

# Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin

6<sup>th</sup> March 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](#)

## Save the date: New Practitioner's meeting



The next meeting is on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March at 4pm, no need to book just follow the link below on the day. We look forward to seeing you – see above for what to expect and our [website](#) for more details

[Join the meeting now](#)

## Something to do this week – share the safer sleep message

Over the next months, warmer weather will be arriving so it's an ideal time to review your arrangements for children who rest or sleep whilst in your care. The room temperature should be around 16 to 20 degrees and lighter bedding and open windows should be used to help regulate the temperature.

Take the opportunity to lie down and see the area from the child's perspective. What can they see and how does it feel? Is this a calm space for children to rest?

Check to see that bedding and equipment such as mats and cots are in good repair and being used appropriately.

Check your arrangements against the safer sleep guidance and your own risk assessments. Lancashire CSAP have excellent information and guidance to support you. Including advice for professionals, parents and grandparents.

<https://lancashiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/p/toolkits/safer-sleep-1>

The Lullaby Trust are hosting Safer sleep week next week to raise awareness amongst professionals and families. [www.lullabytrust.org.uk/about-us/our-campaigns/safer-sleep-week/](http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/about-us/our-campaigns/safer-sleep-week/)

Don't forget to share advice to parents and carers including information from the NHS

[www.what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/sleep](http://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/sleep)



## Let's Celebrate!



This week we are shouting a wonderful 'well done' to three settings in Lancashire who have recently had their Ofsted inspection reports published

**Stacey Javed from Accrington** shared how well her inspection went. Stacey said the inspector was 'really nice' and the inspection went well. The inspector didn't need to ask many questions because Stacey and her assistant talked about the setting in detail. Her report details how *'The childminder has built secure relationships with children. Children show they feel happy, safe and secure in the childminder's care. The childminder sets high expectations for all children. She provides opportunities for children to develop kind attitudes towards others'*. **Stacey's top tip is to be yourself.**

**Teresa Chapman in Garstang** has also had her inspection report published, with her inspector noting *'Children's communication and language skills are well promoted in the setting. The childminder consistently models children's mispronunciations in a sensitive manner. She uses open-ended questions to encourage children to talk about what they are doing as they play. As a result, children are confident communicators.'* Teresa shared that her inspector was lovely, and that the whole experience was much more pleasant than she had anticipated. In the pre-inspection call, the inspector had requested that Teresa have her Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding and Insurance certificates to hand, plus 2-year-old checks that for her to look through, so Teresa felt well prepared beforehand. **Teresa's top tips are: Be yourself, don't panic, and keep your activities simple. Be ready to talk about where your children are at developmentally, why you have selected the activities on the day, and how you might extend them.**

**Rachel Phillips from Thornton, Cleveleys** also shared her positive experience with us. Rachel's top tips are: **"Try to be yourself, know your plan in what you're going to do throughout the day."** Rachel also recommends **speaking to the children before the inspection to prepare them for a visitor being in the house, engaging with them and their play.** Rachel did this and says "it made the children really comfortable" during the inspection. Her inspection report notes how *'The childminder is actively engaging children in developing their mathematical understanding during hands-on activities. She encourages the children to count scoops and recognise numbers on the measuring jug. She is introducing concepts such as addition, measurement and comparison in a practical and engaging way'*.

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

## SEND Priority Action Plan Consultation

You may be aware that in December 2024 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook an inspection of the partnership support in Lancashire for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



### [Final Report](#)

In response to the Inspection findings a Priority Action plan has been created and they would very much like to capture the views of Early Years settings. You can complete the survey through the QR code or by using this link

[SEND Priority Action Plan Consultation](#)



Thank you for your input.

## Childcare Choices need your stories ...

The Department for Education's [Childcare Choices](#) campaign aims to ensure all parents visit the Childcare Choices website to see what they are eligible for now and in the future. There is a range of government support to help families with childcare costs, including Funded Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare, and Universal Credit Childcare.

We are looking to share the voices of nursery practitioners who can discuss the benefits of formal childcare and early years education. If you or your colleagues are willing to share your experiences, please get in touch.

Your insights can help parents understand the value of early years education and the role of passionate professionals in nurturing their children's growth. Sharing first-hand experiences from practitioners is powerful. It helps raise awareness of the benefits of childcare, both for children (e.g. socialisation, development milestones) and for parents (e.g. juggling family life).

If you are happy to be involved, we will introduce you to the PR team working on the Childcare Choices campaign. They will arrange a call to learn more about your experience and discuss how they plan to share your story – this might be through a press release or social content. You will have full control and approval over how your story is told through PR content.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Please email: [Jennifer.Dobson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Dobson@lancashire.gov.uk) or [Pamela.Bainbridge@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Pamela.Bainbridge@lancashire.gov.uk)

## New Domestic Abuse Support Partnership

A new Domestic Abuse support partnership has recently been launched across Lancashire, known as: Domestic Abuse Support Services Lancashire (DASSL).



The partnership is made up of a number of specialist agencies able to provide immediate support to adults, children and young people who are victim-survivors of domestic abuse. There will be the provision of direct access to services including safe accommodation, outreach services and 24 hour support via the free helpline 0300 3033 581. A simple post code check will highlight service provision in specific areas across the county.

