

# Early Years Key Messages

**February 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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***Thank you for being there and for continuing to support the children and families in your care during these very difficult times.***

## **Lateral Flow Testing and Vaccines**

Please see below information from NYCC Public Health:-

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

*We have had a number of queries about LFD testing by early years providers. As a local authority, we are currently working with DHSC to develop the community testing offer in North Yorkshire. The government are also working towards expanding the home testing offer to more groups. The situation is changing rapidly and we will be in touch with you to offer more information as soon as we are able to. In the meantime, early years staff are being prioritised for PCR testing if they have symptoms, you can book a test on the [NHS website](#) or by ringing 119.*

Please also note that testing is not a preventative measure; please continue to maintain robust infection prevention measures including handwashing, social distancing where possible and frequent cleaning of surfaces.

### **Vaccinations**

We have had a number of queries about vaccinations for early years staff. The roll out of vaccinations is led by the NHS. They are using the priority list as set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) which you can find here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-december-2020>.

The NHS will get in touch with you and your staff when you and/or they are eligible for the vaccine. We will of course also keep you posted on any developments locally.

### **Paediatric First Aid requalification training**

DfE have also taken the decision that if Paediatric First Aid certificate requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with the COVID-19 pandemic, or by complying with related government advice, the validity of current certificates can be extended to **31 March 2021** at the latest. This applies to certificates expiring on or after **1 October 2020**. This is in recognition of the fact that some practitioners are facing difficulties in accessing requalification training due to courses being cancelled. If asked to do so, providers should be able to explain why the first aider has not been able to requalify and demonstrate what steps have taken to access the training. Employers or certificate holders must do their best to arrange requalification training at the earliest opportunity

### **Lockdown 3 Guidance and Foundation Years FAQs**

The latest guidance "Education and childcare settings: national lockdown from 5/2/2021" is available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/950653/Education\\_and\\_childcare\\_settings\\_-\\_national\\_lockdown\\_from\\_5\\_January\\_2021](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950653/Education_and_childcare_settings_-_national_lockdown_from_5_January_2021). It states that all "early years provision should remain open and continue to allow all children to attend full time or their usual timetable hours" and that "It is a legal requirement that settings should revisit and update their risk assessments (building on the learning to date and the practices they have already developed). Please ensure your risk assessments are updated.

The Foundation Years website has updated FAQs which have been checked with the DfE. This [document](#) answers the FAQs from the early years sector on the national lockdown. The previous FAQs can be found [here](#). The Foundation Years **COVID-19 resources hub** will continue to be updated to include the latest information and guidance, in addition to hosting a variety of resources to support early years settings during the COVID-19 outbreak

### **Health advice to help parents –please share**

Please read and share this important message to help parents understand symptoms and the appropriate action to take. [NYSCP Latest News - Advice for parents during Lockdown 3](#)

[Direct Link to Poster](#)

### **Early Years Autism Courses**

EYFS specific training will be delivered in the Spring Term and details can be found on NYES. These are delivered specifically with EYFS in mind and are scheduled for Saturdays to accommodate childminders and early years staff who find it difficult to access courses during the week. Attachment 1

### **SEND Locality Hub**

Please find attached a flyer for the SEND locality hub drop in sessions for early years providers and schools for the Harrogate, Knaresborough, Richmondshire and Craven districts. Attachment 2

### **MOD Grants**

If you applied for the MOD grant and have been successful in your application, please email [fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk) with the outcome if you have not already done so.

## **EY Engagement Sessions – 4/5/6 February**

A reminder that three further EY Engagement Sessions are being held. Please follow the link underneath each date and time to join that specific session. We look forward to seeing you at one of the events. You may need to download Microsoft Teams before joining. Please sign in with your setting name when you join the meeting:-

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 : 1830 hrs – 1930 hrs

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 : 1700 hrs – 1800 hrs

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 : 1000 hrs – 1100 hrs

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

## **DfE Weekly Data collection**

Please find below the link to completing the DfE weekly attendance survey.

