Early Years Key Messages

16th October 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

Updated Statutory Information Sharing Guidance
Locality Board EY Representatives
DfE Free Safeguarding Training
Dingley's Promise: SEND Inclusion Opportunities
DfE Funded Early Years SENDCO Training
EY SENCO Network Meeting
Digiduck Stories
Oral Health Autumn Newsletter
Building Blocks for Language
Early Years Funding Update

Updated Statutory Information Sharing Guidance

From 30th September 2026, there is a new legal duty to share information about children if that information helps to keep a child safe or supports their wellbeing. This is a change from the document being advisory to a new legal duty which includes childcare settings in the new duty (paragraph 25) DfE stat guidance template.

Locality Board EY Representatives

The North Yorkshire Locality Board currently have a number of exciting opportunities for Early Years representatives to join our Locality Boards. These vacancies are open to both childminders and leaders of Early Years settings.
Current vacancies:

- Selby Locality Board – 2 Early Years representative vacancies
- Hambleton and Richmondshire Locality Board – 1 Early Years representative vacancy
- Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon Locality Board – 1 Early Years representative vacancy

Locality Boards meet once each half term and play an important role in supporting North Yorkshire Council's work to strengthen inclusive practice across education settings.
This is a great opportunity to represent the Early Years sector, share your experiences and insights, and contribute to a collaborative approach to inclusion within your local area.

If you would like to be involved, please click here to complete the application form.

DfE Free Safeguarding Training

Just a reminder that the Department for Education (DfE), in partnership with NSPCC, launched free safeguarding training for all early years staff. The training and materials are available via Virtual College but can be accessed through the NYSCP website NYSCP

Dingley's Promise: SEND Inclusion Opportunities

There are two fully funded opportunities from Dingley's Promise to support inclusive practice in early years settings Early Years CPD Training - Dingley's Promise
All Early Years Providers: The DfE-funded Early Years SEND CPD Programme offers three flexible online courses:

- Foundations of Inclusive Practice

- Embedding Inclusive Practice
- Parent Partnerships

The courses provide practical strategies to strengthen inclusive practice, build practitioner confidence, and improve support for children with SEND. The training is fully funded and can be accessed directly by providers
Find out more and register: https://dingley.org.uk/training-eycpd/

Additional Opportunity for Providers in Areas of High Deprivation:
Providers in selected areas of high deprivation across North Yorkshire may also be eligible to be nominated for the fully funded Dingley's Promise Mark of Inclusion Programme. This nationally recognised accreditation supports settings to review and strengthen inclusive practice, increase staff confidence in supporting children with SEND, and demonstrate their commitment to inclusion through a recognised quality mark. Providers eligible for nomination have been contacted separately with further details but if you would like to be nominated to take part, please email EYexpansion@northyorks.gov.uk

DfE Funded Early Years SENDCO Training

The DfE, in partnership with Best Practice Network, is funding training for an additional 9,500 Early Years SENCOs by March 2028. If you haven't already signed up, apply by the 25th of October to secure your place onto the November intake! For more information and to apply: Early Years SENCO 2026 | Best Practice Network.

Early Years SENCO Network Meeting

The next Early Years SENCo meeting will be 10th November. You can book directly on NYES Early Years SENCO Network Meeting | NYES Info

Digiduck Stories

A range of stores to help educate children aged 3 – 7 years about online safety Digiduck Stories | Childnet

Oral Health Autumn Newsletter

The new Oral Health Newsletter produced by the North Yorkshire & York Oral Health Improvement Team working with children and families to improve children's oral health. **(Attachment 1)**

Building Blocks for Language

Share with your families who have a child aged 2 to 3 years 11 months who would benefit from support with their speech, language and communication skills, Building Blocks for Language could be the perfect next step. Building Blocks for Language is a free, 6-week course that aims to develop the foundations of early communication**. (Attachment 2)**

EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

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

AUTUMN TERM ACTION CHECKLIST

Action Required	Complete
Check Headcount Deadline 5pm – Wednesday 21st October 2026	☐
Complete the North Yorkshire Council 2027-2028 Early Years Funding Consultation Deadline: 5pm on Friday, 23rd October 2026.	☐

Ensure that your charging policy follows the statutory guidance - Early education and childcare - GOV.UK	☐

KEY DATES AT A GLANCE

Activity	Date
Check Headcount, including EYPP	**5pm, Wednesday 21st October 2026**
North Yorkshire Council – 2027-28 Early Years Funding Consultation on principle-based proposals for early years funding rates - complete the response form on this link at: https://survey.northyorks.gov.uk/t/8OC3H7/ The responses received to this consultation will be considered by the North Yorkshire Council Executive Members for the Children & Young People's Service in their decision-making process in relation to early years' funding rates for the 2027-28 financial year.	**5pm on Friday, 23rd October 2026**
Save the Date – Provider Funding Briefing Session. Further details will follow later this month	**1pm & 7pm, Tuesday 3rd November 2026**

COMPLIANCE

✅ **Compliance Checks**

- Veritau, on behalf of the Funding Team, have contacted a number of providers and are carrying out a compliance review. If you are a provider contacted to take part and have any queries about this request, please contact eyft@northyorks.gov.uk
- Once Veritau have completed the compliance checks then the providers will be contacted where actions are required.

✅ **Review current practices** to ensure compliance with DfE statutory guidance, including:

- **No artificial breaks:** Children should be able to access their funded hours in continuous blocks where desired. Providers **must not create artificial breaks** within funded sessions, such as offering funded hours from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm, with only paid hours available between 12pm and 1pm.
- **Invoicing:** Invoices must clearly show date and parent name including funded hours as **£0 at the point of delivery**, with any charges for non-funded hours or consumables listed separately and transparently.
- **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.