

# Early Years Key Messages

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

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

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## **EYFS Safeguarding Reforms 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 – Summary of Changes**

Please find attached a PPT slide deck following a Family webinar about the EYFS safeguarding changes from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Attached are also the Summary of Changes and Annex C documents. Please refer to the EYFS Statutory Framework from 1<sup>st</sup> September for the changes including Annex C [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](#) Links to key documents to support safeguarding knowledge are [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#); [Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition - GOV.UK](#); [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#) (**Attachments: 1, 2 & 3**)  
Please also see attached updated FAQs regarding the EYFS safeguarding reforms from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. (**Attachment: 4**)

## **Wraparound Childcare Revenue Grant Funding**

Wraparound Childcare Revenue Grant Funding is available for schools and providers looking to create a new provision or expand existing provision to meet the DfE requirements for wraparound childcare. Funding is available until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and the **final opportunity to apply is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Schools and providers are encouraged to apply for funding as soon as possible.**

**The Round 7 application deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It is anticipated that applicants will be informed of the revenue grant funding decision by 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

To apply for Wraparound Childcare Revenue Grant Funding, please read the attached Application Guidance document. Links to the online application forms can be found within the guidance. All applicants must also submit the attached Supporting Evidence Checklist and associated documents, as well as a signed Application Declaration (attached).

Please don't hesitate to contact the North Yorkshire Council Wraparound Childcare team using the email below, should you require support or would like to discuss the available revenue grant funding: [wraparoundchildcare@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:wraparoundchildcare@northyorks.gov.uk). (**Attachments: 5, 6 ,7&8**)

## **Date for the Diary – Childminder meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The next Childminder meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7PM meeting link to follow later

## **DfE Early Years Employment Reference Template**

As part of the EYFS safeguarding reforms, The DfE has created an Early Years Employment Reference template [Early Years employment reference template](#) Early Years settings can choose to use this template when providing or obtaining an employment reference or they can create their own.

## **NYSCP Early Years Online Safeguarding Learning Event (formerly masterclass)**

The Autumn Term Early Years online safeguarding learning event will be held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 1900 – 2100. This is aimed at all Early Years practitioners and is intended to introduce wider safeguarding issues to support safeguarding knowledge and professional development. All Early Years practitioners can access this free of charge and a recording will be available on the NYSCP youtube channel after. To book go to NYES and the course code is NYS-OM-1025-T002.

## **Dingley's Promise – FREE Inclusion Training**

Dingley's Promise use 40 years of experience working with children with SEND to create training resources to enhance skills, improve confidence and inspire Early Years educators to cultivate an inclusive environment for all children. This is **FREE** for NYC early years providers. **BUT** funding for training is now in its final year. Please sign up via the attached power point to take advantage of this amazing **FREE** training opportunity **FOR ALL YOUR STAFF** whilst it is still available. **(Attachment: 9)**

## **Disadvantage Two-Year-Old Codes – (Families in Receipt of Additional Support)**

Please note that once codes are issued for two-year old children of families in receipt of additional support (also known as Disadvantage Two Year Old Funding), parents **do not** need to reconfirm every 3 months. These codes remain valid until the child becomes eligible for Universal 15 hours funding.

## **Childcare Choices – rebranding to “Best Start in Life” website**

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, the new government website [beststartinlife.gov.uk](https://beststartinlife.gov.uk) goes live, replacing the Childcare Choices website. Visitors to the current Childcare Choices website will automatically be diverted to the new Best Start in Life website for a transitional period. Please direct parents to the new Best Start in Life website from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. The DfE will be launching a branding and toolkit shortly.

## **Centre for Early Childhood – “Explainer” Animated Film Clips**

The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood has developed a series of animated films explaining brain development and why interactions are so important for babies and young children. Please share with staff and parents [The Explainer Series - CFEC](#)

## **Free Toilet Training Posters and Handouts**

Toilet training posters for early years providers/schools and parents are available to download free from the Foundation Years website [Free Toilet Training Posters and Handouts for Early Years Settings and Parents - Foundation Years](#)

## **DfE - Share your views on the Early Years workforce register**

In July 2025, the Department for Education (DfE) published the Best Start in Life strategy where they committed to working with the sector to co-design and introduce a new professional register to put early years workers on a more professional footing and create clear paths for career progression, to drive up standards and professionalism among the workforces. They would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on the idea of a workforce register in a 60-minute remote session:

