



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

9th October 2025

Just a reminder the Early Years service do offer a vacancy service where you can advertise your vacancies free of charge. If you would like to use this service, please follow the below link.

[Early Years Jobs Vacancy Submission Form](#)

Dear Provider,

Please see below important guidance and information we hope you will find useful. Please ensure you share this update with all colleagues within your organisation. Any colleague interested in receiving these updates can do so by [subscribing here](#).

To support us to ensure all our staff are safe when out and about, please can we ask that you make contact with the Early Years Service if a member of staff doesn't attend/arrive for a visit when scheduled?

Please contact 01296 387111 or earlyyears@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Thank you.

What's in this week's updates:

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Childcare Workforce Recruitment and Retention – advice for early years and childcare providers

We know that recruitment and retention of staff is one of the sector's biggest challenges. Childcare Works have created [Advice for early years and childcare providers \(PDF\)](#) to support you with childcare workforce recruitment. This resource includes:

- Actions you can take to support childcare workforce recruitment and retention
- A summary of the Timewise Childcare Pioneers Project with five recommendations for providers
- Practitioners' view
- Childcare workforce background information

In addition, Timewise have developed a Flexible working guide to nursery managers. Being able to work flexibly is increasingly seen as a cornerstone for good work-life balance and it has been proven to improve health and wellbeing. The demand for flexibility continues to rise. Employees, and candidates, are increasingly looking for a degree of flexibility. Take a look at this document for advice on how flexible working can be developed in the early years.

[Timewise-A-Guide-for-Nursery-Managers.pdf](#)

Early Years Service Wraparound Project

Primary schools are being supported to provide wraparound care for children in reception class and above between 8am and 6pm, for parents who require it. This is the first regular update for all wraparound providers.

Can you help?

We are interested in talking with:

- Childminders offering breakfast or after school care, and the primary schools they support.
- Childminders open to expanding their service to collect from more schools locally, especially in rural areas or with SEND experience.
- Wraparound providers (including schools and childminders) with waiting lists for wraparound provision and would like help to expand their provision.
- Providers needing support to improve sustainability, budgeting, or marketing.

If you are one of the above, please email earlyyears@buckinghamshire.gov.uk with your details to enable us to contact you.

Quality Improvement Funding

Applications are open for providers to apply for Quality Improvement Funding. This funding is to be used to support providers to improve the quality of their EYFS provision in line with the 30hr expansion. It is allocated as a contribution towards the cost of resources and/or training. Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have read the guidance:



QI funding
guidance.pdf

Key dates for applications:

Mon 8th Sept – Fri 21st November 2025

Applications must be made within these dates to be considered for the first round of Quality Improvement funding. After the closing date applications will be considered for allocation in the following term if funding is available. Please speak to your key contact if you would like further information. To apply please complete the form: [Quality Improvement fund application form](#)

Mon 24th Nov 25 – Fri 6th February 2026 – Second round of Quality Improvement funding, if available.

Family Learning Flyers

Please see the attached Family Learning flyers for your information and to share.



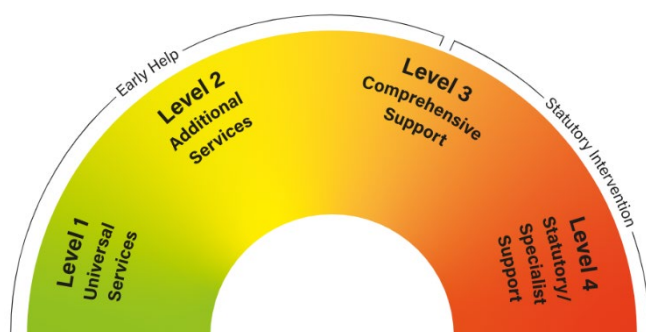
SCHOOLFlyer
Autumn 2.pdf



Family Learning
flyers.pdf

Continuum of Need

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership have recently reviewed and updated the Continuum of Need document. The updated version can be found [here](#). Please ensure you are displaying and referring to the updated version.



Halloween Costumes



Halloween can be an exciting time of year for some children, dressing up and going out after dark.

Halloween costumes are highly flammable.

Many fancy dress costumes are not manufactured to the same safety standards as normal clothing, meaning they can ignite almost instantly and burn far faster.

