Early Years Key Messages

17th November 2026

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

National Baby Week – 14-20 November 2026
New Best Start in Life - North Yorkshire Website
COMING SOON – NYC Early Years and School-age Childcare Awards
Book Now- Free for NY PVI providers - Early Years Conference
Continuity Business Planning Template
Families First CIC FREE Training for Wraparound Childcare Providers
FREE Network Session for Providers of Wraparound Childcare
Realise Early Years Apprentice Training
Free Milk Scheme for Under-Fives Expanded to Agency Childminders
Maths Champions - National Day Nurseries Association
Early Years Funding Update

National Baby Week – 14-20 November 2026

Baby Week, 14-20 November 2026, celebrates early childhood and brings families, communities and support services together. This year's theme, "Chat. Play. Read with Me - together we build the best start," highlights how everyday interactions help children's communication, learning and development. The week includes free activities, events and support for families, as well as a free conference on 18th November 2026 for early years and health professionals. To Find out more or get involved got to: http://www.babyweek.co.uk/

New Best Start in Life - North Yorkshire Website

New BSIL NYC website is your trusted source of information, advice on early years childcare funding information and support for parents and providers starting from pregnancy through to a child's first day at school. Together, we can help every child have the best possible start in life and reach their full potential. Share the website link and information with your families: Best Start In Life | North Yorkshire

COMING SOON – NYC Early Years and School-age Childcare Awards

North Yorkshire Council is delighted to announce the first Early Years and School-age Childcare Awards. These awards are an opportunity recognise and celebrate excellence in individuals and teams. Further details on award categories and nomination criteria will be shared shortly. Nominations will close on 7th February 2027 and the Awards Ceremony will be held in Northallerton on Tuesday, 8th March 2027.

Book Now- Free for NY providers - Early Years Conference

FREE North Yorkshire Councils face-to-face conference for PVI early years providers. Delegates will have the opportunity to be inspired by the keynote speaker Felicity Gillespie, connect and share ideas with colleagues, explore the marketplace, and take part in engaging workshops offering practical ideas and learning to take back to their settings.

🗓️ **Date:** Saturday, 13th March 2027
🕘 **Time:** 09:30 – 13:30
📍 **Venue:** Pavilions, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, HG2 8BNZ
🎟️ **NYES Booking Link:** Training | Course details | SLA Online
📘 **NYES Course Code:** Code: SI-0327-T024

Continuity Business Planning Template

Please find attached a template for settings to adapt appropriately to help plan for business continuity for both local and national emergencies. **Attachment 1**

Families First CIC FREE Training Opportunities for Wraparound Childcare Providers

Did you know that North Yorkshire Council has commissioned Families First CIC to deliver a **FREE** programme of support and resources for wraparound and school-age childcare providers? Please find attached an information leaflet outlining each of the individual courses:- *Behind the Behaviour*, *Safeguarding*, *Play in Wraparound*, *Inclusion, and Business Planning*. These are flexible, online courses allowing learners to complete at their own pace.

This is a first come-first served opportunity, so providers are encouraged to register promptly to secure their place.

Registration for North Yorkshire Council Wraparound Childcare providers:
https://training.familiesfirst.org.uk/groups/north-yorkshire-user-group/

The attached leaflet has a QR code which will also take you to the above registration link.
Attachment 2

FREE Network Session for Providers of Wraparound Childcare

Families First CIC are excited to invite **all** wraparound childcare providers to their next network meeting where **Ben Kingston-Hughes**, an expert in play, will be the guest speaker. Ben, an international keynote speaker, author and multi-award-winning trainer, will focus on the importance of play. The meeting will take place on **Thursday 26th November 09:30 – 11:00**. Please follow the link to register for the session: Meeting Registration - Zoom

Realise Early Years Apprentice Training

Hiring a young apprentice could bring up to £3,000 worth of benefits to your provision, with a range of government incentives currently available. Understanding which funding opportunities apply to your setting can be challenging but Realise Early Years Training can help guide you through the process. Your provision may be eligible for:

