



Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 6th February 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!
Children's mental health week 3 – 9th February
Where to get help for children



Children's mental health week is all about giving children the tools they need to express themselves.

Practitioners understand the need to support children's wellbeing and recognise when they need extra support.

Place2Be is the charity that launched Children's Mental Health Week back in 2015. They offer free resources and advice on awareness of children's mental health. For more information -

[Improving children's and young peoples mental health – Place2Be](#)

You can also get further help for children and also parent/carer support from YMCA and training and workshops for practitioner – read more about this here

[Mental Health Support For Children and Young People - YMCA](#) [\(ymcatrinitygroup.org.uk\)](http://ymcatrinitygroup.org.uk)

Let's Celebrate!



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

🌟 **Thornton Preschool Playgroup** in Cleveleys shared their positive inspection experience. Their report notes how well – ' Staff teach children specific physical skills to support their development. They learn to walk on low stilts which promotes their coordination and balance. They practise throwing small beanbags which builds their range of arm movements and muscles. Children's physical development is promoted well.' Manager Cathy Shaw shared that their inspector was incredibly mindful of the team's wellbeing and checked in on them throughout the day. She spoke to the newest member of the team regarding her induction process and asked lots of questions. Cathy's top tip is not to overthink the inspection process and make sure you are familiar with the education inspection framework and what inspectors are looking for.

🌟 **Kids Planet in Thornton** are celebrating their inspection outcome. Their report notes – ' Staff know children well. They gather a wealth of information, including that obtained from parents when children start. The curriculum is well planned to support and reflect the individual needs of children and what they need to learn next.' Debbie Evans shared that the inspection went really well. The inspector was very understanding and asked them if they were OK .They had a lovely day and the inspector praised them for “doing their jobs well”. The manager did the learning walk and said that it went well. Debbie's top tip is to carry on with what you do every day.

🌟 **Little Stars at the Beeches** in Accrington also had a great inspection experience. Manager Amy Mercer said that the inspection went very well. The inspector was lovely and reassured all the staff. She offered breaks and asked if anyone was particularly nervous. The learning walk

went well and the inspector gave subtle prompts to find out more. The inspector noted how well – ' Staff have high expectations for all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff monitor children closely to identify any gaps in their development and work closely with other professionals. This contributes to the good progress that children make from their starting points.'

Amy's top tip is not to worry before the inspection and tell the inspector as much as you possible can about your setting.

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 🌻🌻❤

Shining a spotlight on early years stars



Do you know of any early years educators who go above and beyond?

The Do Something Big campaign team is looking for individuals of all ages, life experience and backgrounds to take part in filming and/or media opportunities to showcase that anyone, from any walk of life, can work in the sector and bring something unique and valuable to the role.

If you are aware of anyone who might be willing to share their journey. We'd love to hear from you to see how we can share their story as part of our campaign. You can reach us via email: earlyyears.careers@education.gov.uk.

Please see our campaign website to get a flavour of what the campaign is all about:

[Do something big - Early Years Careers.](#)

- **Young people in the workforce:** showcasing why they have chosen early years and how they enjoy shaping the next generation of children.
- **Returners to the workplace after a break:** Parents or carers re-entering the workforce or those transitioning back after an extended career pause.
- **Career changers:** Professionals from other industries who have moved jobs and found a passion in early years care and education.
- **SEND specialists:** Staff working with children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **Have interesting backstories:** any other interesting stories of the amazing staff you have e.g. those who overcame challenges to join the sector.
- **People who bring unique skills to their roles:** such as musicians who lead singing or music sessions.

If you have any staff, you think would be keen to get involved, please contact 'earlyyears.careers@education.gov.uk' and we can let you know next steps.

Free Speech and language training



There are some places still available for the below sessions. Please contact us to book on.

Friday 14th February 2025 3 Different FREE Speech and Language Training at Everton Nursery School and Family Centre, Spencer Street, Liverpool 6 2WP. 9.00a.m. to 3p.m.

Recognising and Supporting Speech and Language Difficulties - full day

- What is SLCN; different areas of communication breakdown
- Language Development Frameworks; Blank Levels, Information Carrying Words, etc.
- Practical Speech and Language Strategies

OR

Early Years - Using The Blank Levels Practically - full day

- The Four Levels
- Classroom Differentiation
- Interventions - practical activities

OR

Primary - Using Blank Levels Practically - full day

- The Four Levels
- Classroom Differentiation
- Interventions - practical activities

Have you thought about activities to build important attachments and shape Early Years Children's Social world

Unlock the Power of your Children's **Social Skills with Our Exclusive Resource!**

Have you thought about enhancing your toolkit with our latest offering, '*Activities to Build Important Attachments and Shape Early Years Children's Social World*'?

As an EYFS practitioner, you know that children need more than just the presence of peers to develop social skills. Your expert training and professional insights emphasise the importance of face-to-face interactions, known as '[serve and return](#)', nurture confident communicators and socially adept little ones.

In today's digital age, excessive screen time can hinder valuable moments of chatting and playing. Our resource is designed to help you plan and teach these essential skills, ensuring children grow into well-rounded individuals.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a lasting impact on your students' social development!

