

Early Years Key Messages

1st September 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>

Sufficiency Data Deadline Extension

Reminder - Childminder Registration Name

Early Years Service Children's Champion

Families First FREE Training

Early Years Statutory Framework (EYFS) changes

Ofsted Updated EY Operating Guide, Toolkit and Inspection Information

Early Years Educator Level 3 Qualification

Early Years Qualification Requirements

DfE and Ofsted Safer Sleep Vodcast

NYC Speech and Language Sessions

NYSCP Safeguarding Children Training Flowchart

NYSCP Safeguarding Evenings for early years providers

FREE NSPCC/DfE Safeguarding Training

NYC Early Years Training Calendar 2026-2027

Yorkshire and Humber Stronger Practice Hub

Foundation Years Newsletter and Website

Supporting Toilet Independence before School

EYFS Twilight Oral Health Session

Early Years Funding Update

Sufficiency Data Deadline Extension

The Sufficiency Tab on the [Synergy Provider Portal](#) is currently open. The revised deadline to submit sufficiency data is Tuesday 15th September 2026 for all Early Years and Wraparound (school aged childcare) providers.

Please ensure you read the updated guidance in full, prior to completion of your sufficiency data return. Attachment 1

Please see below the support sessions that will be available to attend, to help with your data submissions:

- **Thursday 10th September 1pm**

Link to join the Teams meeting:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/354494084768314?p=YcKseNPw2dxZlhBoky>

Meeting ID: 354 494 084 768 314 Passcode: qe25f37q

- **Friday 11th September 10am**

Link to join the Teams meeting

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/38701204253934?p=q1ks1t5mcxiTGO9bHK>

Meeting ID: 387 012 042 539 34 Passcode: Ns3w3eZ7

Reminder - Childminder Registration Name

When corresponding with North Yorkshire Council, please always use your registered name rather than the name of your childminding business. This helps ensure consistency and enables the Council to identify your provision accurately using its registered details.

Early Years Service Children's Champion

Please note the change of email for the EY Service Children's Champion:

EYservicechampion@northyorks.gov.uk

Families First FREE Training

North Yorkshire Council has commissioned Families First CIC to deliver a programme of support and resources for wraparound and school-age childcare providers. This support is **free of charge** and is available on a first come-first served basis.

Please find attached an information leaflet outlining each of the individual courses:- *Behind the Behaviour*, *Safeguarding*, *Play in Wraparound*, and *Inclusion*. These are flexible online courses allowing learners to complete at their own pace.

In addition, Families First is offering Business Planning sessions which will run each term. The autumn term sessions will run on **Wednesday 21st October 2026, 09.30 -12.30 and 18.30 – 21.30.**

Registration for North Yorkshire Council 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.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Elizabeth Roberts on schoolagechildcare@northyorks.gov.uk if you require any further information. **Attachment 2**

Early Years Statutory Framework (EYFS) changes

To ensure that providers remain up to date with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements, please be aware of the changes that will come into effect from **1 September 2026** for childminders, group providers, and school-based providers. These updates strengthen existing safeguarding requirements and reflect the ongoing commitment to protecting children. Safeguarding requirements are continually reviewed and updated to help ensure that children are cared for in safe and secure environments. Updated EYFS requirements: [EYFS frameworks](#)

Ofsted Updated EY Operating Guide, Toolkit and Inspection Information

From 1 September 2026 Ofsted will be using their [updated early years operating guide, toolkit and inspection information](#) when inspecting early years settings.

Key changes include:

- providers must meet the grading standards as well as the relevant EYFS requirements to be graded at the 'expected standard'
- detail on safer sleeping arrangements and safer eating practices
- clarity on inspecting when there are no early years children on roll or present
- inspectors will speak to SENCo and other relevant leaders with inclusion roles
- information about children with personal education plans.

Early Years Educator Level 3 Qualifications

We are delighted to share that Adult Learning at North Yorkshire Council have secured funding for a limited number of people who would like to complete a **fully funded* TQUK Level 3 Diploma for the Children's Workforce (Early Years Educator)** qualification starting in November 2026. **Attachment 3**

Early Years Qualification Requirements

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework sets out the minimum qualification and experience requirements that group and school-based providers must ensure their staff meet to be recognised as level 2, level 3 or level 6 members of staff for the purpose of working within the EYFS staff:child ratios. Providers must refer to these requirements to determine at which level a member of staff can be included in the staff:child ratios. [Early years qualification requirements and standards - GOV.UK](#)

DfE and Ofsted Safer Sleep Vodcast

The Department for Education and Ofsted have recently published a joint vodcast on safer sleep in early years settings. Safer Sleep Vodcast: [Vodcastvodcast via the Foundation Years website.](#)

NYC Speech and Language Sessions

North Yorkshire SEND Hubs are holding Speech and Language sessions taking place in the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale areas this Autumn Term. Please see the poster share with parents and carers in your setting. **Attachment 4**

NYSCP Safeguarding Children Training Flowchart

To ensure that providers safeguarding knowledge is current and in line with the EYFS, please find attached a flowchart of NYSCP training recommended for all staff to complete as well as DSL training for new DSLs and refresher training for established DSLs. A wide variety of safeguarding training is available on the NYSCP website including lunchtime sessions on specific safeguarding subjects and the Early Years Safeguarding online event to be held on 14th October. **Attachment 5**

NYSCP Safeguarding Evenings for early years providers

The dates for the NYSCP Safeguarding evenings for all PVI early years group providers and childminders are below. Please book via NYES. These will be held on Teams and will be from 1900 – 2100 hrs:-

Wednesday, 14th October 2026

Wednesday, 28th April 2027

Wednesday, 6th October 2027

FREE NSPCC/DfE Safeguarding Training

The DfE has launched **free** safeguarding training for all early years staff.