**It is essential that all childminders, day nurseries, pre-school groups and schools with early years provision (i.e. pre-Reception) complete this short survey on a weekly basis via the survey link**

**<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=159256847548>**. The link is open throughout the week and completion of the survey must be completed by 09:30 each Thursday.

## **Dates for Early Years Leaders Forums**

The Spring Term Early Years Leaders' Forums for childminders, preschools and day nurseries will be held virtually through Skype and are available to book via NYES.

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March; 1900 – 2100 hrs. Course Code: SI-0321-T031

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March: 1330 – 1530 hrs. Course Code: SI-0321-T032

## **Early Years Foundation Stage Reforms**

The new EYFS Reforms Framework will become statutory from the September 2021. The two key aims of the reforms are to:

- Improve outcomes at age 5 particularly in language and literacy and for disadvantaged children.
- To reduce workload so teachers and practitioners can spend more time interacting, supporting and teaching children.

There are some significant changes to the framework and we will be providing a series of 3 modules to support people to look at the changes and how to prepare for implementation of the new Framework. These are the first training dates this term and the plan is to repeat them in the summer term however please put your name on the waiting list if any date is saying it is full as we may be able to extend places or plan another date. The three modules fit together with the first one being the statutory changes and then the second two helping people to consider how to implement the changes into their practice however each module is booked individually.

## **Principles into Practice - Module 1: The Statutory Requirements of the new EYFS for 2021**

24th February (19.00-21.00) SI-0221-T030

25th February (13.30-15.30) SI-0221-T031

## **Principles into Practice - Module 2: The Adult Role**

1<sup>st</sup> March (13.30-15.30) SI-0321-T020

3<sup>rd</sup> March (19.00-21.00) SI-0321-T021

## **Principles into Practice - Module 3: Observation, Assessment and Planning with the new framework 2021**

10th March (19.00-21.00) SI-0321-T022

12th March (13.30-15.300) SI-0321-T023

### **ICON Briefing – please share**

Please find attached information from the NHS about support and advice from ICON to use and share with staff and families. Attachment 3.

### **Early Years Funding**

A reminder that the LA are required by legislation to ensure that all eligible children can take up their funded entitlement place free of charge. Parents must not be charged “top-up” fees (any difference between a provider’s normal charge to parents and the funding they receive from the local authority).

Providers must ensure parents understand which hours / sessions can be taken as free provision. Invoices and receipts must be clear, transparent and itemised allowing parents to see that they have received their child’s funded entitlement completely free of charge and understand fees paid for additional hours or services. Invoices and receipts should include the provider’s full details so that they can be identified as coming from a specific provider.

### **Updating through provider portal**

We can provide information about the services you offer to parents seeking childcare. We can do this only with your permission. To check your permissions and information about your business is up to date visit the provider portal.

<https://fisportal.northyorks.gov.uk/Synergy/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FSynergy%2FProviders%2F>

### **Early Help sessions and courses**

Please read and share if you know of, or are supporting a child, young person or family our [latest news page detailing the Early Help Spring programme of virtual sessions and courses](#)

Booking is direct with the local hubs detailed below.

**East Locality:** – [C&FHubscarborough@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:C&FHubscarborough@northyorks.gov.uk) – 01609 534101

[C&FHubWhitbyRyedale@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:C&FHubWhitbyRyedale@northyorks.gov.uk) – 01609 534129

**West Locality:** – [C&FHubCraven@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:C&FHubCraven@northyorks.gov.uk) – 01609 533118

[C&FHubHarrogate@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:C&FHubHarrogate@northyorks.gov.uk) – 01609 533127

**Central Locality:** – [C&FHubHambleton@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:C&FHubHambleton@northyorks.gov.uk) – 01609 532320

[C&FHubSelby@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:C&FHubSelby@northyorks.gov.uk) – 01609 532343

*“Sometimes.” said the horse. “Sometimes what?” asked the boy. “Sometimes just getting up and carrying on is brave and magnificent.” Charlie Mackesy “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse”*