

Early Years Key Messages

2nd March 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>

Last few places - Half Day Early Years Conference, 14th March 2026

Updated Early Years Safeguarding Audit Tools

Early Years Leadership Meetings – March 2026

Early Years Safeguarding Evening – 29th April 2026

QI Training Pre-recorded Webinar - Child Development and Learning 36-48 Months

FEAST - FREE Holiday Activities with Food for Families this Easter

School/SEND Reform Paper: Every Child Achieving and Thriving

Three Months Left - Dingley's Promise FREE Inclusion Training

Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance from 1st April 2026

New Package of Support for Early Years Settings

Ventilation and Air Quality in Education and childcare Settings

Implementing the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

The Masked Singer x Do Something Big: Little Makers is here!

Early Years Funding

Last few places – Half Day Early Years Conference, 14th March 2026

Last few places remaining! Join us at the FREE half day EY conference for PVI early years group providers and childminders at Harrogate, Pavilions on 14th March 2026. Places are very limited so please book as soon as possible. If you can no longer attend, please cancel your place on NYES to enable other providers to access this FREE event. Please see the attached leaflet for further details and how to book (**Attachment 1**)

Updated Early Years Safeguarding Audit Tools

The EYFS safeguarding audit tool for PVI group providers and childminders who work alone or with assistants have been updated. This toolkit has been developed by the North Yorkshire Council Early Years and Safeguarding Advisors and approved by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP). The toolkit contributes to strengthening practice and providers must ensure that their safeguarding policies, practices, and procedures remain fully robust.

The toolkit has been previously shared and can also be found on the NYSCP website at: [NYSCP EY's Audits](#) (**Attachment 2, 3 & 4**)

Early Years Leadership Meetings – March 2026

Bookings for the Early Years Leadership Meeting can be made on [NYES Info](#)

Early Years Leadership Meeting for the Private and Voluntary Sector - 11th March 2026 19:00 - 21:00 - [Early Years Leadership Meeting for the Private and Voluntary Sector | NYES Info](#) Course Code: SI-OM-0326-T007 (EY)

Early Years Leadership Meeting for the Private and Voluntary Sector -12th March 2026 13:00 - 15:00 - [Early Years Leadership Meeting for the Private and Voluntary Sector | NYES Info](#) Course Code: SI-OM-0326-T008 (EY)

Early Years Safeguarding Evening – 29th April 2026

The summer Early Years Safeguarding evening will be on Wednesday, 29th April 2026 from 1900 – 2100 on Teams. This is FREE to attend and is available for ALL early years providers in group provision and childminders. Please book via the NYSCP [NYSCP Developments in Safeguarding, Online Learning Session - Early Years, April 2026 | NYES Info](#). Agenda will be shared once available.

QI Training Pre-recorded Webinar - Child Development and Learning 36-48 Months

The latest QI pre-recorded webinar is now available to complement the suite of existing webinars. The Child Development and Learning webinar looks at how young children develop from 36 to 48 months, including brain and physical development; how the environment and warm interactions support effective development, alongside some of the current documentation which can help and support practice and pedagogy. To book on NYES link: <https://nyes.info/Event/291104> Course Code: SI-EL-T018

FEAST - FREE Holiday Activities with Food for Families this Easter

Food Entertainment Arts Sport Together (FEAST) is back this Easter, with a fantastic range of activities to keep children active, fed and having fun during the school holidays. Everyone across North Yorkshire can get involved, with free places and a free meal for children and young people receiving benefits-related free school meals. From arts and crafts to sports and outdoor activities, there's something for everyone aged 5 - 16. Please see the attached poster for further details: **(Attachment 5)**

School/SEND Reform Paper: Every Child Achieving and Thriving

The recently published Schools White Paper and SEND consultation provides a welcome reflection on the importance of the early years in the system, from the day children are born to their transition to adulthood. The ambition for high-quality education starts in the early years [Every child achieving and thriving \(HTML version\) - GOV.UK](#)

Three Months Left - Dingley's Promise FREE Inclusion Training

We're in to the final few months when Dingley's Promise Inclusion training will be available free. The offer ends in 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](#))

Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance from 1st April 2026

The DfE has published the updated statutory guidance for local authorities on early education and childcare which will come into effect from 1st April with the exception of the references to Ofsted inspection changes in Section A3 (Quality) and paragraphs A4.15 – A4.21 and D2 – D3 which applied from 9th February 2026 [Early education and childcare \(valid from 1 April 2026\) - GOV.UK](#)

New Package of Support for Early Years Settings

The DfE has announced a package of support to help early years settings strengthen their workforce [New employer grant to boost quality in early years education - GOV.UK](#)

Ventilation and Air Quality in Education and childcare Settings

The DfE has shared how good ventilation is essential for healthy and productive learning environments. It involves bringing in fresh outdoor air and removing stale indoor air. [Ventilation and air quality in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)

Implementing the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a consultation on proposals to extend smoke-free places and introduce heated tobacco-free and vape-free places in England. Proposals include areas outside

most education settings including childminders, nurseries and schools. The consultation closes at 11:59pm on Friday 8 May 2026. [Smoke-free, heated tobacco-free and vape-free places in England - GOV.UK](#)

The Masked Singer x Do Something Big: Little Makers is here!

The Do Something Big campaign has partnered with ITV's The Masked Singer to create Little Makers - a three-part series where a mystery celebrity surprises a real nursery, joins children and early years educators in creative activities, and has a big reveal. The series features Joel Dommett alongside a Masked Singer character, with their identity revealed in Episode 3.

Episode dates:

- Episode 1 — live now on [YouTube](#) and [ITVX](#)
- Episode 2 — live now on [YouTube](#) and [ITVX](#)
- Episode 3 — Thursday 5th March (World Book Day)

Early Years Funding

<u>Early Years Funding</u>
<p>SUMMER ESTIMATES – Link to on-line estimate form to be sent via email on Mon 2nd March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ An estimate using the on-line form must be provided for <u>all</u> eligible children.➤ The deadline for the on-line estimate form to be submitted is Midnight on Sunday 15th March 2026.➤ Check validity of codes <u>before</u> providing an estimate, estimate of weekly hours should be as accurate as possible to prevent significant under, or overpayments (increase in levels of funding provided through funded entitlements). Guidance on estimates - Estimates guidance.pdf
<p>SUMMER TERM HEADCOUNT - Provider portal will be open week commencing Mon 23rd March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Please submit your summer term headcount as soon as you can – do not wait until headcount week as you can always amend up until the deadline.➤ Guidance will be issued to providers.➤ Headcount week 18th – 22nd May 2026➤ DAF evidence must be submitted by Friday 22nd May 2026
<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. The deadline to contact the team and submit after headcount claims this term is Friday 13th March.
<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 have not already.➤ You must ensure parents understand the how the funded hours are offered on a stretched basis and indicate which children are accessing stretched funding when submitting headcount actuals
<p>REMINDER - Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Providers with their own websites should now have updated these to confirm the additional charges payable by parents/carers, in line with DfE guidance.➤ Please use the guidance Early education and childcare - GOV.UK Section 1.32 to ensure parents are aware of your charges - DfE Statutory Guidance Section 1.32 to 1.44 Early education and childcare - GOV.UK;➤ 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.

UPDATE – New Guidance Available on Website

- The following guidance has been updated and is available here [Early Years Funding | CYPInfo](#)
 - [Provider Timetable - Spring 2026.pdf](#)
 - [Useful dates 2026-2027.pdf](#)
 - [Early Years Funding Rates 2026-27.pdf](#)