

Early Years Key Messages

5th 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

Vacancy for an Early Years Service (Armed Forces) Children's Champion

Contacting FIS regarding Operational Changes

DfE Requirement - Provider Website Information

NYC FREE Quality Improvement Webinars

NYC Free Safeguarding Webinars

Final Year - Dingley's Promise Inclusion Free Training

Chickenpox Vaccine – 1st January 2026

Voice of the Child Toolkit and Guidance

NSPCC – Techosaurus

NHS Togetherness – North Yorkshire Council

Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards

Experience-based Route for Early Years Staff – Updated Guidance

GOV.UK - Check an Early Years Qualification

Safer Sleep Guidance – Damp and Mould

Early Years Funding

Recruitment and Retention

We are currently undertaking work to support recruitment and retention of Early Years settings in North Yorkshire. Please complete the following recruitment and retention survey by 9am Monday 19th January 2026: [Recruitment and Retention – Fill in form](#)

Vacancy for an Early Years Service (Armed Forces) Children's Champion

The local authority has been awarded grant funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust to appoint an Early Years Service (Armed Forces) Children's Champion. The key aim of the post is to work with early years providers and families to ensure that children of service families receive the best start in life. The post will be a fixed term contract for two years. The vacancy closes on 11th January 2026 and interviews will be held at County Hall on Thursday, 22nd January 2026. For more information, job description and application details [View Vacancy Details](#)

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.

DfE Requirement - Provider Website Information

The Department for Education (DfE) website requirements - all provider websites must clearly display parental fees and charges, along with the number of weeks the provision is open. Please ensure this information is accurate, easy to locate, and regularly updated to remain compliant.

NYC FREE Quality Improvement Webinars

There are four new pre-recorded webinars available free on NYES for early years providers. Details and booking codes for each can be found below:

Behaviour, Attitudes and Establishing Routines in Early Years - Course Code: SI-EL-T011

Self Assessment in the Early Years – Course Code: SI-EL-T008

Teaching and Curriculum for EYFS - Course Code: SI-EL-T010

Children's Welfare and Well-being - Early Years | NYES Info – Course Code: SI-EL-T012

NYC FREE Safeguarding Webinars

There are three safeguarding pre-recorded webinars available free on NYES for all early years providers:-

- 1) Martyn's Law (Protective Security Act 2025)
- 2) Understanding and Responding to Low Level Concerns
- 3) Understanding Whistleblowing Procedures in line with the EYFS Statutory Framework

These are free and accessed via NYES at [NYES School Improvement - Safeguarding Team | NYES Info](#)

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 please follow these links [Early Years Inclusion Programme – Dingley's Promise](#) and <https://dingley.org.uk/dingleys-promise-training/early-years-inclusion-programme/>.

Chickenpox Vaccine – 1st January 2026

From 1st January, the Chickenpox vaccine will be added to the MMR vaccine for children and will be referred to as MMRV vaccine. The MMRV vaccine will be introduced as a two dose vaccine at 12 and 18 months of age for children. Please encourage as many families to take up the vaccine and more information can be found at [MMRV vaccination: a guide for parents and carers - GOV.UK](#)

Voice of the Child Toolkit and Guidance

This resource has been developed by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership in response to local and national multi-agency thematic audits and serious case reviews, identifying, in some cases, an absence of the voice of the child, particularly those children who are not able to communicate verbally.

Capturing and listening to the voice of the child is a fundamental practice linked with strong professional curiosity, and we recommend that the NYSCP [Professional Curiosity](#) practice guidance be read alongside this document

<https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/forms-and-tools/voice-of-the-child/>

NSPCC – Techosaurus

The NSPCC has released new materials to support keeping children safe online. Please share with parents and staff [Help keep children safe online with Techosaurus! | NSPCC](#)

NHS Togetherness – North Yorkshire Council

NHS North Yorkshire Togetherness (formerly the Solihull Approach) is an NHS-backed emotional health initiative. This focuses on strengthening emotional resilience and nurturing healthier relationships across families, schools, and the community. North Yorkshire Council offers **free** resources: [North Yorkshire | Togetherness - Togetherness](#)

Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards

The updated guidance on the qualifications staff must hold to be included in the specified staff:child ratios at levels 2, 3 and 6 of the EYFS came into effect on 1st January 2026 Early years qualification requirements and standards 2026 [Early years qualification requirements and standards](#)

Experience-based Route for Early Years Staff – Updated Guidance

The guidance on how early years providers can implement the experience-based route for staff who do not hold full and relevant qualifications was updated on 1st January 2026 to include the new Ofsted inspection framework [Early years qualification requirements and standards](#)

GOV.UK - Check an Early Years Qualification

Managers and Practitioners can check if an Early Years qualification is approved as full and relevant by the DfE for working in staff: child ratios: [Get ready to start the qualification check - Check an Early Years qualification](#)

Safer Sleep Guidance – Damp and Mould

Please find a link to guidance regarding safer sleep arrangements especially where there may be damp and mould [NYSCP](#)

Early Years Funding

<u>Early Years Funding</u>
<p>HEADCOUNT Spring Term 2026 – Deadline Friday 16th January 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All providers must submit Spring Term 2026 headcount for all funded children ✓ Headcount week is 12th January – 16th January 2026 ✓ DAF evidence must be submitted by 16th January 2026
<p>IMPORTANT CHANGE – Census collection in Spring 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Instead of completing a Census Form in Spring Term 2026 providers will be required to complete a new tab called 'My details' on the portal ➤ You will not be able to send your Spring Term 2026 headcount claim without completing the 'My Details' tab, as per the headcount email
<p>ACTION REQUIRED - Check Working Family codes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Check working family codes now for the Spring Term 2026 ✓ Parents must hold a valid code with a start date on or before 31st December 2025 and an end date on or after 1st January 2026 to access all types of Working Family funding from January
<p>REMINDER – Providers offering stretched funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you are a provider offering stretched funding, you must inform the Early Years Funding Team via email if you haven't already ➤ You must ensure parents understand how the funded hours are offered on a stretched basis ➤ You must indicate which children are accessing stretched funding when submitting headcount actuals.
<p>IMPORTANT – Changes to Your Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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
<p>REMINDER - Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Providers with their own websites should be making their charges available on their websites before 31st December 2025. DfE guidance Chargeable extras .docx ➤ Please use the guidance Early education and childcare - GOV.UK Section 1.32 to ensure parents are aware of your charges
<p>REMINDER – Early Years Payments into Bank Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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

