

# Early Years Key Messages

## July 2023

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

### **EYFS Consultation – Deadline for responses 26th July 2023**

**SEND code of practice**

**Regulation 5 Reminder**

**Early Years Business Support Available**

**Emails sent by NYC**

**Early Years/Locality Board Early Years SEND Survey**

**Healthy Start Vitamin Collection Sites**

**Help for Early Years Providers – DfE Website**

**Increase in Measles**

**DfE Expansion of Childcare Offer - Communications Information Pack**

**Hambleton & Richmondshire Locality Board Autism Project**

**Locality Boards Engagement Event**

### **EYFS Consultation – Deadline for responses 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The DfE has released a vodcast and slides explaining the current EYFS consultation. You can watch the vodcast [here](#) and download the slides [here](#). You can respond to the consultation [here](#) or if you would like more information on the consultation, you can read [our blog](#) as well as sign up for DfE's [online event on 6 July](#)

### **SEND code of practice**

A reminder about the Early Years Guide to the SEND Code of Practice for all early years providers to follow is still available to support practice

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/350685/Early\\_Years\\_Guide\\_to\\_SEND\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_-\\_02Sept14.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350685/Early_Years_Guide_to_SEND_Code_of_Practice_-_02Sept14.pdf)

### **Regulation 5 Reminder**

**For the attention of:** Funded Private Day Nurseries, Pre-school Playgroups, Independent Schools, Childminders (Ofsted registered and Childminder Agency registered) and schools with nursery provision.

A reminder that Regulation 5 of the Local Authority (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) regulations 2014, imposes a requirement on Local Authorities to fund early years provision at any early years provider that is willing to accept the terms of funding, which meet prescribed quality standards, and where a parent wants their child to receive their funded place at that provider. Further details can be found in the Statutory guidance, link here [Early education and childcare - Statutory guidance for local authorities \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

To ensure that you comply:

1) Providers should publish a statement of how they deliver the free entitlement, and any additional charges for optional activities outside of the entitlement. Tell parents that food, drink, consumables such as nappies, sun cream or additional activities are not covered by the government funding, and therefore parents should

expect to pay for any meals as well as consumables or additional activities offered by the provider alongside their free entitlement

2) Where parents choose to purchase additional hours of provision, consumables or additional activities, this is a private matter between the provider and the parent. However, providers must offer alternative options for parents. This could include, for example, allowing a parent to bring in their own consumables or a packed lunch, where the meal offered is not suitable for children with specific dietary needs or the parent prefers a lower cost option. Providers should be mindful of the impact of additional charges on the most disadvantaged parents.

3) Providers may wish to have a separate agreement for any additional hours, meals and/or optional activities, which clearly sets out for how long the parent has opted to pay the additional charges and the circumstances when the parent can opt out of paying the additional charges.

4) Invoices must itemise the charges that are being made. These should allow parents to see that they have received their child's free entitlement completely free of charge and understand any fees due for additional hours or services. Government funding must not be used as a discount/subsidy towards provider fees.

5) Parents must also not be charged the difference between the local authority funding and the fee the provider would normally charge, sometimes referred to as 'top-up'

6) Where it is reasonably practicable children should be able to take up their funded hours in continuous blocks and providers should avoid artificial breaks being created throughout the day, for example, over the lunch period. Providers should allow a parent to choose an alternative to the paid for meal such as bring their own food, so that they can take up their funded entitlement without having to purchase any additional services.

Invoices for funded provision should be prepared in accordance with government guidance: [Invoicing and taking payment from customers: Invoices - what they must include - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The local authority will investigate any instances where concerns are raised regarding the delivery of Government funded early years provision.

As mentioned in the Early years Leadership Forum this month, there has been several investigations carried out by the Ombudsman regarding how parents have received their government funded place. Please use this link for information on the cases: [19 004 977 - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, Council asked to repay father's nursery fees following ombudsman investigation - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#), [Notts mum should be refunded nursery charges following Ombudsman investigation - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)

### **Early Years Business Support Available**

Free business support is available to all early years providers. Providers can access help with:-

- *Telephone Support*
- *Remote Desktop Cash Flow Support*
- *Financial & Business Planning Reviews for providers facing viability concerns*

*The business support team can also attend local provider peer to peer network meetings. Early Years Business Support Team – access web form via link to <https://wa5.northyorks.gov.uk/eforms/fes/preReg>*

Operational guidance published by the Department for Education is also available here: [Early years entitlements: operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

*Suggested resources to support providers are, the business sustainability toolkit <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-business-sustainability> and the National Day Nurseries Association Early Years Business Zone tools <https://www.earlyyearsbusinesszone.org.uk/>*

Please ensure that you have registered with Childcare Choices to offer Tax Free Childcare, you can find information and guidance here: [Information for Childcare providers | Childcare choices](#)

### **Emails sent by NYC**

It has come to our attention that an email sent from Families Information Service was recently posted on social media with misrepresentation. Emails sent by NYC are meant for the addressee only and are governed by GDPR. Emails from NYC carry the following notice “This email (and any files transmitted with it) is confidential, may contain privileged information and is intended for the addressee only. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, copying or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful-you must not disclose the information to anyone, but must instead notify the sender at the above address and then destroy all copies.”

### **Locality Board Early Years Survey**

Please remember to fill in the Early Years Survey for the Locality Boards, click [here](#) to have your say in the annual survey. Help to shape and influence what the boards offer to you. Have your say!

### **Healthy Start Vitamin Collection Sites**

Please find attached information of new collection sites for vitamins in North Yorkshire. Please display and/or share to promote with families in your provision. Attachments 1 and 2.

### **Help for Early Years Providers – DfE Website**

A reminder that comprehensive support and guidance is available on the DfE’s “Help for Early Years Providers” website. There are three sections:-

- 1) Areas of Learning
- 2) Improving Practice (including curriculum)
- 3) Safeguarding and welfare

Access the website at [Help for early years providers - Department for Education](#)

### **Increase in Measles**

Please be aware of the national increase in measles cases throughout the country and be vigilant to possible symptoms in children. Please refer to the link for further information and advice [Measles - NHS](#) ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

### **DfE Expansion of Childcare Offer - Communications Information Pack**

The Department for Education (DfE) Communications Team has provided an Information Pack for key stakeholders regarding the expansion of the childcare offer. This was distributed to all childcare providers in North Yorkshire on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Please use the information pack, which includes a FAQ section, to raise awareness of the changes with staff and families. (Attachment 3) The pack is also available via this link [communications stakeholder information pack](#)

When there is more information from the DfE regarding the finer details of the policy this will be shared through the Families Information Service.

### **Hambleton & Richmondshire Locality Board Autism Project**

Commissioned and funded by the locality board, the project aims to support pupils with C&I needs to thrive within education, with a 0-25 focus on ASD practice. Over the coming year, look out for FREE training opportunities for all early years staff and colleagues, resources, opportunities for advice and guidance as well as support for parents and carers. \*SEPTEMBER 2023 – FREE Social Stories™ training\* Follow the link to find out more and sign up.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TF3SDRK>

### **Locality Boards Engagement Event**

Come along to tell the boards what support you need and to find out more about what your board has been up to and what they have planned for the coming year. There will also be an inspirational speaker. Click [here](#) to register your place, hope to see you there. 18<sup>th</sup> Sept at Ripley Castle, 9am-1pm includes brunch