That's why it is crucial to ensure children wearing Halloween costumes are kept well away from naked flames and other heat sources at all times.

Download, display and share this poster with parents highlighting the risks. [Halloween a4 poster](#)

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has further information and top tips to share with families on how to stay safe during Halloween.

[How to keep children safe this Halloween | 12 top tips](#)



Household Support Fund - Food vouchers for October Half-term for eligible families



October Half-term Evouchers - Help & Comms to Early YearsSupport Doc - 1 page.



Full details regarding how to identify the eligible children at your setting and the eligibility criteria for who should receive a voucher is contained in the attached document, and we ask that you please do take some time to read this. If you have any queries about the eligibility of any children, please do contact us. Please note that you must have made a funding claim for any children you are ordering vouchers for.

- If you already have an account set up please log in here [Evouchers website](#)
- If you need an account set up, please email earlyfunding@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you are having difficulty ordering or have any other problems using the Evouchers website, please contact support@evouchers.com

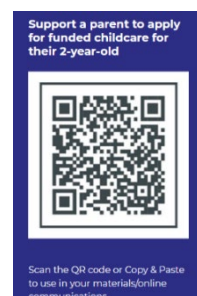
2-year-old early learning funding for families receiving additional government support



Children in receipt of the 2 year old early learning funding for families receiving additional government support, can start and be funded from any point in the term. If an eligible child is already old enough to take up their funded place, they will be eligible from the day they apply [2 year old Early Years Education online application](#). Please submit an adjustment claim form as soon as possible rather than wait to complete the provisional/ final claim form.

Check out the FREE resources available to support early years providers in the promotion and take up of 2 year old early learning funded places at [2-Year-Old Funding | Early Years](#)

You may find it helpful for parents if you include this [QR code](#) in your materials and online communication





SEND Updates

*Early Years SENCO Briefings

EY SENCO Briefings are online webinars run by members of the Early Years Service who have specialism and expertise in supporting children with additional needs.

The sessions are an opportunity to hear local and national SEND updates; access SEND related training and ask individual questions of members of the EY SEND team.



If your SENCO is unable to attend, please try and send someone in their place.

The focus of our autumn term briefings will be

- Updates on SEND processes, including a **new Exceptional Support Request Process** – and the new [Exceptional Support Request Form](#)
- The new Universal Provision Guidance
- Our new training strategy

[Click Here to book on the SENCO Briefings](#)

Dates for SENCO Briefings Autumn 2025

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Wednesday 15th October 2025</u> | <u>6:30 - 8:00 pm</u> |
| <u>Thursday 16th October 2025</u> | <u>9:30 - 11:00 am</u> |
| <u>Tuesday 21st October 2025</u> | <u>1:00 - 2:30 pm</u> |
| <u>Wednesday 22nd October 2025</u> | <u>4:00 - 5:30 pm</u> |

***Provisional DAF will continue to be available this year.**

Application for Provisional Disability Access Funding (DAF) 2025/26

We understand there can be a wait for families to hear about whether they have been given Disability Living Allowance (DLA). To support your inclusive practice, settings will continue to be able to apply for Provisional Disability Access Funding once a parent has received confirmation of their application.

Please use the form below to request the Provisional Disability Access Funding. Any payments will be *made into the same account as your EY funding on the Final Claims.

We will monitor the waiting lists through the year and decide whether we need to allocate Provisional DAF in this way each term.

[More information about Disability Access Funding](#)



I'm Not the SENCO - what should I be doing? Webinar *Part of the Inclusion Training Programme

For practitioners interested in learning how to more effectively support children with SEND.

20th October 2025 10:00 to 12:00

Attending this training will:

- *provide EYFS practitioners with practical information about implementing the SEND Code of Practice*
- *support them to manage and develop the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle*
- *develop SEN Support Plans*

Invaluable for practitioners to help them to support their SENCO to improve outcomes for children with Special Educational Needs or a Disability.

[Book Now](#)



***SEN TEAM Keeping Connected Newsletter**

The Buckinghamshire SEND team have a regular newsletter and the latest one can always be found on our website. It is usually updated on a Friday and, although not all information is relevant to Early Years, it is the main communication from the iSEND team and will be where you can read any updates about the SEND Portal and any changes in processes for SEND funding.



