



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 13 – 21st May 2025

Read me now – Urgent and important information

DfE Consultation Launch - EYFS Space Requirements

The DfE are exploring new ways to help providers offer more high-quality childcare places for families, including access to outdoor space. Evidence shows the huge benefits of outdoor play to children from improved problem solving to mental and physical health. Yet currently, the government's early years framework requires provision of outdoor play but only formally recognises indoor space in its requirements for how many children nurseries and childcare providers can take on at any one time. This consultation has been launched because early years providers expressed a desire for these rules to be updated, so the DfE are seeking views on whether to introduce flexibility into the EYFS that will allow free-flow outdoor space to be included in the indoor space requirements, with a possible cap on the number of additional places that can be offered. The government is also seeking feedback on the proposed definition of "free flow". The consultation "Space Requirements in Early Years Childcare Settings" runs until 11 July 2025 and is available [here](#)

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

SENCO Network – Thursday 5th June 2025

The next SENCO Network takes place on Thursday 5th June, 10am – 12pm via MS Teams for our Network Members. We will be welcoming Kirsten Chung, Senior Educational Psychologist, to discuss Selective Mutism and Reluctant Talkers and sharing local and national updates. We look forward to seeing you there!

Creating Inclusive Provision: A toolkit for providers of wraparound childcare, breakfast clubs and holiday activities and food programmes

Creating Inclusive Provision (CIP) is an interactive digital toolkit developed to support schools, private, voluntary and independent providers, childminders, and local authorities in creating inclusive wraparound provision that is accessible to families of primary aged children with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes breakfast clubs, after school childcare and holiday provision. You can access the CIP toolkit directly [here](#) or via the [wraparound pages](#) of our website.

Do Something Big Campaign

The next wave of the [Do Something Big campaign](#) will run from 19 May-14 September 2025, encouraging more people to explore a fulfilling career in early years and childcare. New adverts include 15-second social videos that challenge common barriers to joining the sector, alongside new content specifically designed to encourage more men to consider working in early years roles. The campaign will be across TV, radio, digital, social media, billboards, and the rail network. The [campaign website](#) also directs thousands of potential applicants to [Find A Job](#) every week and providers can advertise roles on there for free, which will ensure they are seen by a large pool of candidates. You can find the 'DWP Find a Job instructions' on our [website](#).

Communications for Parents – 30 Hours from September 2025

From September 2025, eligible working parents will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare a week, for 38 weeks of the year, starting from the term after their child turns 9 months old until they begin school. All eligible working parents of children who will be at least nine months old on or before 31 August can now apply for their 30 hours childcare. The DfE have produced a [mini communications toolkit](#) for providers to use with parents to promote the working entitlements, remind them to get their code and to visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to find out more about the support available to them.

Agreement Trialling Sessions

This term the Early Years Team will be providing opportunities to support the EYFSP process, focusing on a particular area and then an area or child of your choice. The sessions will also share the most recent national and local updates and the latest information regarding the completion of the Statutory EYFSP.

Following a dip in attainment for reading last year, the **F2 session will focus on reading** and an area of or child of your choice, also considering how different schemes can support us with our ELG judgements and the **F1 session will focus on physical development**, looking at opportunities to provide challenge and risk to further enhance provision.

Age	Focus	Date	Venue	Time	Book
F2	Reading and an Area or Child of your Choice	Wednesday 4 th June 2025	Online	9am – 11.30am or 1pm – 3.30pm	For more information and to book your place, please click here!
F2		Thursday 5 th June 2025	Castle Cavendish	9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm	
F1	Physical Development and an Area or Child of your Choice	Tuesday 17 th June 2025	Castle Cavendish	9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm	For more information and to book your place, please click here!
F1		Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Online	9am – 11.30am or 1pm – 3.30pm	

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

Childcare Works Resources for Schools regarding the National Wraparound Childcare Programme

Childcare Works have produced a series of recordings and a helpful checklist to help support the participation of schools in the national wraparound childcare programme. The content is split into 7 sections. Sections 1-4 contain information to help schools determine their role within the programme, section 5 is a series of guides to support setting up of provision, section 6 is about ongoing monitoring of provision and section 7 is for schools who would like to work with a PVI provider. You can find the recordings [here](#), and they can be accessed in any order.

The recordings are accompanied by a [checklist](#) to help track which recordings have been accessed and signposts to additional resources mentioned during the session. The checklist can be used with schools or by schools to track which recordings have been accessed and signposts to additional resources mentioned during the session. If you are a school thinking of developing wraparound provision, please do check out our [website](#) as we only have 2 rounds of funding left to apply for!

Early Years Office Closure

Please note the Early Years Office will be closed on Monday 26th May 2025 for the Bank Holiday.

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