

Early Years Key Messages

March 2021

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

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Thank you for your continuing support during these very difficult times.

New draft EYFS Statutory Framework and Statutory Instrument – Have your say!

The DfE has published the new draft EYFS framework and Statutory Instrument for comment. This is the revised EYFS Statutory Framework that is due to come into force from September 2021. Changes to the current EYFS are highlighted in red in the document. Please take the opportunity to have your say and make your comments by **18 March 2021**.

https://foundationyears.org.uk/2021/02/have-your-say-draft-eyfs-framework-statutory-instrument/?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=72435480d0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_21_05_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-72435480d0-321553101&mc_cid=72435480d0&mc_eid=72b3c20a97

Please send comments to EYFSP.REFORMS@education.gov.uk

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing

Following the PM's announcement on 22nd February 2021, communication was sent out from Public Health colleagues about the current arrangements as follows. Early years staff in maintained nurseries have been able to do LFD home tests alongside primary school staff for the past few weeks.

This has now expanded to include early years staff in the private, voluntary and independent sector. If you are a PVI provider, you do not need to do anything in order to receive home testing kits for your staff; the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Test and Trace team are already aware of how many

staff you have and the deliveries of home testing kits have already been planned. The DHSC expects that you will start receiving your home testing kits by mid-March. Childminders are currently not included in the groups that will have LFD home testing kits. However, the DHSC has informed us that they are in discussions in order to decide the best LFD testing programme for childminders. This is in recognition that community testing might not be appropriate for childminders as getting to a testing site, within a certain timeframe twice a week, might be a challenge. There are various options for LFD testing being considered by the DHSC and Test and Trace including home testing or picking up from LFTs collection points. More national announcements about this are expected. Access to PCR tests (NHS tests) remains Covid-19 systems develop.

Actions for early years and childcare providers - guidance updated

The Department for Education (DfE) has published the 13th iteration of 'Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 outbreak' guidance which can be accessed [here](#).

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 even if you are closed. <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 spring term 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, 17th March; 1900 – 2100 hrs. Course Code: SI-0321-T031

Thursday, 18th March; 1330 – 1530 hrs. Course Code: SI-0321-T032

Foundation Years: New webpage on healthy eating and safe food preparation

As those working in the early years sector will be aware, the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) framework](#) requires providers to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well - and providers must be confident that those responsible for preparing and handling food in their setting are competent to do so.

This includes preparing food hygienically, providing meals that are healthy, balanced and nutritious, as well as making sure that food is prepared appropriately for babies and children of different ages, for example mashed, pureed or cut into appropriately sized and shaped pieces where it can't be a choking hazard. The EYFS learning and development requirements also state that children must be helped to make healthy choices in relation to food.

A number of organisations have produced guidance that supports providers, parents and carers in building a sound knowledge of how to prepare food for children in the early years - and how to make sure that meals provided are healthy and safe. Early years practitioners may find it useful to refer to this guidance when reviewing policies surrounding food and drink in their setting, or when inducting new members of staff to the EYFS requirements.

This guidance is brought together on the Foundation Years website which sets out further details on the content to support providers and practitioners in meeting the food and drink requirements set out in the EYFS.

Updating through the provider portal

If you have completed your census form, please note that this information does not come through to your FIS provider information file - you will need to update your information through the providers' update form V.2 Can **all** providers check and update the information FIS hold by logging into your file through the provider portal? We have had number of cases where the contact telephone and email addresses have not been updated when a person leaves the setting. FIS can provide you with your log in details if you need them please email fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk

Provider portal link is:

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

Domestic abuse support links

There are a variety of national and regional sources of help and advice available to people affected by domestic abuse or those supporting them. Please see Attachment 1.

Child Accident Prevention Trust

If you have blinds fitted in your setting, please can you check that the safety device has been connected. There has been an incident where a child has been strangled by a blind cord after he climbed onto the back of the sofa in his home. www.capt.org.uk/

“To take children seriously is to value them for who they are now rather than adults in the making.” Albert Kohn