Workforce / Training

[Click here to view the latest training calendar](#)

[Click here to visit the Early Years Training Hub](#)

Don't Miss Out – Book Your Training Early

As we continue to support high quality early years childcare and education, we are pleased to share our latest training calendar with you. To make the most of the training opportunities on offer, and to ensure you remain fully compliant, we strongly encourage all settings to review the calendar and book training places early.

For all training and qualification enquiries please contact the Early Years Workforce Team eycpd@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Leading the Early Years with Confidence

Tuesday 21 October 2025

09:30 to 12:30

Hazlemere Golf Club, Penn Road, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, HP15 7LR

This course is aimed at Early Years Managers and Leaders in the EYFS and will identify the key changes within the revised EYFS statutory framework. Through discussions we will explore effective ways to develop a shared understanding of what is quality practice within EYFS and effective strategies to improve teaching across a team. It will look at the requirements of Ofsted and how both the EYFS framework and Ofsted inspection framework work together, identifying key features of both documents. We will reflect on current trends, curriculum, and the enabling environment to enrich your professional knowledge of outstanding early years and focus on how to shape actions for the future development of your EYFS.

[Book Now](#)

Developing Early Mark Makers

Tuesday 4 November 2025

09:30 to 12:30

Hazlemere Golf Club, Penn Road, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, HP15 7LR

This training is designed specifically for Practitioners in Preschools and Nurseries.

Laying the foundations to develop keen and enthusiastic mark makers in nurseries and preschools. Practitioners will focus on the first steps of early literacy and will explore the development of gross motor skills to mark making. We will consider the experiences and activities that will enable children to secure these core skills to become enthusiastic mark makers. We will consider the importance of communication and language, physical skills and how these impact children's ability to mark make. There will be links to the revised EYFS Statutory Framework and Early Years Inspection Framework.

[Book Now](#)

Information and Business Network Group (IABN) For Childminders and Settings

- **Tuesday 4 November 2026 – Weston Turville Golf Club, HP22 5QT 19:00 – 21:00**
- **Thursday 6 November 2025 – Adams Park, High Wycombe HP12 4HJ 19:00 – 21:00**

An information, Advice and Business Network briefing aimed at the Leadership and Management teams of Early Years providers, including Childminders to hear of updates within the Early Years sector.

[Book now](#)

Being Two

Thursday 6 November 2025

09:30 to 12:30

Hazlemere Golf Club, Penn Road, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, HP15 7LR

This course is designed to develop practitioners' understanding of how two-year-olds experience and try to make sense of their world in this critical year. Areas covered include schema, brain development, attachment and a focus on the prime areas, especially communication and language. Reference is made to the Progress Check at two-years-old funding to reflect the benefit of early intervention, especially for disadvantaged children. The course explores how practitioners can support two-year-olds to flourish and enable parents to engage with this at home too.

[Book Now](#)

Effective Leadership and Management

Thursday 6 November 2025

09:30 to 15:30

Southcourt Baptist Church, Aylesbury HP21 8HW

An interactive course aimed at all management roles including managers, deputies and committee trustees, whether you are new to the role or require a refresh. The course covers key topics including, statutory requirements, leadership and team styles, staff performance management and how to manage a sustainable provision. Discussions around leadership techniques, dealing with conflict, challenging conversations and disciplinary & grievance procedures will also be included.

[Book Now](#)

Safer Recruitment Webinar
Thursday 13 November 2025
18:00 – 21:00

NEW Safer recruitment training has been designed to give you an understanding and confidence to implement robust safer recruitment practices to ensure those working with children are safe and suitable to do so. KCSIE state whoever is involved in the recruitment process must complete safer recruitment training. To maintain consistency with robust recruitment procedures it is strongly advised that early years providers follow the advice in this guidance to ensure a safe environment for children. This course is suitable for management and those with recruitment responsibilities.

[Book now](#)

Introduction to Google and Facebook for Early Years & Childcare Providers

It is important to continually advertise your services and ensure your marketing strategies are effective in reaching out to potential new customers. Two of the most common platforms used are websites and Facebook, however do you know how to use them effectively?

For just £10 we have online recorded training where you can learn at your own pace which will help you understand how a Google Business Profile can help you attract more clients for your business, as well as understanding how to make your Facebook page work as a marketing tool. You can find the training here » [Buckinghamshire Council Early Years Training](#)