- **£1,000 incentive payment** for employing an apprentice aged 16 to 18, including eligible existing employees.
- **Up to £2,000 hiring incentive** for non-levy paying employers (annual payroll under £3 million) who recruit a new apprentice aged 16 to 24. The apprentice must have been employed for no more than 90 days before their training begins.
- **Employer National Insurance savings**, with no employer National Insurance contributions payable for apprentices under the age of 25 who meet the qualifying criteria.
- **Fully funded apprenticeship training** for apprentices under 25, reducing training costs for your setting.

Taking on an apprentice can help you develop a skilled workforce while accessing valuable funding and cost-saving opportunities. Realise Early Years can help you identify the support available and manage the apprenticeship process from start to finish. For more information: Early years incentives

Free Milk Scheme for Under-Fives Expanded to Agency Childminders

The Department for Education has confirmed that childminders registered with a Childminder Agency are now eligible to claim under the Nursery Milk Scheme. This change means agency-registered childminders can now receive funding to provide free milk to children under five years of age in their care, helping to support children's health and development

while reducing costs for providers. Childminders can check their eligibility and register through the Nursery Milk Scheme website: The Nursery Milk Scheme

Maths Champions - National Day Nurseries Association

Maths Champions is a fully funded professional development programme from NDNA that helps early years practitioners build children's maths skills through everyday play and routines. Eligible settings are encouraged to register their interest and take advantage of this evidence-based training opportunity. Early years settings: register interest in fully funded Maths Champions training. For any questions, please contact: maths.champions@NDNA.org.uk

EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

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

CHECKLIST

Action Required	Complete
If wishing to make an **after-headcount** claim, please follow guidance here After Headcount Guidance Autumn 2026.pdf and contact Funding Team before 7th December	☐
Get ready for Spring term 2027! Check 30 hour codes will be valid for Spring 2027. Manage parents expectations about your offer in January 2027 they must have valid codes and be registered and attending on headcount week 18th – 22nd January 2027	☐

KEY DATES AT A GLANCE

Activity	Date
Look out for the email with link to **Estimate Form**	**30th November 2026**
After-Headcount Claims – for children who have joined your provision from 2 October 2026 and up to the week commencing 7th December 2026, and who meet the criteria as stated in the **After Headcount Guidance Autumn 2026.pdf**	**Friday 11th December**

✅ **Inclusive Early Years Fund 2026-27**
Providers who received Inclusive Early Years Funding paid in September 2026 will be required to report on how the grant funding has been used – further details to be provided Spring 2027

COMPLIANCE

✅ **Compliance Checks completed by Veritau on Spring 2026 and Summer 2026 term data**

Summary of Key Findings:

- **Inconsistencies with Parental Declarations**
  - Hours not clearly stated on declaration
  - The declaration has not been signed
  - The hours being claimed are different to the number of hours stated on the parental declaration
- **Transparency of fees**
  - Fees not published on provider websites
  - Not clear that fees are optional
  - Registration fees and non-refundable deposits charged
- **Invoices**

- Unclear / lack of transparency
- Not addressed to parent

✅ **All providers must ensure compliance with DfE statutory guidance. Including:**

- **Deposit:** Providers cannot charge non-refundable deposits as a condition of taking up a child's entitlement place. Refundable deposits can be used by providers, and can then be retained by a provider, if the parent does not take up their funded place by headcount week**.**
- **Notice Periods:** Providers cannot impose a charge for funded hours within a notice period, if a parent is moving their child from your setting, before headcount week. Providers can however still charge for items not covered by government funding within any notice period.
- **Invoicing:** Invoices must clearly show date, parent name, period of time it covers including funded hours as **£0 at the point of delivery**, with any charges for non-funded hours or consumables listed separately and transparently.