The informative DASSL website provides lots of relevant information for survivors and professionals. [DASSL – Domestic Abuse Support Services Lancashire](#)

## Early Years Stronger Practice Hub March Conferences

Conference online: **SATURDAY 8th March 10am to 12pm - Sustainability in the Early**

**Years** online on Zoom:

This sustainability in the early years online session aims to support educators on the **17 Sustainability Development Goals** and how they can be put into practice in early childhood settings.

Audience: Childminders, nursery practitioners in PVI's and schools working with under 5s.



Conference online: **SATURDAY 22nd March 10am to 12pm - Can I undertake Beach exploration near me?** online on Zoom:

This early years online session aims to support educators in exploring what activities can be undertaken with under-fives using the beach sharing examples from Wirral, Crosby and Morecambe and how these examples can be put into practice in early childhood settings.

Audience: Childminders, nursery practitioners in PVI's and schools working with under 5s

Conference: **Wednesday 26th March 2025 3.30pm to 5.30pm** Face to Face at **Everton Nursery School and Family Centre, Spencer Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L6 2WF.**

Our theme for the conference is **Intergenerational sustainability and early numeracy** with Diane Boyd (Independent Consultant). Diane will share examples of how young children under five explore early numeracy linked to Intergenerational sustainability.

Conference: **Saturday 29th March 2025 9.30am to 12.30pm** Face to Face at **Everton Nursery School and Family Centre, Spencer Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L6 2WF. 9.30a.m. – 12.30p.m.**

Our theme for the conference is: **Exploring Interactive Reading with young children** with Alex Gower-Jones (Independent Consultant). Alex will share examples of how young children under five and Interactive Reading can be explored with the educators who work with them. Open to all Early Years practitioners in the LCR and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub Local Authorities. PVI's, Nursery Schools and EYFS school staff.

Please email: [sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk) to book a place.

## CSAP Safeguarding Newsletter

Please find below the link to the Safeguarding Newsletter for February 2025

[February 2025 - Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter](#)

Lancashire Safeguarding is a multi-agency partnership established to ensure safeguarding measures are met, vulnerable children and adults across Lancashire are protected from harm and abuse, and lessons are learned from case reviews and improvements identified and implemented.



This newsletter is primarily for organisations working in Lancashire (excluding Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) although the contents may be pertinent for those working in the unitary Local Authority footprint areas.

If you require a PDF version of this newsletter to print and share with staff who are offline, please contact the team via the mailbox: [LSBU@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:LSBU@lancashire.gov.uk)

[Go to this Sway](#)

## Foundation Years Resources: EYFS Safeguarding reforms

Based on consultation responses the DfE will proceed with implementing all the proposals consulted upon including for: safer recruitment, child absences, safer eating, safeguarding training and paediatric first aid training. Additionally, there are two new proposals on providing employment references and to support whistleblowing. The EYFS safeguarding reforms will come into force from 1st September 2025.

The Foundation Years website has published a webpage with resources to support early years providers, including a summary of EYFS changes, a vodcast and information materials for early years practitioners. [www.foundationyears.org.uk/2024/10/changes-to-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safeguarding-requirements-september-2025](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2024/10/changes-to-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safeguarding-requirements-september-2025)

The Early Years Quality Improvement Team will also be running face to face and virtual briefing sessions in June and July to help you ensure that you are fully prepared for these changes.

## Inclusion Newsletter



In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- IEST update
- Educational Psychology update, including the process for commissioning of EP Advice
- Spotlight on Dyscalculia

[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 4 Mar 2025](#) or please see the attached pdf.

## Childline Information Webinar

The Family Hubs have asked us to share the information with you about these free webinars. Please share with your families too.

Please find attached details about webinars taking place in May. There is also a poster attached, to share with any parents or carers that might be interested in attending.



### WEBINAR DETAILS

Join us for a free online session for parents to find out more about Childline, a partnered service from the NSPCC.

Childline is a free 24/7 service for children and young people up to the age of 19. During the sessions, we will go through what Childline is, the resources available for parents and confidentiality.

There are two webinar sessions, one during the day and one in the evening. Both sessions are the same, but we are offering them at different times to help ensure as many parents who want to attend can do so.

 When: Tuesday, May 6th 1-1:30pm

 Where: Online

 Reserve a spot: [Childline Online Event \(Daytime\)](#)

 When: Wednesday, May 7th 6 - 6:30pm

 Where: Online

 Reserve a spot: [Childline Online Event \(Evening\)](#)

## DfE and Ofsted Updates

[Childcare: significant events to notify Ofsted about](#) (updated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025)

Guidance for childminders, nannies and other registered childcare providers with examples of what Ofsted considers to be a significant event. Change made:

Wording added to confirm that Ofsted needs to be notified of any changes to the health of those associated with Ofsted-registered childcare that may affect their decision-making and resilience, even where the individual is not working directly with children.

[Ofsted regulation and inspection of childminder agencies](#) (updated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025)

Forms and guidance relating to Ofsted's regulation and inspection of childminder agencies. Change made: Added 'Childcare protocols between Ofsted and other organisations', which includes the working protocol between Ofsted and childminder agencies.

[Martyn Oliver's speech at the Nursery World Business Summit](#)

Sir Martyn Oliver, Ofsted's Chief Inspector, spoke at the 2025 Nursery World Business Summit in London.