

# Early Years Key Messages

**December 2021**



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

## **Safer Recruitment – References and Suitability Declaration**

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## **Safer Recruitment – References and Suitability Checks**

It is essential that all settings and schools take up the appropriate references when employing prospective/new staff. This should include the current employer at which the applicant is presently employed which should be the owner, manager or headteacher.

All settings and schools providers must check that new/prospective staff are not disqualified by requiring candidates to complete a thorough suitability declaration **before** employing them and not after they have been employed. A good suitability declaration should include what would disqualify staff from working within the EYFS and that it is not just about cautions and convictions. It should include whether the candidate's own children have been removed or taken into care and whether the candidate has previously had an Ofsted registration refused or cancelled.

## **Mod Grant**

A reminder that the closing date for applications for MOD grants ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December. If any providers have children of Service Families (Armed Forces) in their setting and have not already applied for grant funding, please contact FIS for an application form as soon as possible.

## **Two year old Funding Criteria**

If you are unsure which families are eligible for two-year-old funding, please refer to the NYCC website at [Early years funding - two year olds | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

## **Tax-Free Childcare**

Ensure your setting is registered to offer working families Tax Free childcare. The government will add an extra £2 for every £8 parents pay into their account. This 20% discount may enable families to access more sessions with you. It is paid for children aged 0 – 11 or up to 16 if disabled and can be used in after school clubs etc.. Information available [Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#) HMRC has produced a toolkit to help you communicate with working parents about the support they can get through Tax-Free Childcare. Attachment 1

## **Covid-19 – Reporting Positive Cases**

The Covid-19 response team has highlighted the following:-

- The importance of staff twice weekly Lateral Flow (LFD) testing and Managers checking that staff are doing it.
- If group settings have cases, daily staff LFD testing will help pick up other cases quickly.
- Use the guidance sent out to providers to help implement measures if you have cases including latest government guidance.
- Notify confirmed cases providing full setting details including notification to Ofsted and whether the setting has had to close via [Education.COVID19@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Education.COVID19@northyorks.gov.uk)

## **Getting started on the Healthy Early years award**

See attachment 2

## **CO2 Monitor Rollout for Government-Funded Group Early Years Providers**

Information has been shared with early years providers directly regarding this. The DfE has produced a 'how to' guide on using CO<sub>2</sub> monitors in education and childcare settings available on the [Google drive](#). If settings have any further queries about their DfE issued CO<sub>2</sub> monitor, please call DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687.

## **“Day or Night, Sleep Right” Campaign & Free Enhanced Training**

The North Yorkshire and York Safeguarding Children Partnerships has been working with multi-agency partners to create a programme of work aimed at reducing the risks of **Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI)** with a particular focus families with increased vulnerabilities. The 'Day or Night, Sleep Right' campaign has been created to raise awareness of the importance of safe sleeping environments for infants to reduce the number who may be at risk of SUDI. **This programme of work includes an enhanced training package for practitioners** from all relevant agencies to understand the factors that can lead to increased risk of SUDI and their role and responsibilities in confidently supporting families. To book on the **free Sudden and Unexpected Death in Infancy: Prevent and Protect Training**, visit <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/sleepright/>

## **SEND locality Hub bookable drop-ins**

Please find attached information regarding the SEND Locality Hub bookable sessions for early years providers. Please access the local hub for your area and email [NYSENDHubs@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:NYSENDHubs@northyorks.gov.uk) for information, support and guidance. Attachments 3, 4 and 5

## **Level 3 Free Qualifications Early Years & Education**

Would you like to achieve a level 3 qualification in early years or education? If you have not yet achieved a level 3 qualification or equivalent, you could learn with the Adult Learning & Skills Service for FREE. Don't worry if you have already gained a level 3 qualification, but want to change your career direction and try something new - you can apply for an Advanced Learner Loan. Two routes. Two options to gain your level 3 qualification. Courses are running all year round. Attachment 6

To find out more and to speak to the Adult Learning team: Call: 01609 536066

Email: [adultlearning@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@northyorks.gov.uk)

[www.northyorks.gov.uk/view-adult-learning-courses-and-enrol-online](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/view-adult-learning-courses-and-enrol-online)

## **Choking Prevention**

Ensuring children are kept safe within early years settings is a priority and preventing children from choking is an important part of this. Updates to the EYFS Statutory Framework reflect this with 3.29 making clear that children should be supervised whilst eating and a footnote added to paragraph 3.46 directing providers to guidance on food preparation. The Food Standards Agency has produced two posters which should be displayed where food is prepared and served to children. The Food Safety page on the Help for Early Years Providers website also outlines important messages and links to useful resources regarding keeping children safe whilst eating [Food safety - Help for early years providers - GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/education.gov.uk). Attachments 7 and 8

## **NSPCC Resources**

Two resources to support early years practice from the NSPCC  
[Early years sector: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Look, Say, Sing, Play early years resources to use and share with parents | NSPCC Learning](#)

## **Christmas Activity for schools**

The Christmas Activity Guidance is also suitable for early years. Attachments 9 and 10

## **Little Orange Book – Free webinar**

Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group's Little Orange Book provides helpful advice for practitioners and parents of babies and young children aged 0-5yrs. It helps recognise and respond to a range of common diseases, illnesses and conditions as well as pointing to the most appropriate service for further support. The Little Orange Book covers everything from common minor ailments like teething and constipation to more serious conditions like urinary tract infections and wheezy chests. It uses a traffic light system to help practitioners and parents decide what action to take. Dr David Jones, co-creator of the Little Orange Book is holding a short webinar **on Tuesday 21 December 2021 at 2pm** outlining the aims of the book, the developmental stages and feedback received. Please join via the Teams link below. If you have any queries please contact [Nicola.gannon@nhs.net](mailto:Nicola.gannon@nhs.net)

**Join on your computer or mobile app** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Join with a video conferencing device:** [teams@cvi.nhs.net](mailto:teams@cvi.nhs.net)

Video Conference ID: 129 651 226 7

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5208,271362312#](tel:+442033215208271362312) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 271 362 312#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

*“Thank you for your work and dedication during another difficult year.  
We wish everybody a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.”*