

Early Years Key Messages

16th January 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>

Recruitment and Retention in the Early Years sector

Book Now- Early Years Conference

Contacting FIS regarding Operational Changes

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Reminder- Universal Funding

NYC FREE Quality Improvement Training

Final Year - Dingley's Promise FREE Inclusion Training

Healthy Schools & Early Years Programme - FREE Climate Action Planning Workshop

Join FEAST as Schools & Families Lead

North Yorkshire Growing Healthy 0-19

UKHSA - Nestle SMA Infant formula recall

National Apprenticeship Week 2026- Early Years & Childcare Workforce recruitment

Nursery World – Government guidance on screen use for under fives

Early Years Funding

Recruitment and Retention in the Early Years sector

Recruitment and retention in the Early Years sector has seen a national decline over the past few years. At North Yorkshire Council we are looking at ways to support our Early Years providers to boost both recruitment and retention efforts. Your voice matters so please help us by completing the survey by 9am on Monday 19th January 2026. Link to complete the survey: [Recruitment and Retention – Fill in form](#)

Book Now- Free for NY PVI providers - Early Years Conference

First face-to-face 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

Supporting Early Language and Communication in the EYFS

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

Nurturing the Youngest Learners – High Quality Provision for Children aged 0 -2 years

Marketplace & Networking:

Grab a coffee and biscuit whilst you meet colleagues, re-connect with familiar faces and explore services in an interactive marketplace.

 **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](#))

Contacting FIS regarding Operational Changes

Please can all providers inform the Families Information service on fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk and Ofsted of operational changes to your business e.g. opening times; long term illness of setting manager/childminder; setting temporary closures etc.. FIS will notify the Early Years Funding team on your behalf if the change affects funding arrangements.

Wraparound Childcare Revenue Grant Funding – Final Opportunity

The final opportunity to apply for 2025-2026 Wraparound Childcare Revenue Grant Funding is **Friday 30th January 2026**.

The Local Authority encourages providers wishing to create **new or expand** existing provision to submit an application(s) as soon as possible. Applicants already in receipt of wraparound funding can apply for further funding to expand hours or the number of places available.

Support and guidance is available from the wraparound childcare team to support you with this process. Please get in touch at wraparoundchildcare@northyorks.gov.uk.

Please see the attached documents for details on how to apply: ([Attachment,2,3,4&5](#))

Reminder – Universal Funding

Reminder that Universal funding is automatically available for all children aged 3 and 4. **Families do not need an eligibility code to access it.** Every child can receive up to 15 hours of government-funded childcare per week, starting from the term after their third birthday. This entitlement applies to all families, regardless of income or employment status.

NYC FREE Quality Improvement Training

There are two new training opportunities available free on NYES for early years providers. Details and booking codes for each can be found below:

Understanding the New Ofsted framework for Early Years settings and Childminders– 05/03/2026

19:00 - 21:00 Course Code: SI-0326-T017

Leadership and Governance in the Early Years– Course Code: SI-EL-T014

Final Year - Dingley's Promise FREE Inclusion Training

This is the final year that Dingley's Promise Inclusion training will be available free until June 2026!

Why should you and your staff do this incredible training?

- **Upskill your entire staff** in SEND best practice – **at no cost.**
- **Meet Ofsted requirements** around inclusion
- **Boost staff morale** by investing in their skills
- **Welcome more children** into a fully inclusive setting.

For more information and how to register: ([Training - Dingley's Promise](#))

Healthy Schools & Early Years Programme- FREE Climate Action Planning Workshop

The Healthy Schools and Early Years Programme is hosting a Climate Action Planning workshop. The workshop offers a personalised climate action plan with regional partners who are available to support Early Years providers and will share resources and ideas for developing your Climate Action Plan.

 **Date:** 03rd February 2026

 **Time:** 09:30 – 12:00

 **Venue:** Great Yorkshire Showground, Education Bee Pavilion, Railway Road, Harrogate HG2 8NZ

 **NYES Booking Link:** [Early Years Climate Action Planning workshop | NYES Info](#)

 **NYES Course Code:** SI-0226-T005

Join FEAST as Schools & Families Lead

North Yorkshire Together is recruiting a **Schools & Families Lead** to shape and deliver how **FEAST** supports and engages with schools and young people and their families across North Yorkshire. FEAST is the Holiday Activities and Food programme for North Yorkshire and reaches over 5,000 young people each year across the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

This role is a great way to have a **real impact on the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable young people**. North Yorkshire Together is looking for someone with exceptional **project and relationship management skills**, as well as experience working with **schools and youth groups**.

Please see the attached recruitment information.

Salary: £28,000 per annum, pro-rata

Hours: 30 hours per week

Deadline for applications: 5pm on Wednesday 4th February 2026.

Interviews: Friday 13th February at North Yorkshire Youth

<https://northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/about-us/work-with-us/> (Attachment 6)

North Yorkshire Growing Healthy 0-19

North Yorkshire Growing Healthy Team offers a Nursery Liaison service to share information and discuss individual children or wider community needs. Each setting will be assigned a 0–19 Practitioner and receive two planned annual meetings for advice and guidance. See attachment for further details (Attachment 7)

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Nestle SMA Infant formula recall

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has issued a recall notice for certain batches of Nestlé SMA infant formula and follow-on formula. Please share this information with your families. The recall follows strict safety protocols; further guidance is available via Food Standard Agency: [Nestlé recalls several SMA Infant Formula and Follow-On Formula as a precaution because of the possible presence of cereulide \(toxin\) | Food Standards Agency](#)

National Apprenticeship Week 2026- Early Years & Childcare Workforce recruitment

EY & Workforce recruitment are currently looking for Early Years apprentices who would be willing to share their experiences as part of National Apprenticeship Week 9th – 15th February 2026. They are keen to showcase stories that highlight how great the early years apprenticeship route is. Case Study Form: (Attachment 8)

Nursery World - Government guidance on screen use for under fives

Nursery world shares that the Government is to publish new guidance for parents on screen use for under-fives in April as new research shows the use of screens is impacting children's language development. The Government has said the guidance will offer parents practical support on balancing screens with play, speaking and reading. It comes as new research shows a link between high screen use and poorer language development in two-year-olds. Please see the findings from the [Children of the 2020s \(COT20s\) study](#)

Early Years Funding

Early Years Funding

REMINDER – Headcount for Spring term 2026

- Submit your headcount on Synergy Provider Portal and send DAF evidence by 5pm Friday 16th January 2026

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.

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](#)

SAVE THE DATE - Early Years Funding Provider Briefings

- ✓ Taking place on Tuesday 10th February 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.

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