Practice Hub



As part of NCB's role as delivery partner, in quality assuring and evaluating the work of hubs, they have requested that we gather feedback from all those who have engaged with our hub, to support our review process.

We would be grateful if you could follow the link below and complete this short feedback form. Forms will go directly to NCB and will be anonymised.

Please complete the form by **14th February** as this is the date that NCB will close the link to collate the data.

<https://forms.office.com/e/7KB0sW9p0n>

PEEP Learning Together Programme

Evidence-based CPD for those working in the Early Years (including childminders)

Programme content

The Peep Learning Together Programme (LTP) Training contains 74 Topics covering five strands of child development: personal, social and emotional development ~ communication and language ~ early literacy ~ early maths ~ health and physical development.

Each topic in the Programme contains key child development information along with delivery guidance, handouts for parents, and activities which help meet the topic aim(s). Each topic relates to one or more developmental stages: babies - toddlers - preschool. The Programme is intentionally flexible - practitioners can use any topic from any strand or developmental stage, in any order, to meet the needs and interests of the families that you work with.

This course is open to all those working in the Early Years, funded by the DFE, through LCR and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub. Read more about PEEP Learning Together below.

[how the learning together programme helps children's learning | peep](#)

Date	Time
February 11th & 12th 2025	6-8pm
February 25th & 26th	6 – 8pm
March 4th & 5th	6 – 8pm

Please contact us on kaya@innovaonconsulongservices.co.uk to book your place,.

Places are very limited so if you book a place and cannot make it, please let us know as we will start a reserve list for dates

Do you know someone who deserves an Honour?!

As the Kings Birthday New Year 2026 honours round approaches, we are keen to raise the profile of the Early Years, Families and Childcare sector and nominate colleagues who have made a difference.

The honours system recognises people who have:

- Made achievements in public life
- Committed themselves to serving and helping Britain
- And more specifically, through their hard work, are helping to raise standards in our sector

Nominating somebody is much simpler than you imagine, tell us... Who you think deserves an honour... Why... and we'll do the rest!

Please click the **blue button** below to download the form, complete in full and return to jane.flaherty@education.gov.uk. Feel free to send back more than one nomination and please forward on to other colleagues who you think would be able to suggest deserving people.

When completing the 500 word nomination please include as much detail as possible including their achievements, examples of their work and the impact to others. **To maintain confidentiality, you must not tell the person you are nominating.**

The deadline for nominations is COP Monday 17th February.

[Download Honours Nomination Form](#)

DfE and Ofsted Updates

[Childcare providers and inspections: management information](#) (updated 29th January 2025)

Management information aggregating registered childcare providers and inspections and their outcomes.

[Check the children's barred list](#) (updated 21st January 2025)

Check if a new employee can work with children while you wait for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.