

Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin 13th March 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?

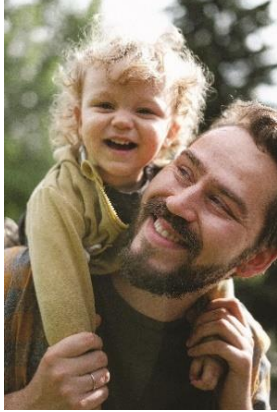
Join by coming on any (or all) of the free meetings - there is no need to book just click on the links below on the date at 4pm. We will chat to you about all sorts of elements of practice as well as giving you the opportunity to ask questions. We are really looking forward to meeting you and welcoming 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!
The role of the Key Person



Why is a key person approach important?

Children's personal, social and emotional development is helped by familiarity, predictability and knowing they feel supported by someone that cares about them. A key person knows the child well, they know how the child reacts and they can respond to them in a way that comforts them when they are upset, knows what makes them laugh and what they enjoy doing. When children have their basic needs met by that familiar person, they are settled, they can concentrate and they learn effectively. The key person interacts and observes the child and it gives them the knowledge they need to bring the child to their next steps in their learning journey.

What skills does a key person need?

- Good communicator
- Calm natured and confident in their own practice
- Sensitive to the needs of others
- Honest and open to discussions
- Ability to prioritise children's needs

Responsibilities of a key person

- Caring for and supporting the learning and development of individually named children.
- Being an inclusive practitioner who knows that families and children are unique and need a personal approach.
- Being a key person means having robust safeguarding procedures in place and being familiar with what to do if you are worried about a child. The key person may be directly involved in safeguarding cases for individual children.
- The key person is responsible for transitions for their key children, particularly starting at the setting and moving on from the setting but there are many and varied transitions that take place in children's lives and the key person may be involved in supporting the child.
- Being able to signpost families for help and support. There are many ways in which a key person can support the wider family with aspects that affect the child. This may be a special educational need or disability, family financial issues or parenting advice. The key person will be able to signpost families to get the support they need.

How can I be a good key person?

- When children are new to you, take the time to observe and interact with the child so that you get to know them really well and the child connects with you too.
- Make links with the child's family, find out about who lives at home with them, who are special in their lives, do they have a pet, what do they like doing at home.
- Build upon the relationship with families by talking to them at drop off and pick up times about what is happening at home and share what the child does at the setting.
- Share your knowledge of the child with the wider team so that if you are not there, the rest of the team know about the child.

Let's Celebrate!



This week we are shouting a wonderful Wednesday Well Done to three settings in Lancashire who have recently had their **Outstanding Ofsted inspection** reports published! 🌟🌟🌟

🌟 **Nicky Smith** a Childminder in Colne shared that the inspection was very relaxed and the inspector was impressed with the progress the setting had made with their environment since the last inspection. The inspector was lovely and took a lunch break which gave Nicky and her assistants time to discuss how it went and plans for the afternoon which was appreciated by them all. Her report notes how well - 'Children are given rich opportunities to work with outside providers. The childminder thinks carefully about how funding is used and considers what makes each child unique when planning for learning experiences'. Nicky's top tip is to stay calm, be positive and be confident in your own practice – sell yourself!

🌟 **Andrea Kuyucaklioglu** a childminder from Bacup had her practice celebrated with her report noting- 'The curriculum is ambitious and meticulously tailored to meet the needs of every child. The childminder's comprehensive understanding of each child's development means that learning is precisely planned to build on children's current skills. The childminder ensures that no child is left behind. 'Andrea shared that she works with her husband as her assistant and on the day the inspector put them at ease straight away. They carried on with their usual routine with the inspector asking questions in between the care and activities. She had a list of questions and Andrea gave a thorough learning walk both inside and outside the setting and explained why she had activities out and why certain posters were up on the wall. Andrea had recently completed SEN level 3 training and was able to confidently share her knowledge with the inspector. Andrea's top tip is to carry on as you usually do and don't try to do something that is new to the children.

🌟 **Little Explorers** in Cleveleys shared their positive Ofsted inspection experience. Manager Hannah Haworth said that the day went 'brilliantly'. The inspector put the whole team at ease from the beginning. The learning walk went really well and the questions were quite varied from safeguarding down to curriculum. The inspector spread herself evenly over the different age rooms and asked questions to all staff. The inspector noted in the report how - 'Staff plan a curriculum that has a strong focus on the process and not the end product. The curriculum is challenging for all children and helps them to succeed and achieve. Staff work extremely closely across all rooms to ensure that they adapt the curriculum to meet children's needs and offer children consistent high quality learning experiences.' Hannah's top tip is to embrace the day, don't be nervous and show off all the hard work of the team.

