

Early Years Education and Skills Hub Newsletter – April 2025.

This month's newsletter includes:

- Open Consultation- Improving the way Ofsted Inspects Education.
- Check an Early Years Qualification (CEYQ) Service is Now Live
- Charging Guidance – Provider communication with parents
- The EEF Guide to the Early Years Pupil Premium
- Recruitment and Retention in Early Years Foundation Years Vodcast
- Supervised Toothbrushing for Children to Prevent Tooth Decay
- Sensory Processing: What it is and why it matters- E-Learning Course.
- Early Years: Developing a Neurodiversity Affirming Approach through the Reflection Toolkit
- Thriving Together: Healthy Learning Healthy Lives Event
- Early Years: New to Role of SENCO
- Welcome to iKids: Investigating Kids' Interaction with Digital Screens
- Opportunities Career Fair at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Early Years: Refresher in The EYFS for Nursery Practitioners
- Early Years: Childminding Pre-Registration Course

Open Consultation- Improving the way Ofsted Inspects Education

Ofsted are asking parents, carers, professionals and learners what they think about our proposals to improve education inspections and their new report cards for providers.

This consultation closes at: **11:59pm on 28 April 2025.**

Give your views here: [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education)

In summary, they propose:

- **Report cards** – these would give 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** – this tool shows providers and inspectors the evaluation areas that they focus inspections on and how they will assess and grade providers.
- **Inspection methodology** – changes to how they carry out inspection.
- **Full inspections and monitoring inspections, state-funded schools** – they plan to end ungraded inspections of state-funded schools and change

their monitoring programmes so that they can check that timely action is taken to raise standards.

- **Identifying state-funded schools causing concern** – a new approach to how they will place a school into a category of concern.

Read the full plans here: [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education: consultation document - GOV.UK](#)

Check an Early Years Qualification (CEYQ) Service is Now Live

We announced in January that we were developing a digital tool to help Early Years (EY) managers check whether staff qualifications meet ratio requirements in England. Following final testing, we are pleased to announce that the **Check an Early Years Qualification (CEYQ) service** has now launched on [Check an early years qualification - GOV.UK](#)

By entering details such as the qualification name, awarding organisation, and course start date, managers will receive a clear outcome that can be printed for records.

This service simplifies qualification checks, saving time during recruitment and HR processes. It supports workforce planning, ahead of the expanded funded childcare entitlements by September 2025.

CEYQ is for EY managers only and currently covers UK qualification. Other users should continue using the [Early Years Qualifications List \(EYQL\)](#) to check their qualifications or seek guidance from [Ecctis](#).

If you require assistance when using the service, please follow this [link](#).

DFE Update Charging Guidance – Provider communication with parents

A few providers and LAs have asked about communication with parents and whether it remains acceptable to promote the benefits of their offer to parents, for example the benefits of additional activities or their food offer. Providers are able to do this

within the guidance as long as they are mindful of any **impacts on access for disadvantaged families** and it is made clear to parents that charges are not mandatory. They may wish to agree termly arrangements with parents regarding additional hours, activities or consumables purchased to aid with business planning and provide for stability of income.

In general, we recognise that the increased clarity on charging following the recent High Court judgment and subsequent updated guidance may necessitate an adjustment in business models for some providers, though it is important to stress that there has been no change to the underlying law and DfE's position has always been that charges must not be mandatory or a condition of accessing an entitlement place. We would encourage LAs to take a supportive and pragmatic approach to supporting providers during any transition to compliance

The Department is not encouraging parents to opt out (as long as reasonable alternatives are offered for parents who do opt out, and the impact on disadvantaged parents is considered) and where providers are anxious about communicating with parents they may wish to use or align with the Childcare Choices Campaign's focus this term on how early years education supports children's development as well as helping families juggle family life a little easier.

We know that many providers have been reassured that once they've spoken to parents, parents have proved supportive regarding any changes necessitated by the updated guidance.

