



# Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin



13<sup>th</sup> February 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!

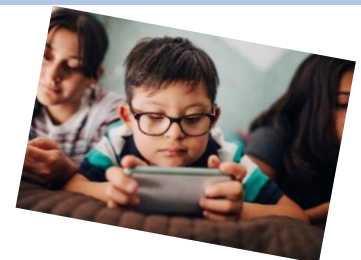
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

## Something to do this week – consider how you help children to keep safe online

52% of 3-4-year olds go online for an average of nearly 9 hours a week

45% of 3-4-year olds use YouTube

Plan some time to consider your systems for keeping children safe online whilst they are with you and how you support children to keep themselves safe online. We cannot simply say that 'we don't let children go online here' as this ignores our responsibilities around helping them see the importance and possibilities of



technology whilst showing them how to stay safe. Even for very young children, technology will be a part of their lives.

**To help you Rachel Hughes (Early Years Consultant) from our team has created an Online Safety Checklist for you! Please find it attached.**

**There are some other excellent resources available to help you:**

**Guidance for managers and leaders including childminders:**

[Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations for managers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Guidance for practitioners;**

[Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety guidance for practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Information for practitioner, parents and children:**

[Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Stories and resources for 3 to 7 year olds [www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/](http://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/)  
[www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

Online safety for 6 to 10 year olds [www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/](http://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/)

Keeping safe online [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkcj92p](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkcj92p)

## 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.

**Sarah Kitching a childminder in Morecambe.** Sarah shared that she wasn't looking forward to her inspection as 6 years since the last one seemed like such a long time.

The inspector gave the notification call and put Sarah at ease immediately Sarah shared, "When she came she made me feel so relaxed, I almost forgot she was there!". In her report, Sarah's curriculum is credited, with the inspector noting- 'The childminder is keen to provide a curriculum that supports children to be confident, happy and emotionally prepared for their move to school. Children show a good attitude and are making good progress in their learning. They are resilient, and they keep trying when tasks challenge them.' Sarah's top tip is not to stress and just be yourself!

**Helen Stapley a childminder in Preston** has also had her Ofsted report published, noting – 'The childminder places great emphasis on children's development of good communication and social skills. She introduces children to an exciting range of stories that ignite their enthusiasm for reading.' Helen shared that her top tips are to get everything prepared, read through your policies and update them where necessary and have notes to hand in case your mind goes blank. You need to know your children and where they are at, have a planned activity that you and the children are familiar with - and try and stay relaxed!

**The Fledglings in Myerscough** have had their report published in which it notes how 'The provider's curriculum places great emphasis on staff building children's skills to form happy relationships with other children and staff. Children settle well in the nursery

playrooms and make new friends.' Manager Charlotte Twist shared how the inspector asked many questions around safeguarding, the curriculum and intent. One of Charlotte's top tips is to ensure that all staff are clear on the intentions for the day.

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

## You are invited to the next learning walk

Pop the date in your diary and come along for some inspiration, share ideas and get some fantastic peer support! Meet Lead Practitioner and Nursery Manager, Paula Murray and her team as they provide us with a learning walk of their enabling environments for children from birth to 5 years of age.

**Wednesday 26th February**  
**6.30 to 8pm**  
**Buckshaw Village Nursery**  
Unity Place, Buckshaw Village  
Chorley, PR7 7HZ



No need to book, just turn up, there is no charge - childminders and all members of nursery teams are very welcome including students and volunteers!

## The do something big campaign: How To Love Your Job



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

The Do Something Big campaign team is delighted to share second episode of our new four-part series with Channel 4. In this episode, Ryan dives into the world of early years education to see if this could be the fresh, fun start he's been craving. Will it be his new creative calling? Life Coach, Anna Williamson, finds out. You can watch the episode [here](#).



## Experienced-based route for early years qualifications

This guidance document has been updated to include the experience-based route for early years. It also clarifies the qualification requirements for staff counting in the level 6 staff: child ratios in early years settings and references to the early years qualifications list. These changes will come into effect from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March subject to parliamentary procedure. [Early years qualification requirements and standards - GOV.UK](#)

*'Providers can start the experience-based route process with their staff from 3rd March 2025. However, providers must not count any staff in the level 3 ratios on the basis of the experience-based route until the staff: child ratio requirements in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework are changed. This is expected to be from September 2025.'*

**If this is something that interests you then please take some time to read the criteria that the setting must meet and the criteria for the practitioner.**

## Inclusion Newsletter

In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- SEND Partnership Strategic Plan 2025-28 update
- LEHSS Compassionate Schools Hub
- Supported Internships update
- Call for Project SEARCH Mentors
- EP myth-busting twilight for SENCOs and Headteachers/Nursery Managers
- The power of positive language



[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 11 February 2025](#) or attached

## Team Around the School and Settings (TASS)

One of our Education Partnership Officers is leaving us next week for pastures new. Alan Garner has a new post with CYJS in Westmorland and Furness and finishes with us at half term. We wanted to record our sincere thanks to Alan for his hard work, commitment to driving forward the TASS approach and his significant contribution to the Pennine Locality Group. You will be missed, Alan. We wish you every success in your new post.



For our schools and settings in Burnley and Pendle, Alicia Dixon ([Alicia.dixon@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Alicia.dixon@lancashire.gov.uk)) will be working with you in Burnley and Craig Brown will be the Pendle EPO ([craig.brown@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:craig.brown@lancashire.gov.uk))

## DfE and Ofsted Updates

[Funding for national professional qualifications \(NPQs\)](#) (updated 10<sup>th</sup> February)

Funding for courses and educational settings to help teachers and leaders take NPQs for their professional development. Including all early years settings e.g. nurseries and childminders.

[Establishing school-based nursery provision](#) (updated 11<sup>th</sup> February)

Non-statutory guidance for schools, responsible bodies and childcare providers looking to open or expand school-based nursery provision.