

Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin

20th 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 13th May 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

Tuesday 8th July 2025 [Join the meeting now](#)

Something to do this week – check your emergency procedures

To help keep both children and adults safe you should have a clear, well understood procedure in the event of an emergency inside the building leading to an evacuation or an event that happens outside your building requiring you to 'lock down'.

This week you could check your evacuation procedure and your lock down procedure are up to date. Once you have checked that suitable systems are in place, make sure that all parents, staff and volunteers are aware of these procedures and their role should an event happen.

Consider, are staff and volunteers aware? Are both imbedded in your induction procedure if you employ others? Do you record any challenges as well as the practice itself and the action you take to remove or lessen these?

Guidance for emergency planning: www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings#security-related-incidents

You might find the information here useful: www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-safety-legislation-guidance-for-those-with-legal-duties including the [fire safety risk assessment 5 step checklist](#)

Fire Safety for Parents and Child Carers including Childminders leaflet: www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-for-parents-and-child-carers

The Early Years Alliance have useful article on lockdown procedures that can be adapted to your setting. www.eyalliance.org.uk/responding-emergencies

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!

Lighthouse Club and Out of School setting in Morecambe have had their first graded inspection.

Club manager Joy shared that the experience was a positive one. The inspector asked lots of questions and talked to committee members (including the vicar), staff and parents. She spent 20 mins making paper aeroplanes with a child whilst chatting to the child. The inspector asked Joy and her staff about safeguarding and commented positively on the routines such as their arrival routines. She also looked at planning in relation to their EYFS children. Their report noted *'Staff meet all children's needs to the highest level. For example, they support children with special educational needs/and or disabilities (SEND) through talking with parents and communicating with teachers. In addition, they share information with other professionals and signpost parents to local support networks, which may be helpful for them.'*

Tracey Chimejczuk a childminder in Oswaldtwistle shared her positive experience with us. Tracey explained that the inspection went very quickly. He spoke to parents prior to the inspection starting and he observed Tracey with the children. He asked about each child in her care and about the activities set up. He asked safeguarding and ratio questions. At one point, Tracey asked if she could take a few minutes from questioning to settle the baby and the inspector was quite happy for her to do this. Her inspection report highlights *'Communication and language development is a particular strength of*

*the well planned curriculum. The childminder sensitively models the correct pronunciation of words to children to support their developing speech. For example, she sits at the children's level so that they can see her mouth movements. **One of Tracey's top tip is to take a breath and relax. Don't be afraid to ask for a break for a short time if you need it.***

Sarah Doyle a childminder in Rishton has had her inspection report published, with the inspector noting '*Children keenly engage in the wide range of opportunities provided as part of the curriculum. This enables all children to make good progress. The childminder shares information about daily activities and next steps with parents to support a consistent approach in children's learning*'.

Sarah shared that the inspector was lovely but the inspection was a bit of a shock because she has only been registered with Ofsted for 10 months and wasn't expecting it so soon. He asked the expected questions and spoke to her assistant about her professional development. **Sarah's top tip is to be confident in what you do and say, so that the inspector feels your confidence shine through.**

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

April Training Programme

Please find attached the training available in April. Don't forget there is also a large range of instant access training available, take a look at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/training-and-information-for-all-early-years-settings/

Consultation on the proposed reforms to inspection



Do make sure that you take some time to input into the consultation on the proposed reforms to inspecting early years, state-funded schools, non-association independent schools, FE and skills and ITE. The changes include the proposed report card and the new inspection toolkit.

Improving education inspections: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AeKpRSW8G8

The consultation ends on the **28th of April**, so there is plenty of time for you, your colleagues and families to have an input.

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education-consultation-document#about-this-consultation

Ofsted webinar explaining what the proposals mean for early years providers:

- report cards: these will offer parents and carers more detailed information than the current reports, including a new 5-point grading scale to evaluate more areas of a provider's work and short summaries of what inspectors found
- education inspection toolkits: these will be used by inspectors and provision leaders to encourage professional dialogue when considering evaluation areas and reaching grades and to support leaders on their continuous improvement journey
- other changes to the way we carry out inspections. Watch it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CUx-DaXU0I

Inclusion Newsletter

In this edition of the Inclusion Newsletter:

- SEND Partnership Priority Action Plan update
- SEND Partnership Strategic Plan (draft) 2025-28
- Specialist Teaching Service – resource update
- Neurodiversity Celebration Week: 17-23 March
- World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March
- National Supported Internship Day: 27 March



[Inclusion Newsletter \(schools and settings\) 18 Mar 2025](#) or see attached pdfs.