Here is the **Childcare Choices newsletter** that was sent to 270k parents last week which include a parent case study, sharing their story of how their provider celebrated World Book Day and how early years education supports their child's development: [Final reminder to working parents: apply for your childcare code](#)

They may find it helpful to use case study quotes that were included in a recent press notice:

Dr Elizabeth Kilbey, a psychologist specialising in child development and play, supports the Childcare Choices campaign. She comments:

"As a parent, balancing everything can be overwhelming, but knowing your child is supported by trained professionals makes all the difference. Activities like messy play aren't just about making a mess - they're essential for development, helping children explore and learn creatively. Formal childcare offers a variety of play activities tailored to children's learning needs, boosting cognitive and communication skills. It also broadens their horizons by introducing them to new ideas, cultures, and experiences. Formal childcare supports parents on this wonderful journey, preparing children not just for school, but for life. I encourage parents to explore the Childcare Choices website to find the best support for their needs."

Early Education Minister Stephen Morgan says:

"Investing in early years education ensures every child has the best possible start in life. This is central to the government's mission to break the unfair link between background and success, and to get a record 75% of 5-year-olds in England ready to

learn when they start school. High-quality formal childcare supports children's social skills and overall development, helping them thrive. Visit the Childcare Choices website to discover the support available and help your child succeed."

Juggling the beautiful chaos of family life can be challenging. With expanding childcare options, Childcare Choices can help more parents find the support that fits your family. Visit the Childcare Choices website to check your eligibility now, and in the future.

The following campaign toolkit can be used by LAs and Providers: Link to the **provider guidance** on the **Childcare Choices website**: [Provider guidance and resources | Childcare Choices](#)

Our strategic communications team run regular communications working groups with LAs to give the latest updates on campaign activity, share best practice across regions, understand local challenges and even test messaging. We have over 80 LAs signed up currently and welcome participation from any LAs who aren't represented. You can contact samara.bryan@education.gov.uk to get added to the next round of sessions.

The EEF Guide to the Early Years Pupil Premium

The Education Endowment Foundation has released a guide to Early Years Pupil Premium and how this should be used effectively for children. The document is designed to support Early Years settings in making informed decisions about how to use their increased EYPP funding.

The guide – developed in consultation with early years leaders – recommends a balanced approach to spending and encourages settings to:

- **Develop quality practice**, including through investing in high-quality professional development.
- **Tailor personalised support**, including targeted interventions that meet children's specific needs.
- **Lead, plan, and sustain**, including supporting meaningful engagement between leaders and their teams so that changes to practice stick.

Click here to view: [Early Years Pupil Premium | EEF](#)

Recruitment and Retention in Early Years Foundation Years Vodcast- 4 part

Seb Thorpe (Head of Begin Bright) is joined by Gill Mason (Training Academy Director and Designated Safeguarding Lead at Kids Planet Day Nurseries) to explore a series of questions and topics on recruitment strategies to attract and retain staff, how to promote diversity and inclusion within Early Years settings, how to leverage apprenticeships and encouraging staff members to specialise within their career progression.

Part 1- [Recruitment and Retention in Early Years – Part 1 - Foundation Years](#)

Part 2- [Recruitment and Retention in Early Years – Part 2 - Foundation Years](#)

Part 3- [Recruitment and Retention in Early Years – Part 3 - Foundation Years](#)

Part 4- [Recruitment and Retention in Early Years – Part 4 - Foundation Years](#)

Supervised Toothbrushing for Children to Prevent Tooth Decay

The government has released information on how they intend to release a programme which will reach up to 600,000 children in most deprived areas. Doncaster have been running the supervised toothbrushing club and continue to offer this support and guidance for all our early years settings.

Click here to view the press release- [Supervised toothbrushing for children to prevent tooth decay - GOV.UK](#)

For more information on how you could support children in your setting in Doncaster click on the link - [Supervised Toothbrushing - City of Doncaster Council](#)

Sensory Processing: What it is and why it matters- E-Learning Course

This e-learning introduces sensory processing: what it is and why it matters and is intended to be used by a wide variety of practitioners especially those working directly with Disabled Children and Young People and those with Special Educational Needs.

