

# Early Years Key Messages

**April 2021**

Please ensure Key Messages is shared with all staff in your provision. Previous Key Messages can be found: <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare>

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*Wishing everyone a very happy and safe Easter.*

## **Safeguarding**

Please refer to information, campaigns and training on the NYSCP website under the “Professionals” tab including links to the Head First – North Yorkshire’s Mental Health Training Hub and Covid-19 Psychological First Aid training [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.nyscp.org.uk/safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

## **Supporting Staff wellbeing**

Please refer to the link in the [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91444/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak) regarding employers having a duty of care to their employees and this extends to their mental health. Education Support [Education Support - the mental health and wellbeing charity for education staff](https://www.education-support.org.uk/education-support-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-charity-for-education-staff) provides targeted support for mental health and wellbeing

### **Notifying Ofsted**

Providers must notify Ofsted of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, any child while in their care, and of the action taken. This includes notification of positive Covid-19 cases and closing provision. Notification must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, **but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring (EYFS 3.51)**.

### **EYFS staff: child ratios – DfE approved qualifications**

The DfE has updated its [list of approved qualifications for counting in EYFS staff:child ratios](#) regarding qualifications affected by changes to NCFE CACHE early years educator (EYE) and early years educator (EYP) qualifications where the certificate shows 'knowledge only pathway'. Access this list for all approved qualifications for working in early years.

### **Golden Ticket letters – two-year-old funding**

Please ensure you put the parent's name, as shown on the Golden Ticket letter, and the GT number in the notes section when completing your headcount details.

The next set of Golden Ticket letters will be sent to families on the DWP list in April. This will be for children who are eligible for a government-funded place from September 2021.

### **The Best Start for Life Report**

Andrea Leadsom's report has been published. Please follow the link to access this.

[The best start for life a vision for the 1 001 critical days.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Asymptomatic testing in early years**

Guidance on asymptomatic testing in early years settings is available via this link [Asymptomatic testing: early years staff in different settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Childcare Survey 2021 (England)**

Coram Family and Childcare have released the Childcare Survey 2021. This is the 21st annual survey mapping the cost and availability of childcare across Great Britain. Attachment 1

### **Cyber Security awareness in Early Years**

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has published guidance specifically for the early years sector. You can find the guidance for early years practitioners on the NCSC's own [website](#).

The DfE has asked us to share this link with providers as it offers practical advice on steps to take to protect your settings from accidental damage and online criminals.

### **Cash for kids - Supporting local children**

We are proud to introduce ourselves to the Yorkshire Coast region!

Cash for Kids is the new official charity of [Greatest Hits Radio Yorkshire Coast](#). We are a grant-giving charity supporting children from birth to 18, and we helped over 396,000 disadvantaged children across the UK in 2020 including some in the Yorkshire Coast area. We are now accepting applications for funding.

If your organisation works with children that need support, you could be eligible to apply.

Visit the website to find out more about our grant applications, or email [kathryn.biggin@bauermedia.co.uk](mailto:kathryn.biggin@bauermedia.co.uk) to speak to the team.

[Find out more »](#)

### **Pacey one year on - Childminders**

At the start of the pandemic last year, PACEY conducted surveys to identify the immediate issues affecting childminders and direct support where needed at that time. Now, one year on, we are looking at how the sector stands as we ease out of lockdown restrictions and what effects the pandemic may have caused on childminding sustainability.

As part of this, we are inviting childminders in England and Wales to take part in our survey on the [financial impact of Covid-19 and their provision 'one year on'](#). This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete and answers will be kept entirely confidential. At the end of the survey, respondents can

enter your details into a prize draw for a chance to win one of three £25 shopping vouchers. There is also an opportunity to speak to a PACEY researcher further in follow up telephone interviews. The data from this survey will be presented as part of our case for the much-needed Government support and investment to ensure that childminders can continue to support children and families in the post-pandemic recovery period and beyond.

If you have any questions relating to this survey or our wider research, please contact [policy@pacey.org.uk](mailto:policy@pacey.org.uk).

[Take the survey here](#)

### **Shielding update**

The Government has announced that shielding guidance is being paused and from Thursday 1 April, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield. CEV people must continue to follow the national restrictions that are in place for everyone.

From Thursday 1 April, all CEV children should attend early years provision, school, college, wraparound childcare and out-of-school settings, unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care that have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.

Where parents/carers, staff or students are anxious about attendance, you should speak to them about their concerns and discuss the protective measures that have been put in place to reduce the risk and any additional measures that could be put in place.

There is [guidance](#) in place to assist school leaders in actions they should take to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their setting. This includes public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE).

See also PVI rollout FAQs. Attachment 2

### **Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline opening hours over the Easter holidays**

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline will be open every day over the Easter holidays to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings. Over the bank holiday weekend (Friday 2 April to Monday 5 April), lines will be open from 10am to 4pm. Phone: 0800 046 8687.

### **Business Support – Free Advice**

The Early Years Business Support Team is available to offer advice on managing your cash flow, breakeven analysis, concerns re financial viability and general financial management and governance arrangements. If you wish to contact us regarding business support, please complete the web form as per link:-

<https://wa5.northyorks.gov.uk/eforms/fes/>

### **Children’s Commissioner “Best Beginnings in the early years” Report**

Please find the link to the Children’s Commissioner’s report [Best beginnings in the early years | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

***“Stand aside for a while and leave room for learning, observe carefully what children do, and then, if you have understood well, perhaps teaching will be different from before.”***

Loris Malaguzzi