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

Childminder cluster meeting

A reminder to join the Childminder members cluster meeting on:

Tuesday 18th March 6.30 to 7.30 on Teams

If you don't have the link, please contact your Development Officer

Have you thought about ... Subject Champions (Digital publication)?



The fully editable subject champions pack allows you to implement a subject champion approach to support CPD in your setting.

Cost: £8.50

A subject champion approach is designed to help you to create experts in your setting who can ensure the best possible provision for the children in your care. Subject champions become specialists in a specific area or aspect of provision.

This pack helps you to set up and monitor the impact of a champion approach. Champions work through a four-stage process to ensure that each priority area is developed thoroughly. The pack allows you to support CPD, monitor peer observations and environmental walk throughs and is also an excellent resource to support effective supervision.

You can purchase the pack here:

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

And watch a short video explaining how the pack works here:

[Subject Champions video - Made with Clipchamp.mp4 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Department for Education Early Education and Childcare Provider Regional Roadshows

The Department for Education **Early Education and Childcare Provider Regional Roadshows** for group-based setting leaders and managers have returned for 2025.

You can register your interest for future regional roadshows, happening later in the year, via the [register your interests form](#).

These roadshows are your opportunity to find out more about current and future policy, delivery and strategy, including the Best Start in Life pillar of the Opportunity Mission and the expansion of childcare to all eligible working parents of children over the age of 9 months, and to share your views, ideas, best practice and the challenges that settings face.

The dates for the remaining 2025 roadshows set up so far are below.

Date	Location	Venue
12 March	East Midlands	Leicester Tigers, Leicester
25 March	Yorkshire and Humber	The Met Hotel, Leeds
30 April	South-east	Leonardo Royal Hotel Brighton Waterfront
21 May	East of England	Norwich City Football Club
3 June	South-west	DoubleTree by Hilton, Bristol City centre
24 June	North-east	Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle
8 July	North-west	The Midland, Manchester

For queries, please contact EY.STAKEHOLDERS@EDUCATION.GOV.UK.

Welcome to Cheryl Jones, the newest member of the Early Years Quality Improvement Team



Cheryl is delighted to join the Early Years Quality and Improvement Team. As part of her role she will be visiting settings across the whole of Lancashire.

Before joining the Early Years Team, Cheryl was a primary school teacher for over 16 years, spending most of her time in Early Years. She has a keen interest in young learners and has led projects to support our most vulnerable children. Cheryl has a passion for strengthening the development of children's communication and language skills. She loves deepening children's understanding about the world we live in and broadening their vocabulary to communicate effectively.

Cheryl spent most of her teaching career at a primary school in Sefton where she played an important part in achieving the Early Years Quality Award. Most recently, she has worked at an outstanding nursery school, in Lancashire, teaching children with complex needs and from diverse backgrounds.

Cheryl is really looking forward to meeting you and working together to improve the outcomes for children in Lancashire.

A guide to Early Years Pupil Premium



The Education Endowment Foundation has written a guide to Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) that explains what it is and why it matters along with resources to help your setting.

[Early Years Pupil Premium | EEF](#)

Lancashire EYPP Toolkit can be found on our website:



The toolkit may help you to think about how you are going to effectively meet children's needs.

Within the toolkit there are optional templates that you might find helpful in fully considering how to best utilise your funding and to monitor the impact that this has on the children's outcomes.

[Early years pupil premium \(EYPP\) funding - Lancashire County Council](#)

Using the toolkit will help you to think about:

- What are the identified gaps for these children?
- What has been the impact of any additional support on these children?
- What support can be provided to address any barriers over the course of the term?
- How will you know the additional funding has made a difference?

Lead Practitioner Setting Open Day

Lancashire's Early Years Lead Practitioner setting, Highfield Priory Nursery, would like to invite settings to their open day taking place on –

Saturday 22nd March 11 am – 3 pm

For more information and contact details, please see the attached flyer.



**DfE updates to FAQ's of the
FEE Entitlement Statutory Guidance**

The DfE updated their FAQs on 7th March on the new entitlements guidance and can be found attached.

All settings will have received an email from the FEE team regarding the charging rules on 28th February. A copy of the email sent out is attached.

Selected DfE Updates 4th - 10th March

[Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education](#)

The Department for Education's (DfE) sustainability leadership and climate action plans initiative.

Updated: 7 March 2025