

Early Years Key Messages

December 2020

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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Updated Actions for early years and Childcare settings

Please find below the link to the updated “Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak” which comes into place once national restrictions are lifted on 2nd December.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Foundation Years – Covid 19 Resources Hub

The Foundation Years website features a [COVID-19 resources](#) hub where you can find all the latest policy announcements, Government guidance and free resources from across the sector to support early years providers during the pandemic.

Golden Ticket Letters – Two Year Old Funding

The first set of Golden Ticket letters have been posted to eligible families and these are now being taken to early years providers to enable children to access their funded two year old place. The next set of Golden Ticket letters will be posted to families in January 2021 who are eligible on the new DWP list.

Please ensure you see the Golden Ticket letter and the child’s birth certificate as proof of eligibility. You will need to input the Golden Ticket number (GTxxxxxxxGT) on your headcount claim in the “Notes” section as well as the correct name and address of the recipient as shown on the letter.

Safeguarding Audit Tools for Early Years Providers

The Safeguarding Audit Tools have been updated for your use. The tools are to support you to assess your safeguarding practices to make sure adequate arrangements are in place to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of children. The toolkits contain links directly to the NYSCP website. Please ensure you use the correct toolkit for your provision. If you are a childminder working alone, please use the Childminder toolkit; for all other early years providers, including childminders working with an assistant(s), please use the Early Years provider toolkit. Attachments 1 and 2.

NYSCP e-Bulletin

Sign up for NYSCP e-bulletin at <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/nyscp-e-bulletin/>

Grow and Learn Christmas Activities

Please find attached the Grow and Learn Christmas calendar of activities for you to share with families in your provision. Attachment 3

Children Starting School in Reception September 2021

Children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 are due to start school in September 2021 and families must apply for a primary school place for them. The deadline to submit applications is 15 January 2021.

Please signpost families to the online application on the North Yorkshire County Council website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions. Families living outside North Yorkshire will need to contact their home authority to obtain their information regarding school admissions. Please email schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk or phone 01609 533679 if you have any queries.

Royal Foundation report “Five Big Questions on the Under 5’s”

The report has been published following the research conducted by the Duchess of Cambridge <https://royalfoundation.com/the-duchess-of-cambridge-unveils-five-big-insights-research-early-years/>

Children Choking

Following the recent tragic death of a two year old child choking on a piece of sausage during lunch at a nursery, please ensure children are well supervised at meal and snack times and that all food is cut into manageable pieces for young children. Further information is available on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/helping-choking-baby/>

Child Accident Prevention Trust – Capt

In the run-up to Christmas, Capt will be offering more advice on buying safe toys plus lots of free downloadable resources for you to use in your communications with families. Let us help families find [#safetoysonline](#)

We are almost at the end of 2020 - a year unlike any other for all of us both professionally and personally. Despite the ongoing pandemic, early years providers continue to do what they do best; care for and nurture our youngest children whilst providing support to their families. Thank you for everything you do for the children and families of North Yorkshire. Have a lovely Christmas and here's to a much better 2021. Helen and Carol.