This course was originally developed as training by the Early Years SEND Partnership, and has now been re-purposed to create this e-learning that is now delivered through the RISE (Research and Improvement for SEND Excellence) Programme, a contract funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

The course covers the following topics:

1. Sensory systems and sensory processing differences.
2. Practical application of the theory and where to go for support.
3. Sensory environments.

This course should take around 90 minutes to complete, including making notes in the accompanying learning log document.

Click here to sign up: [Sensory Processing: What it is and why it matters - The RISE Partnership: Research and Improvement for SEND Excellence](#)

Early Years: Developing a Neurodiversity Affirming Approach through the Reflection Toolkit

28th April 2025 18:30 - 20:30- Online- [Early Years: Developing a Neurodiversity Affirming Approach through the Reflection Toolkit | Buy Doncaster](#)

Outline

Neurodiversity affirming practice embraces and acknowledges variations in learning and development, advocates neurodiversity and do not prescribe to deficit narratives which describe what children cannot do. Reflection Toolkit is a resource which encourages practitioners to consider areas where provision may need adjustment, in order to support children with learning differences.

The Toolkit was written and devised by Doncaster Early Years Inclusion Team in partnership with Tapestry and the Foundation Stage Forum. It aims to ensure all children have the best possible chance of making progress and to provide a holistic picture of a child's learning.

Description

Learn to support children with SEND by advocating a neurodiversity affirming approach.

This course will cover the following topics:

- What is neurodiversity?;
- Celebratory Approach;
- Diverse understanding of education;

- Reflection Toolkit & strengths based reflection;
- Diverse ways children learn and develop through language.

Outcomes

Learn how to become an ally for Neurodiversity affirming practice.

Booking Information

Please read the T&Cs for the cancellation policy for this course. Delegates will receive their MS Teams links at least 24 hours before the session via the email provided on booking.

Audience


Early Years Practitioners, Childminders


Thriving Together: Healthy Learning Healthy Lives Event


We are excited to invite you to our **FREE Thriving together: Healthy Learning Healthy Lives** Event, supporting a healthier and thriving younger generation.

Staff from Early Years, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Special Schools and Post-16 settings are invited to attend this event hosted by the Children, Young People & Families Public Health team at City of Doncaster Council to find out more about health and wellbeing programmes and support available.

We invite you to **register your interest** and we will be in touch with more details when event registration opens.

 **Event Date:** Tuesday April 29th 2025, 1:30-5:30pm (you will be able to book a slot to attend or drop-in during this time)

 **Location:** Castle Park, Armthorpe Road, Doncaster DN2 5QB

 **Register Your Interest & Complete the Survey:** [Thrive Together: Healthy Learning, Healthy Lives Event 2025](#)

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to working together to create a healthier future for our young people!

Early Years: New to Role of SENCO

Outline

This course is aimed for SENCOs who are new to the role or who have not accessed any previous introductory training.

It is a requirement of the Local Code of Practice that all group provisions have a named SENCO and that all SENCOs attend appropriate training. Ideally the setting SENCO should be a senior member of staff (Level 3 qualified with at least 2 years post qualification experience) working in a management role.

Before you attend the first session, please:

- Have an awareness the Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0-25 years (January 2015).
- Have an awareness of the Early Years: Guide to the 0-25 years SEND code of practice.
- Refer to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 and note/highlight all references to SEND.

Description

This course will cover:

- Special Education Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 25 years (January 2015), associated statutory legislation and the implications in practice in Doncaster.
- The Graduated Approach.
- Basic skills and strategies for the SENCO role.
- Awareness of SEND and current issues in SEND.
- Awareness around requests / referrals.
- Multi agency working.
- Working with parents
- Writing effective targets/learning outcomes and support staff to plan appropriate outcomes for children with SEND.