**When:** 1st to 12th September and 29th September to 11th October online session

**Incentive:** £40

**Sign up here:** [https://dferesearch.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5pEaeIJPYUIDhf8](https://dferesearch.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5pEaeIJPYUIDhf8)

**Questions?** Contact us at [research.early-years-quals@education.gov.uk](mailto:research.early-years-quals@education.gov.uk)

## **Danger of Slush ice drinks with glycerol**

The Food Standard Agency (FSA) has launched a campaign and revised guidance warning parents and providers that children under 7 years old should not be given slushies containing glycerol. Please share with

staff and parents. Further information [Summer slush warning: Glycerol in slush ice drinks unsafe for children under 7 and should be limited for children aged 7 to 10](#) | Food Standards Agency and **(Attachment: 10)**

### **Foundation Years – FREE email subscription**

Foundation Years free email subscription offers providers regular, relevant, topical information and sector news to support you in your role as an Early Year professional. Foundation Years is funded by the UK Government's Department for Education and is delivered by Begin Bright. Subscribe here: [Foundation Years - Latest news, policy and resources for early years professionals](#)

### **Early Years funding**

<b><u>Early Years Funding</u></b>
<b>ESTIMATES NOW CLOSED - Autumn Term Estimates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ If you have <u>not</u> submitted an estimate, you will be contacted via email but will <u>not</u> receive a payment in September.</li><li>✓ If you need to update your estimates because they have changed considerably, please contact <a href="mailto:eyft@northyorks.gov.uk">eyft@northyorks.gov.uk</a> for further instructions.</li></ul>
<b>HEADCOUNT OPEN NOW Autumn Term Headcount – Deadline 3rd October 2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ All providers should submit Autumn term headcount – do not wait until headcount week as amendments/additions can always be done up until the deadline.</li><li>✓ All schools with early years headcount submission must be the same as that on the census.</li><li>✓ Headcount week 29th September – 3rd October 2025</li><li>✓ DAF evidence must be submitted by 3rd October 2025</li></ul>
<b>REMINDER Funding is for 14 weeks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Term Time only providers should manage the shortfall in funded weeks in Autumn term and make parents aware of how they have decided to manage this. As explained in <a href="#">Useful dates 2025-2026.pdf</a></li></ul>
<b>REMINDER Invoices must comply with the statutory guidance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Please use the guidance <a href="#">Early education and childcare - GOV.UK</a> Section 1.32 to ensure parents are aware of your charges</li><li>✓ Refundable deposit can be requested to cover costs incurred if a child leaves before headcount</li><li>✓ <a href="#">Statutory Guidance - Charging - FAQs (DfE 7 March 2025).pdf</a></li><li>✓ <a href="#">FAQs for Childminders about Charging DfE - 27th March 2025.pdf</a></li></ul>
<b>IMPORTANT - Using the Eligibility Checker on the Portal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Parents must hold a valid code from HMRC with a start date on or before <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 and end date on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025</b> to access all types of Working Family funding from September 2025.</li><li>✓ An amber coloured banner on screen does not mean a code is valid to claim funding. Further guidance on checking codes can be found via our website here: <a href="#">Early Education Places, Funding and Entitlement   CYPSinfo</a></li></ul>
<b>REMINDER – Providers offering stretched funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ If you are a provider offering stretched funding, you must inform the Early Years Funding Team via email if you haven't already</li><li>✓ You must ensure parents understand the how the funded hours are offered on a stretched basis</li></ul>

You must indicate which children are accessing stretched funding when submitting headcount actuals.

**UPDATE – Autumn Term Funding Guidance / Helpful Information**

- ✓ Timetable - Autumn 2025 – [Provider Timetable - Autumn 2025.pdf](#)
  - ✓ Autumn Term Headcount - [Termly Headcount Information for Autumn Term 2025.pdf](#)
  - ✓ Checking Working Family codes - [Guidance on how to check Working Family Codes - Autumn Term 2025.pdf](#)
  - ✓ A revised version of the Sample Parental Agreement is available on the CYPS info website - [Parental Agreement NYC Sample document September 2025 Final.docx](#)
- All guidance - [Early Education Places, Funding and Entitlement | CYPSinfo](#)

**IMPORTANT - Veritau NYC Auditors - Summer Term 2025 Compliance Check**

- ✓ You may be contacted by Veritau, North Yorkshire Council's auditors in the next few weeks.
  - ✓ This will be via email to say that you have been selected for a compliance check on your Summer Term 2025 Headcount claim
- Please assist them in any way you can.