Childcare Works: new inclusive practice resources

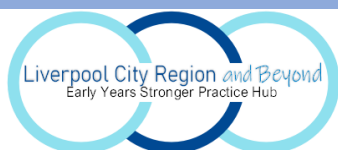
These resources have been produced by NASEN on behalf of Childcare Works to support inclusive practice in wraparound provision. They have developed ten bitesize videos to promote inclusive provision and to meet the needs of children with SEND.

To explore these resources visit the provider hub:

<https://childcareworks.org.uk/inclusive-practice-in-wraparound-provision/>



LCRB Stronger Practice Hub



Please find attached the hub's latest Newsletter with lots of news and information.

The hub also has a website with lots of information for you:

www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/strongerpracticehub

Tiny Happy People Survey

Help BBC Tiny Happy People provide valuable support for Early Years speech and language needs.



This research will inform the improvement and development of their resources for children and families you work with. Please share this survey link with all Early Years teams.

BBC Tiny Happy People are collaborating with Sherbet Research. The aim of this survey is to gather information on whether you are using BBC Tiny Happy People resources with families, which resources you are using, when, and how. They would also like to hear whether there are any barriers and your suggestions for improvement.

Please complete their quick survey (under 10 minutes). All responses are anonymous and will be combined with the views of Early Years Professionals across the UK.

Share your views here:

<https://survey.rigourresearch.co.uk/wix/p945956217697.aspx?qs=12>

Introducing the Health Protection Team



I am writing to introduce the Health Protection Team, part of Public Health at Lancashire County Council.

We are excited to present the first '**Heads up from Health Protection**' bulletin of the year! This bulletin is designed to keep you informed about the latest updates and initiatives in health protection, including national screening, vaccination, and immunisation programs, as well as environmental hazards, such as extreme hot and cold weather.

Our team is committed to raising awareness and providing valuable information to help you stay healthy and safe. We work to ensure that you have access to the resources and knowledge to help you make informed choices in order to protect yourself and your loved ones. Could we ask that you share this with contacts and across your network.

We hope that you find this bulletin interesting, informative and helpful.

[Heads up from Health Protection March 2025](#)

Kind regards
Health Protection team

Play Matters Publication

'Play Matters – Why Play Matters in Early Childhood' has been published this week. There is a free download or a hard copy can be purchased on the website.

The document explores the importance of play in all aspects of a child's life. It is filled with insights, research, and practical ideas to support parents and early years professionals.

www.early-years-reviews.com/play-matters



DfE and Ofsted updates

[Big Listen action monitoring reports](#) (Updated 17th March 2025)

Ofsted's monitoring reports on commitments made in the Big Listen and its response to Dame Christine Gilbert's independent learning review. Change made: Added 'Big Listen action monitoring report: March 2025'.

[Early years qualifications achieved outside the UK](#) (Updated 20th March 2025)

How you make an application for recognition of non-UK qualifications to work in an early years setting in England. Change made: Updated to clarify information about the Ecctis early years qualification recognition service and additional information about the experience-based route (EBR) for early years staff.

[Early years qualifications list: UK only](#) (Updated 20th March 2025)

UK qualifications that meet the Department for Education (DfE) criteria for counting in the early years foundation stage statutory framework staff: child ratios. Added link to new digital early years qualification checking service for early years managers.

[Early years and childcare: guidance for providers](#) (Updated 20th March 2025)

Information for early years providers, childminders and nurseries including guidance on the early years foundation stage (EYFS), funding, training and qualifications. Added section on early years qualifications and training including links to check an early years qualification and the early years qualification list.

[Check an early years qualification](#) (Updated 20th March 2025)

How managers can check an early years qualification is approved by DfE and see if the holder can count in staff: child ratios in an early years setting in England.