Programme

Day 1: 24/04/2025 | 09:30 - 12:00

Venue: Central Family Hub, Welcome Way, Doncaster, DN1 3LE

Day 2: 01/05/2025 | 09:30 - 12:00

Venue: Central Family Hub, Welcome Way, Doncaster, DN1 3LE

Day 3: 08/05/2025 | 09:30 - 12:00

Venue: Central Family Hub, Welcome Way, Doncaster, DN1 3LE

Day 4: 12/06/2025 | 13:30 - 16:00

Venue: Central Family Hub, Welcome Way, Doncaster, DN1 3LE

Outcomes

This course aims:

- To enable participants to have a clear understanding of the Special Education Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 5 years (January 2015), associated statutory legislation and the implications in practice in Doncaster.
- To enable participants to acquire basic skills and strategies for the SENCO role.
- To raise awareness of SEND and current issues in SEND.
- To raise awareness around requests / referrals.
- To enable participants to write effective targets/learning outcomes and support staff to plan appropriate outcomes for children with SEND.

Click here to book: [Early Years: New to Role of SENCO | Buy Doncaster](#)

Welcome to iKids: Investigating Kids' Interaction with Digital Screens

iKids is a unique longitudinal study that aims to understand if interactive electronic devices, such as tablets and smartphones, change the health and development of children younger than 6 years old. The project will also seek to understand what causes these changes in development.

We are looking to recruit 153 **Nurseries, Preschools** and **Childminder** settings in across **West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Derbyshire** and **Nottinghamshire** for [study 2](#).

Click here for more information for nurseries/preschools: [Information for nurseries/preschools – ikids](#)

Click here for more information for childminders: [Information for childminders – ikids](#)

Click here for more information for parents: [Information for Parents – ikids](#)

Opportunities Career Fair at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park

On the 6th of March the Early Years Inclusion Team joined up with the Skills and Careers team to showcase early years as a career to primary aged children, secondary aged children, and parents at the Opportunities Career Fair. The fair was held at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park so Katie wore animal print to fit in! The team set up a shaving foam activity up to promote early years development and get the

children and young adults to think about how exploring this activity would support a child with their learning and development.



Early Years: Refresher in The EYFS for Nursery Practitioners

Click here to book: [Early Years: Refresher in The EYFS for Nursery Practitioners | Buy Doncaster](#)

1. *Do you have any staff that are new to childcare?*
2. *Do you have any staff that have had a break from childcare and returned?*
3. *Do you have any apprentices that may benefit from support with child development?*
4. *Do you have any staff members who need a little refresher in child development, interactions, and environment?*

If so, then the **Early Years: Refresher in The EYFS for Nursery Practitioners** is the perfect course for them!

Outline

This course is designed to support practitioners who need a 'new' insight or refresher into Early Years.

We will focus on:

- Basic principles and practice within Early Years,

- Knowledge, understanding and how to support children's learning and development (EYFS 7 Educational Programmes with a focus on prime areas),
- High quality interactions,
- An enabling environment,
- Working with parents and other partners.
- Role of key person
- We will get to observe practice, interactions and look at the learning environment
- Curriculum and the skills children develop
- Adults' role in play, teaching and learning
- Characteristics of effective learning
- An insight into special educational needs

Description

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. The course aims to explore the basics needed to understand the EYFS, including examining the revised Statutory EYFS framework and non- statutory development guidance.

The course is run over two sessions which will take attendees from basic principles and practice, supporting high quality interactions and children's development, through to the enabling environment, and working with parents and professionals. There will be gap tasks for practitioners to carry out between the sessions. It is expected that the Nursery Manager will support and mentor the practitioner during these tasks.

Programme

Day 1: 02/05/2025 | 09:00 - 13:00

Venue: Denaby Family Hub, School Walk, Denaby Main, Doncaster DN12 4HZ

Trainer: Katie Musgrave, Early Years Support Officer

Day 2: 16/05/2025 | 12:30 - 16:00

Venue: Denaby Family Hub, School Walk, Denaby Main, Doncaster DN12 4HZ

Trainer: Katie Musgrave, Early Years Support Officer

Early Years: Childminding Pre-Registration Course

Click here to book: [Early Years: Childminding Pre-Registration Course | Buy Doncaster](#)

Outline

This course should be undertaken following accessing a Childminder Briefing Information to enable a greater understanding of the statutory and non-statutory requirements regarding registration with Ofsted.

