



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 6 – 5th February 2025

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Request for Schools to update their position on Wraparound Childcare

On 30th January we contacted all schools to request an update on their current position regarding wraparound childcare, before and after school, for primary school aged children. This is to support our revised Delivery Plan for the coming year, focusing support where it is most needed and assessing interest in forthcoming funding applications whilst there is funding to support this agenda. If you've not done so already, please reply by **14th February 2025**.

Disability Access Funding (DAF)

Claims for eligible children from 9 months to 4 years in receipt of any early years entitlement place and claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will need to be applied for before **Thursday 28th February 2025**. Any payments received after this date will be processed at the end of April 2025, in the new financial year.

Read what's coming up next - Important but not urgent information

EYPDP Update

As the Early Years Professional Development Programme comes to a close, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind participating practitioners that access to the Learning Platform will officially end shortly, with learning materials no longer being accessible. For Cohort 3 the official end date is Monday 10th February and for Cohort 4, Thursday 13th February.

Package of Early Years Qualification Initiatives

DfE have announced a package of early years qualification initiatives that will both support entry and progression within the workforce and ensure that the staff working with young children have the right skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality provision. To support early years settings to recruit and retain staff, from 3 March 2025, eligible educators will be able to access an [experience-based route](#). This is an opportunity for educators without currently approved qualifications, to develop their careers, and for providers to maximise the potential of their talented staff in a way that works best for the children in their care. In addition, there is the publication of the [Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship standard](#). This is a new, graduate-level qualification that will give everyone, from school leavers and junior staff to senior leaders, the opportunity to easily move into a specialist career in the early years sector. Later in Spring, there are also plans to introduce the Check an Early Years Qualification digital service which will guide managers through the process of checking the approval status of qualifications held by existing staff members and prospective employees, increasing their confidence that they have appropriately qualified staff.

Consultation Feedback and Business Meetings

Our consultation on the funding rates for the early years entitlements for 2025/26 closed on 31st January 2025. Feedback from the consultation and confirmation of the 2025/26 hourly rates, will be shared with early years providers in the PVI sector at the [Annual Business Meeting](#) on 6th February 2025 and with schools and academies at the [Early Years Funding Briefing for Headteachers and Business Managers](#) on 11th February 2025.

Training Opportunities

Early Years Funding Schools Briefing for Headteachers and Business Managers

Ahead of the new financial year, this briefing shares up to date funding information and reminders on how to submit accurate portal claims to ensure schools receive accurate funding, including EYPP. We still have spaces available for Tuesday 11th February 8.00am-09.00 am **OR** 4.00pm-5.00pm. [Click here for more information and how to book on.](#)

Brilliant Babies

With the early years entitlements now being offered to babies from 9 months old, there has been an increase in the number of babies accessing childcare provision and it has never been more important to ensure that the environment and curriculum for this unique age and stage is planned, understood and delivered appropriately and effectively. With this in mind, and in response to sector needs, we have developed 'Brilliant Babies', a two-part training programme to specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with the under twos. This is a 2-part course. We still have spaces available.

Part 1 is Wednesday 12th February and Part 2 is Thursday 20th March, both sessions are 9.30am-12.30pm.

[Click here for more information and how to book your place.](#)

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Network

The PVCI DSL Network is free to attend for Nottingham City DSLs and overseen by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP). Featuring regular guest speakers, the network provides valuable information to ensure all DSLs are kept up to date with current issues and developments. There are still spaces available on the next network on Wednesday 26th February. [Click here to book!](#)

Ofsted Consultation on the New Inspection Framework

On 3rd February 2025, Ofsted released its consultation on the New Inspection Framework, which will affect schools and other settings where children and adults learn, including Early Years. Ofsted are asking parents, carers, professionals, and learners what they think about their proposals to improve Education Inspections and the new report cards for providers. We would encourage you to share this with your parents and carers and complete this as a setting. The consultation can be found here: [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOV.UK](#) and closes on 28th April 2025.

Read when you get a moment – Information you might find interesting

'Do Something BIG' campaign – advertising vacancies on Find A Job ahead of upcoming events

The Department for Education's [Do Something BIG](#) recruitment campaign is continuing to highlight the huge difference early years educators make to young children and how rewarding working in the sector can be. Throughout February DfE are running a series of Do Something Big careers events across the country. The campaign directs potential applicants to use DWP's [Find a Job](#) vacancy platform to search for early years roles in their area, providing a valuable opportunity for employers to showcase their vacancies. Listing early years vacancies on Find a Job - which is free to use - is a cost-effective way of ensuring they are seen by a large pool of candidates and will help connect more job seekers with the opportunities they're looking for. Find out more [here!](#)

Magical storytelling for the early years: a week of storytelling activities

The National Literacy Trust have created an exciting, interactive storytelling project inspired by author Frances Stickley's enchanting book *What Will I Be?* for children aged 3 to 5 years (EYFS/F1). Find out more [here!](#)

New Toilet Training Guidance for Early Years Educators

The Department for Education has published new toilet training guidance on the Help for Early Years Providers website. This will help educators understand how to support babies and young children with toilet training in early years settings. You can read the guidance here: [Help for early years providers : Toilet training.](#)

New! Resources on the Early Years Website

We are really excited to release three vodcasts to support practitioners with some behaviours that can be difficult to deal with: Biting and Spitting, Hitting, Kicking and Throwing and also PICA. The vodcasts aim to provide useful tips and strategies to support practitioners understand why behaviours may happen and what they can put in place to help reduce or prevent these behaviours occurring. The vodcasts can be found [here](#) on the Early Years Website.

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