Order now and transform your pedagogy today!

Link to the publication page to purchase:-



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

Who it is for :- All EYFS practitioners working with children from 0-5 years old.

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Support for settings

Please find the attached flyers with more information about –



- The upcoming conference **Sustainability and the Under Threes through the 3 Pillars and the Sustainable Development Goals** and
- **Learning Walks**
- The Early Years Inclusion training - **Dingley's Promise**

Keeping You Informed

As you know there are some changes coming in the Early Years sector that we all need to be aware of and ready for.

Change can be exciting and bring new opportunities and ways to work differently but it can also make us feel worried, unsure or stressed. To help you feel prepared and confident the team will be busy helping you keep up to date, feeling informed and confident to help you get ready for September.



As these changes are announced we will continue to keep you informed through the Weekly Bulletin. Once the final Inspection Framework is published we will deliver some information sessions giving you the opportunity to explore what these changes, and the changes to the safeguarding requirements, will mean in your setting.

We will also be busy making any changes that are needed to our training, publications, membership documents and childminder policy templates. Not to mention checking our website and all the admin tasks that change brings!

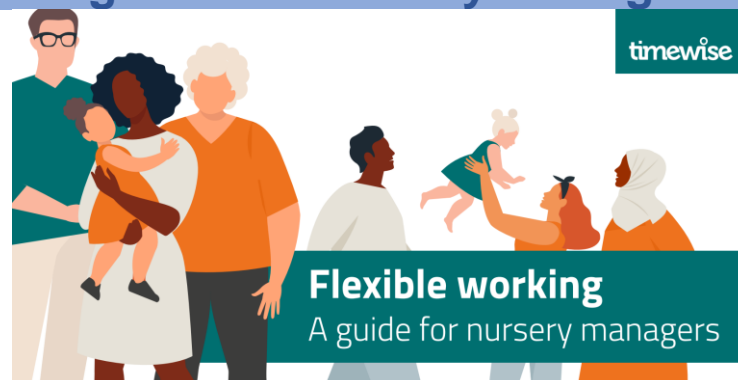
In the meantime take some time to:

- Have your say on the Ofsted proposals for Inspection including the report cards: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education including the draft [Early Years Inspection Toolkit](#) Effective from the **1st September 2025**.
- Become familiar with the changes to the safeguarding requirements of the EYFS Statutory Framework that also come in on the **1st September 2025**. Foundation Years

have a useful summary of changes and vodcast. [Changes to Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) safeguarding requirements: September 2025 - Foundation Years](#)

- Group settings - consider how the new experience based route for early years staff will help your existing staff and support recruiting new staff. This does not come into law, until the related statutory instrument has been made and comes into force (expected 3rd March 2025) and then **will apply from September 2025**.
- Childminders - explore how the [New flexibilities for childminders and childcare on domestic premises providers](#) can benefit your provision including the new provider type [childminder without domestic premises](#). **These are already in force**.

Timewise – Flexible working: A guide for Nursery Managers



The Timewise Childcare Pioneers project 2024 explored how proactive flexible working cultures could improve staff wellbeing and retention and attract a more diverse pool of candidates.

Timewise created a guide for nursery managers to support with implementing flexible working in an EY setting:

[**Timewise-A-Guide-for-Nursery-Managers.pdf**](#)

Protective Preparedness for Education Settings - Webinars

Early Years, Schools & Further Education Webinar

26th February 2025 – 12:00 – 13:30

19th March 2025—16:00 - 17:30

The Department for Education (DfE) in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and National Protective

Security Authority invite you to an Education relevant Webinar.

Please see the attached flyer for more information and to book.



Department
for Education

Power of Pictures



Our February POP [video](#) is now available! In just 6 minutes and 40 seconds, Penny, our Early Years Consultant, will boost your understanding of Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED).

In this PechaKucha-style presentation, Penny encourages you to reflect on how you can better support and comprehend children's behaviour.

Publications and training to extend practitioners' knowledge in this area can be found here:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/ear.../areas-of-learning/psed/>



Contextual Safeguarding in Education



Contextual safeguarding seeks to identify and respond to harm and abuse posed to children outside their home, including at school, in their neighbourhoods or on social media platforms.

Lancashire County Council have created a webpage with further information for education settings on Contextual Safeguarding including useful educational resources and signposting for support.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/safeguarding-children/contextual-safeguarding-in-education/>

Ofsted Updates

[Ofsted sets out proposals for fairer education inspections and new, more detailed report cards](#)

Page summary:

Ofsted is consulting on a new approach to inspecting education providers and the introduction of report cards.

Time updated: 12:01am, 3 February 2025

[Education inspection framework: implementation review](#)

Page summary:

How Ofsted has implemented the education inspection framework (EIF) since it was introduced in 2019.

Time updated: 12:01am, 3 February 2025

[Improving the way Ofsted inspects education](#)

Page summary:

We're asking parents, carers, professionals and learners what they think about our proposals to improve education inspections and our new report cards for providers.

Time updated: 12:01am, 3 February 2025