



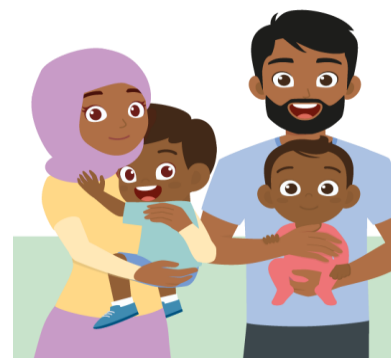
**Early Years
Service**

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

Autumn Briefing 2025-2026

New cohorts and transitions

As we reflect on the beginning of the Autumn term, how have your community of children settled in? How did transitions support this? What are the children's starting points and baselines? What are their needs and strengths?



Updates, documents and guidance

[Giving every child the best start in life](#)

The UK Government's strategy outlines a comprehensive plan to improve early childhood outcomes by investing in family services, early education, and childcare. Information and resources are available for parents and practitioners.

[GO ALL IN | National Year of Reading 2026](#)

The Department for Education and National Literacy Trust will launch the National Year of Reading in January 2026 to inspire a love of reading among children and young people by uniting families, schools, libraries, and literacy experts.

[The writing framework](#)

[Writing Framework Webinar for Leaders on Vimeo](#)

The Writing Framework offers evidence-based guidance to support effective writing from Reception to Key Stage 2, focusing on transcription, composition, and sentence development.

[Strong foundations in the first years of school - GOV.UK](#)

The report by Ofsted explores how schools can best support children in Reception and Key Stage 1 to secure essential knowledge and skills. It highlights the importance of high-quality early education, and offers evidence-based recommendations for curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment.

[Best start in life: a research review for early years - GOV.UK](#)

The three-part Ofsted reviews explore what high-quality early education looks like, how children develop in the prime areas, and how specific areas enrich learning in the early years.

[Parent Puzzle Family Information Service](#)

Parenting Puzzle is a free Family Hubs training for parents of under-5s, delivered by trained practitioners after a 5-day course. It includes a 10-week nurture programme, with materials provided. A £1800 fee applies for non-attendance. Please use the link to complete an expression of interest form.

Suggestions and strategies to support transitions

Shared by practitioners

- ❖ Post a welcome card to each child to help them feel excited and valued before joining the setting.
- ❖ Welcome parents and carers to coffee meetings each term.
- ❖ Support smooth transitions by having key workers spend time in the child's current room before they move to a new one.
- ❖ Visit children who have transitioned to school in the Autumn term.
- ❖ Send a video of the Key Person reading a story and share activities based on the child's interests.