

Early Years Key Messages

3rd August 2026

Please share Key Messages with all staff in your provision. Previous Key Messages available at: <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/early-years-key-messages>

Sufficiency Data Deadline Extension
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Early Years Funding Update

Sufficiency Data Deadline Extension

The Sufficiency Tab on the [Synergy Provider Portal](#) is currently open. The revised deadline to submit sufficiency data is Tuesday 15th September 2026 for all Early Years and Wraparound (school aged childcare) providers.

Please ensure you read the updated guidance in full, prior to completion of your sufficiency data return. Attachment 1

Please see below the support sessions that will be available to attend, to help with your data submissions:

- **Thursday 10th September 1pm**

Link to join the Teams meeting:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/354494084768314?p=YcKseNPw2dxZlhBoky>

Meeting ID: 354 494 084 768 314 Passcode: qe25f37q

- **Friday 11th September 10am**

Link to join the Teams meeting

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/38701204253934?p=q1ks1t5mcxiTGO9bHK>

Meeting ID: 387 012 042 539 34 Passcode: Ns3w3eZ7

Early Years Childcare Expansion Capital Grants

We are pleased to announce the launch of a North Yorkshire Council Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Programme, designed to support existing childcare providers wishing to increase the number of childcare places for children aged 0-3 years. As demand for funded childcare continues to grow, this grant funding aims to help existing PVI early years providers expand their existing provision, improve facilities, purchase essential equipment, or make adaptations that will create additional childcare places for children age 0-3 years.

Who can apply?

The grant is open to existing PVI childcare providers, including childminders registered with Ofsted or a CMA. This is a competitive grant programme, and Early Years providers must be able to demonstrate that the funding will support the creation of new childcare places and meet local demand.

How to apply

Link to apply: [Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Funding Application Form – Fill in form](#)

The deadline to apply is **8am on Monday 5th October 2026**.

Full guidance, eligibility criteria, and frequently asked questions are attached. Please use the childcare expansion grant quotes form attached to submit quotes as part of your application to EYexpansion@northyorks.gov.uk **You must submit both the application form and the grant quotes form for your application to be considered.**

If you have any questions regarding the grant programme or would like to discuss your expansion plans, please contact us at EYexpansion@northyorks.gov.uk. **(Attachments XX&X)**

Early Years Service Children

If you haven't already let me know about any service children attending your setting, please tell me if you currently have, or are expecting new service children to start in your setting. Equally, if you no longer have any service children attending your setting, please contact me so that my records can be updated. How do you identify service children in your setting? Service children are those with a parent or family member serving in the Armed Forces (Army, Royal Navy or RAF). To help identify these children, please consider including a question about service family status within your registration or enrolment documentation. Identifying service children at the earliest opportunity helps ensure that appropriate support can be offered to children and their families from the start. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any support or advice. I am always happy to help stephanie.weighell@northyorks.gov.uk Please find attached a One Minute Guide. Attachment xxxxxx

FREE DfE Safeguarding Training

The DfE has launched **free** safeguarding training for all early years staff. Developed with NSPCC learning, the safeguarding package of training materials includes tips on how to build a culture of safeguarding in settings and a list of guidance and resources covering safer recruitment, domestic abuse and legislation. Access training via: [NYSCP](#)

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Talking Tips

Please see the attached poster from North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) to assist all staff talk, listen and respond to children safely. **Attachment X**

Words for Live – National Literacy Trust

The National Literacy Trust provide a wealth of resources and activities to support both families and practitioners for children from birth to 12 years old [Words for Life | National Literacy Trust | Words for Life](#)

Employment based Early Years Teacher Status

The Department for Education (DfE) is fully funding an Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) programme which enables practitioners to achieve Early Years Teacher Status while continuing to work in setting. Eligible employers also receive a £7,000 employer incentive to support participation. Further information and to apply for September <https://equalitas.co.uk/early-years-initial-teacher-training-enquire-now/>

EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

Important information and required actions for all Early Years Providers. Please ensure this information is shared with all relevant staff.

