

Early Years Key Messages

2nd February 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>

Updating Key Information about your provision

Renaming of the 15-hour Entitlement for Families Receiving Additional Forms of Support

Early Years Pre-Recorded Webinars

"Best Start in Life" Website

Free Childminder-led Language Enrichment in the Early Years

Book Now! FREE for NY PVI providers – Half Day Early Years Conference

Case Study – Do Something Big Campaign

National Year of Reading 2026

Government Guidance on Potty Training

Early Years Funding

Updating Key Information about your provision

Please ensure that **all changes** to your Early Years provision are being reported correctly. As part of your provider agreement, it is vital that your provision information is kept up to date with the Local Authority (LA). The LA are required to report regularly to the DfE and Ministers. To inform the Local Authority of any changes, please submit a **Provider Update Form via the Synergy Provider Portal: [Synergy - Enquiry](#)**. We recommend doing this termly. Provider update forms should be submitted annually at a minimum. You need to let us know each time one of the following details changes:

- Change in management
- Change of contact details (phone/email).
- Change in registered capacity (number of Early Years places registered to offer).
- Change of age range.
- Current Public Liability Policy Insurance details.
- Change in operating hours / days.
- Change of cost information.

Please be advised that your submitted form will be denied if you do not complete all the above details.

Renaming of the 15-hour Entitlement for Families Receiving Additional Forms of Support ('FRAS')

The Department for Education (DfE) has made a commitment to driving take up of the entitlements for children from disadvantaged families. Research and feedback indicated that the current and previous names for this entitlement created stigma and confusion for families. Moving forwards, FRAS funding will be known as **'Early Learning for 2-year-olds' funding** and this will be reflected in future communications.

Early Years Pre-Recorded Webinars

There are two new pre-recorded webinars available for **FREE** on the NYES Website.

- Child Development and Learning Birth to 12 Months **Course Code: SI-EL-T015** **Booking Link: <https://nyes.info/Event/289968>**

- Child Development and Learning 12 to 24 Months **Course Code:** SI-EL-T016 **Booking Link:** <https://nyes.info/Event/289968>

"Best Start in Life" Website

There is a wealth of resources, information and guidance for families and early years practitioners on the Best Start in Life website [Best Start in Life - Best Start in Life](#)

FREE Childminder-led Language Enrichment in the Early Years (Webinar)

Nuffield funded research project is offering a **free** webinar to explore the potential of childminder-led language enrichment to support children's communication and learning in the early years. Nuffield funded research project is examining how childminders currently support their children's language and communication and is evaluating the feasibility of delivering structured language enrichment within childminder settings.

 **Date:** Thursday, 12th March 2026

 **Time:** 09:30 – 10:30

 **Venue:** Online

To book your place :[Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Book Now - Free for NY PVI providers – Half Day Early Years Conference

First face-to-face half day EY conference for PVI early years providers in North Yorkshire for a long time so please join us if you can! We have extended this to **two** practitioners from each setting can attend. Additional delegates can join a waiting list.

Keynote Speaker: We're thrilled to welcome the esteemed **Ann Van Dyke MBE** as our keynote speaker, a nationally recognised early years specialist.

Workshops:

Building Strong Foundations in Early Maths (Early Years Advisor)

Supporting Early Language and Communication in the EYFS (Early Years Advisor)

Safeguarding in Early Years – Embedding a culture of safety and vigilance (Safeguarding Advisors)

Nurturing the Youngest Learners – High Quality Provision for Children aged 0 -2 years (Stronger Practice Hub)

Marketplace & Networking:

Grab a coffee and biscuit whilst you meet up with colleagues, re-connect with familiar faces and explore services in an interactive marketplace which include the NSPCC, LADO, Early Years Funding, Early Help and Public Health.

 **Date:** Saturday, 14th March 2026

 **Time:** 09:00 – 13:00

 **Venue:** Pavilions, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, HG2 8BNZ

 **NYES Booking Link:** [Early Years Conference | NYES Info](#)

 **NYES Course Code:** SI-0326-T014

Please see attachment for booking guidance: **(Attachment 1)**

Case Study – Do Something Big Campaign

The DfE 'Do Something Big' campaign is looking for early years professionals to share their experiences. They're building a bank of case studies from people across all roles and settings – whether you're a childminder, work in an independent nursery, or are part of a larger organisation.

