



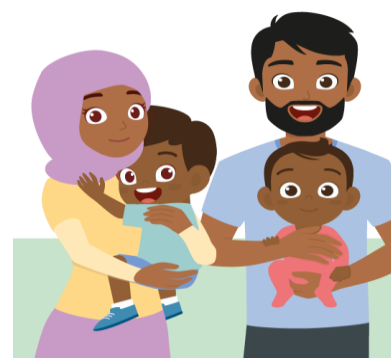
Early Years  
Service

*At the heart of everything we do is a belief in the best start for children*

# Spring Briefing 2025-2026

## New cohorts and transitions

Now that we are coming into the Spring term, how are your community of children settling? What are their needs and areas of strength? How are you supporting this in your setting as well as working with parents in partnership to develop these areas?



## Updates, documents and guidance

### Safeguarding updates



The Safeguarding Autumn and Spring Term updates are now available on the website. You can also access our new online library of Safeguarding Questions of the Week and the updated Safer Recruitment training.

### Communication Week

Buckinghamshire Council's Early Years Service marks its seventh Communication Week from **2–6 March 2026**, celebrating the theme: *"Engage with chat, explore through play, read together."* Follow the link for more information, resources and live events throughout the week. [Communication Week | Early Years](#)



### Health Updates

Did you know that in Buckinghamshire, 1 in 5 children aged five have obvious dental decay? In the most deprived areas, this increases to around 1 in 3.

You can access further support and resources through:

- ❖ [Help for early years providers: Oral health](#)
- ❖ [Baby and toddler tooth care - Best Start in Life - NHS](#)
- ❖ [Dental health lesson materials for EYFS & SEND](#)

Research shows that 1 in 4 children today aren't toilet trained when they start reception. The new, Government-backed guide to when and how to potty train your child is now available [The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#).

You can access further support and resources through:



## Spotlight Discussion



DfE research found that 98% of children use screens daily, averaging 127 minutes, yet only 34% meet the recommended limit of less than one hour per day.

## Suggestions and strategies

Shared by practitioners

- ❖ Smart phone free zone
- ❖ Parental workshops
- ❖ Offering low-cost screen-free alternatives