Developed with NSPCC learning, the safeguarding package of training materials includes tips on how to build a culture of safeguarding in settings and a list of guidance and resources covering safer recruitment, domestic abuse and legislation. Access training via: [NYSCP](#)

NYC Early Years Training Calendar 2026-2027

The Early Years training calendar for academic year 2026/27 has now been released. Training Calendar. **Attachment 6**

Yorkshire and Humber Stronger Practice Hub

The stronger practice hubs support early years settings and childminders in their area to adopt evidence-based practice improvements. Please see Yorkshire and Humberside lead setting and partners:

Lead setting: Childhaven Community Nursery School, North Yorkshire

Partners:

- Maria Catherine Machin (Childminder)

- St Paul's Nursery School
- Puddleducks Children's Day Nursery

Foundation Years Newsletter and Website

Stay updated with all latest news, policies and resources by signing up to receive the Foundation Years newsletter directly and accessing up to date news and resources on the website [Foundation Years - Latest news, policy and resources for early years professionals](#)

Supporting Toilet Independence before School

The Best Start in Life campaign is providing **free toilet training resources** for parents and practitioners, offering practical support to help children become school ready.

The resources acknowledge that every child develops at their own pace and that some children, such as those with bowel or bladder conditions or SEND, may benefit from additional time or tailored support.

Toilet Training Talks hero film: [Best Start in Life | Toilet Training Talks | Toilet Training Tips Before Starting School - YouTube](#)

- The Best Start in Life / NHS potty training guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/best-start-in-life/toddler/potty-training-your-child/>
- The Potty-Training Guide: <https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/>
- ERIC – [Potty training children with additional needs](#)
- Dingley's Promise – [Support with Toileting](#)
- BBC Tiny Happy People – [Potty training children with additional needs](#)
-

EYFS Twilight Oral Health Session

Community Dental Services are providing Free Twilight Oral Health sessions for all early years. An attendance certificate will be provided, to book your place click on the dates on the attached poster. **Attachment 7**

Early Years Funding Update

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

AUTUMN TERM ACTION CHECKLIST	
Action Required	Complete
Autumn Term Estimates – Closed - Contact Early Years Team if submission missed.	☐
Check all Working Family Eligibility Codes before offering funded place and remind parents to reconfirm eligibility codes by 31 August 2026 if validity not confirmed	☐
Submit Autumn Term Headcount Claim and DAF supporting evidence, if applicable Deadline 5pm - Friday 2 October 2026	☐
Ensure that your charging policy follows the statutory guidance - Early education and childcare - GOV.UK	☐
KEY DATES AT A GLANCE	
Activity	Date
Working Parent Code Deadline (Reconfirm/Obtain)	31 August 2026
DfE Consultation Deadline	14 September 2026

Headcount Submission and DAF evidence Deadline		5:00pm, 2 October 2026	
AUTUMN TERM ESTIMATES			
☒ If you have not submitted an estimate, you will not receive a payment in September. To receive a payment in October, please contact the Early Years Team at eyft@northyorks.gov.uk as soon as possible and you will be sent an estimate proforma for completion.			
Working Family Code Validity Checks			
☒ Check all Working Family Eligibility Codes ☒ Ensure codes have:			
Start Date		On or before 31 August 2026	
End Date		After 1 September 2026	
Parent Reconfirmation Deadline		31 August 2026	
 Some children with currently valid codes may still need to reconfirm before the deadline to remain eligible for Autumn Term funding.			
AUTUMN TERM HEADCOUNT - OPEN			
☒ The Synergy Provider Portal is now open for Autumn Term Headcount submissions.			
Headcount Week		28 September – 2 October 2026	
Headcount Submission and DAF evidence Deadline		5:00pm Friday 2 October 2026	
☒ Key Rule: Census information on funding page. <u>Always</u> enter '38' weeks for the entitlement being claimed, even if you operate fewer weeks or offer stretched funding. This information must be added to be able to submit your claim. If submitted incorrectly, providers will be contacted and required to re-send.			
Claim Type	Funded Entitlement Weeks	Expanded/ Extended Entitlement Weeks	
Under 2's – Working Family funded hours claim	0	38	
2YO – Early Learning for 2-year-olds funded hours claim only (formerly FRAS)	38	0	
2YO – Working Family funded hours claim only	0	38	
2YO – <u>both</u> Early Learning for 2-year-olds and Working Family funded hours claim	38	38	
3&4YO – Universal funded hours only	38	0	
3&4YO – Working Family (Extended) only	0	38	
3&4YO – both Universal and Working Family funded hours claim	38	38	
Important Reminder - Please do not wait until Headcount Week to submit your claim.			
☒ Submit claims as early as possible, early submission allows time to resolve - eligibility code issues, access problems, additional claims and data queries.			
COMPLIANCE			
☒ 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 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.

✓ **Compliance Checks**

- Veritau, on behalf of the Funding Team, will shortly be contacting a number of providers to undertake 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

STRETCHED FUNDING GUIDANCE

- ✓ For those providers stretching government funding, please find our updated website guidance on our website here: [Stretched Funding Guidance 2026-27.pdf](#)

REVIEW DfE FUNDING CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- ✓ The consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the early years funding system associated with the current offer of early years entitlements. Responses are requested by **14 September 2026**.

Please use the links below to the Government consultation documents:

[Early year funding proposed changes to the entitlements funding system consultation Annex for early years funding consultation](#)

Response form:

[Early years funding: proposed changes to the entitlements funding system - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)