What's involved?

There are different ways to contribute, and the DfE campaign team will work with you to find a suitable format. Options include:

- Providing a quote about your career in early years
- Taking part in social media content
- Participating in media interviews

There are opportunities throughout the year, so once you've submitted your form, the team will keep your details on file and get in touch when something suitable arises. If you or someone you know is interested, please complete the Do Something Big case study form: [Form for early years professionals to complete](#)

National Year of Reading 2026

North Yorkshire Libraries are excited to share that 2026 is the National Year of Reading - a nationwide initiative led by the National Literacy Trust and supported by the Department for Education. This campaign aims to reignite a culture of reading for pleasure across the UK, making reading joyful, relevant, and visible in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

What North Yorkshire Libraries offering:

We're making reading the heart of everything we do in 2026, with exciting initiatives including:

- **World Book Day - 5th March**
- **Under-5s Fortnight - 13-24th April**
- **'Read to the Beat' Summer Reading Challenge - 5th July – 12th Sep**

For more information, visit: www.goallin.org.uk and email: Catherine.Barlow@northyorks.gov.uk to discuss partnership opportunities.

Free reading resources:

- [Schools And Early Years Settings Offer Toolkit & Resources | National Year Of Reading | National Literacy Trust](#)
- [Resources for early years, primary and secondary schools | National Literacy Trust](#)

(Attachments 2 & 3)

Government Guidance on Potty Training

The Government backed guide to when and how to potty train children has been launched. Please use and share guide this in setting and to support conversations with parents when children should be potty trained [The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#)

Early Years Funding

<u>Early Years Funding</u>
<p>CHECKING HEADCOUNT - Spring Term 2026 - <u>Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ On Monday 2nd February 2026 all providers will receive an email to ask them to check all headcount data.➤ You can only claim for children registered and attending during headcount week. Any child who is not with you on headcount week should not be included on your headcount and will be deleted. For children starting after headcount week please request an after-headcount form from eyft following the guidance below.
<p>AFTER HEADCOUNT – Spring term 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ After Headcount – Instructions on how to claim after headcount were emailed out to all providers on 22nd January 2026, this is for children who have joined you after headcount week but have never claimed in North Yorkshire previously. After headcount guidance.pdf
<p>EARLY YEARS PROVIDER RATES 2026 -27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Please see the attached letter providing the funding rates from April 2026 – March 2027. This has also been sent to provider email addresses on Thursday 29th January 2026 (Attachment 4)

SAVE THE DATE - Early Years Funding Provider Briefings

- Taking place on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 1:30pm and 7pm (choose 1 session)
- If you have not already booked on, please send an email to eyft@northyorks.gov.uk with provider name, name of attendee and email address of person attending along with your preferred timeslot.
- Providers who have requested to attend either session will receive their teams invitation by the end of this week.

REMINDER - Websites

- Costs of chargeable extras should be published on provider websites, if you do not have a website, please contact the Families Information Service for advice on how to publish your funded offer.
- There must not be any mandatory charges for parents in relation to the free hours. Charges for food and consumables can be made but not be a condition of taking up a funded place.
- All charges must be clear, up to date and easily accessible to parents to make an informed choice.
- Invoices should be itemised to show
 - the free entitlement hours
 - additional private paid hours
 - food charges
 - non-food consumables charges/activities charges.

For guidance on charging use the following links:

DfE Statutory Guidance Section 1.32 to 1.44 [Early education and childcare - GOV.UK](#) and [Chargeable extras .docx](#); Childcare Works [Invoicing, Consumables, and Charging Structures - childcareworks.org.uk](#)

IMPORTANT – Changes to Your Business

- Please contact EYFT (eyft@northyorks.gov.uk), as soon as possible to inform them if you are reducing your funded offer, e.g. reducing days or selling your business
- This is to ensure any funding paid is accurate
- Please also update any contact details on the provider portal as and when they happen

REMINDER – Early Years Payments into Bank Accounts

- Please contact eyft@northyorks.gov.uk if you are contacted by your bank about fraudulent activity on the bank account that your early years funding is paid into