AUTUMN TERM ACTION CHECKLIST

Action Required	Complete
Submit Autumn Term Estimates by 16 August 2026	☐
Check all Working Family Eligibility Codes before offering funded place and remind parents to reconfirm eligibility codes by 31 August 2026 if validity not confirmed	☐
Submit Autumn Term Headcount Claim and DAF supporting evidence, if applicable Deadline 5pm - Friday 2 October 2026	☐
Read and share the Compliance Letter with relevant staff – review charging arrangements and website information if necessary	☐
Review DfE Funding Consultation Documents by 14 September 2026	☐

KEY DATES AT A GLANCE

Activity	Date
Autumn Term Estimates Deadline	16 August 2026
Working Parent Code Deadline (Reconfirm/Obtain)	31 August 2026
DfE Consultation Deadline	14 September 2026
Headcount Submission and DAF evidence Deadline	5:00pm, 2 October 2026

AUTUMN TERM ESTIMATES – Deadline: 16 August 2026

☒ To receive funding payments in September and October 2026, providers must submit an estimate before the deadline. Please complete estimates via Microsoft forms link in email sent Monday 6 July 2026 from eyft.

Working Family Code Validity Checks

☒ Check all Working Family Eligibility Codes
☒ Ensure codes have:

Start Date	On or before 31 August 2026
End Date	After 1 September 2026
Parent Reconfirmation Deadline	31 August 2026

 Some children with currently valid codes may still need to reconfirm before the deadline to remain eligible for Autumn Term funding.

AUTUMN TERM HEADCOUNT - OPEN

☒ The Synergy Provider Portal is now open for Autumn Term Headcount submissions.

Headcount Week	28 September – 2 October 2026
Headcount Submission and DAF evidence Deadline	5:00pm Friday 2 October 2026

☒ **Key Rule: Census information on funding page.** Always enter '38' weeks for the entitlement being claimed, even if you operate fewer weeks or offer stretched funding. This information must be added to be able to submit your claim. **If submitted incorrectly, providers will be contacted and required to re-send.**

Claim Type	Funded Entitlement Weeks	Expanded/ Extended Entitlement Weeks
Under 2's – Working Family funded hours claim	0	38
2YO – Early Learning for 2-year-olds funded hours claim only (formerly FRAS)	38	0

2YO – Working Family funded hours claim only	0	38
2YO – <u>both</u> Early Learning for 2-year-olds and Working Family funded hours claim	38	38
3&4YO – Universal funded hours only	38	0
3&4YO – Working Family (Extended) only	0	38
3&4YO – both Universal and Working Family funded hours claim	38	38
Important Reminder - Please do not wait until Headcount Week to submit your claim. ✓ Submit claims as early as possible, early submission allows time to resolve: Eligibility code issues, Access problems, Additional claims and Data queries		
CENSUS RETURN – Provider Portal > My Details ✓ To send your Autumn 2026 headcount, you must provide census data via the ‘My Details’ tab - It is important you accurately record the <i>number of children in each age group</i> – there has been a large number of settings who have not recorded this correctly, resulting in the Early Years Funding Team having to manually amend the data Please record the age of each child as of 31st August 2026		
COMPLIANCE A compliance letter was sent from EYFT on 9 July 2026 from the Assistant Director (Resources), North Yorkshire Council. ✓ Share the letter with all staff responsible for: Funded childcare administration, Funding claims and Parent charging arrangements ✓ Review current practices to ensure compliance with DfE statutory guidance, including: No artificial breaks: Children should be able to access their funded hours in continuous blocks where desired. Providers must not create artificial breaks within funded sessions, such as offering funded hours from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm, with only paid hours available between 12pm and 1pm. Invoicing: Invoices must clearly show funded hours as £0 at the point of delivery, with any charges for non-funded hours or consumables listed separately and transparently. (Attachment X)		
REVIEW DfE FUNDING CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS ✓ The consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the early years funding system associated with the current offer of early years entitlements. Responses are requested by 14 September 2026. Please use the links below to the Government consultation documents: Early year funding proposed changes to the entitlements funding system consultation Annex for early years funding consultation Response form: Early years funding: proposed changes to the entitlements funding system - Department for Education - Citizen Space		