To access Childminder Briefing Information PowerPoint, please message Louise Pitcher on Louise.Pitcher@doncaster.gov.uk or Anita Szrajber on Anita.Szrajber@doncaster.gov.uk

Please ensure to read the notes below the slides.

Through attending this course you will be provided with tools and advice to develop the skills required to complete documentation and provide an appropriate environment for children. A pack of reference and support documents will be provided at the beginning of the course, which is to be brought to each of the sessions. Handouts will be provided at each session, but it is suggested that you also take notes for yourself.

Description

Course content:

- Setting up a childminding business: registration with HMRC; recording income and expenditure; completing Tax Returns; marketing your business; undertaking market research; developing a business plan.
- Providing an enabling environment: looking at equipment and resources and how best to use these; activities and experiences that children should access.
- Learning and Development: discussion and example documents that can be used to record child observations, advice around planning children's next steps, learning how children are making progress; how/why you produce a 2 year Progress Report.
- Child development: a series of DfE online child development training sessions to complete at your own pace. The sessions will cover physical, cognitive and personal, social and emotional development of children.
- The Safeguarding and Welfare requirements of the EYFS: looking at and discussing the requirements in Section 3 of the EYFS: producing policies and procedures; how to safeguard your setting; legal documentation ie: contracts, records, insurance; discussion around what to expect during your Ofsted registration visit.
- Basic Awareness in Child Protection and Safeguarding Children: a child protection training course that enables identification, understanding and response to possible signs of abuse or neglect including discussion of the categories and signs of abuse; how to record incidents; reporting requirements; contact details for partner agencies.

Programme

Day 1: 07/05/2025 / 09:00 - 16:00

Title: Face to Face: Childminding Pre-Registration Course Day 1

Venue: Wheatley Family Hub, Old School Way, Doncaster DN2 4AJ

Trainer: Louise Pitcher, Childminder Support Officer

Day 2: 10/05/2025 / 09:00 - 09:00

Title: E-learning: Child Development online modules

Venue: DfE child development online sessions will be shared at the point of signing up for the course. The modules are to be completed at your own pace by no later than 30/06/2025. We will require certificates of completion in order to issue Pre-registration course certification.

Trainer: Louise Pitcher, Childminder Support Officer

Day 3: 17/05/2025 / 09:00 - 09:00

Title: E-learning: Safeguarding and Child Protection Training Part 1

Venue: Part 1 of Safeguarding and Child Protection Training needs to be completed prior to attending Part 2, which will be delivered face to face on 17/06/2025.

Trainer: Jayne Bloodworth, Early Years Quality Assurance Officer - Safeguarding & Welfare

Day 4: 21/05/2025 / 09:00 - 16:00

Title: Face to Face: Childminding Pre-Registration Course Day 2

Venue: Wheatley Family Hub, Old School Way, Doncaster DN2 4AJ

Trainer: Louise Pitcher, Childminder Support Officer

Day 5: 17/06/2025 / 18:30 - 21:00

Title: Face to Face: Safeguarding and Child Protection Training Part 2

Venue: Legacy Centre Unit 12 Shaw Wood Way Doncaster DN2 5TB

Trainer: Jayne Bloodworth, Early Years Quality Assurance Officer - Safeguarding & Welfare

Outcomes

This course has been devised to comply with the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, April 2017 (EYFS) which states: 'a registered childminder must have completed training which helps them to understand and implement the EYFS before they can register with Ofsted'.

Booking Information

The course introduces a blended learning approach, which consists of e-learning sessions and face to face training.

- Face to face sessions: 09/05/2025, 16/05/2025, 17/06/2025.
- E-learning: DfE Child Development Modules (7 available) + Part 1 of Safeguarding training available through Buy Doncaster e-learning platform.

All sessions must be attended/completed to receive a course certificate.
Please read the T&Cs for the cancellation policy for this course.