



Early Years & Childcare Provider Bulletin

EY and Childcare Provider Bulletin

14 November 2025



Dear provider,

Our team always thoroughly enjoy spending time with our Early Years colleagues and this past week was no exception!

Not only did we have the pleasure of being joined by 150 EY Educators at our annual Early Years Conference last Friday, but we also had over 50 colleagues join us at Wednesday's Leaders and Managers Network meeting.

Both events provided lots of opportunity to share good practice and celebrate what a wonderful job everyone across the Early Years sector are doing.

We hope you all have a lovely (and not too wet and windy) weekend!

Early Education and Child Development team

Latest news

In addition to our weekly emails, don't forget to regularly check the [NEWS](#) section on our newly launched Early Years webpage.

We will share updates from the EY and Childcare service, our colleagues across GCC and Health services, and any other recent news from across the early years sector.

IMPORTANT! EYFS Safeguarding Assurance Declaration

All Early Years providers are expected to use the EYFS Safeguarding Assurance Declaration as a working document to self-evaluate their safeguarding practices.

As part of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership's (GSCP) published arrangements, the EYFS Section 3 Assurance Declaration Procedure is required to be completed by all childminders and group-based providers.

It reflects Early Years settings' legal obligations under Working Together to Safeguard Children, Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, and Section 3 of the EYFS framework.

The EY Quality Improvement team have worked in collaboration with Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership to re-develop the current EYFS Safeguarding Assurance declaration in response to feedback received from the sector about previous versions.

To ensure ease of use and provide familiarity, the declaration will now follow the same order as the EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare requirements and will include some handy prompts to support completion.

The updated declaration can be initially completed in shorter, more manageable sections throughout the year and should then be reviewed regularly and updated as required.

The updated assurance declaration is now live on the [online platform](#).

For those of you who have taken the time to complete the previous version please log on and download your submission now.

Previous assurance declaration submissions will remain visible on the portal for the next 12 months before being removed.

For further guidance, please read the [Early Years Foundation Stage Section 3 Safeguarding Declaration Protocol - 2025](#) and visit the GSCP's [Partnership Assurance Declaration Webpage](#).

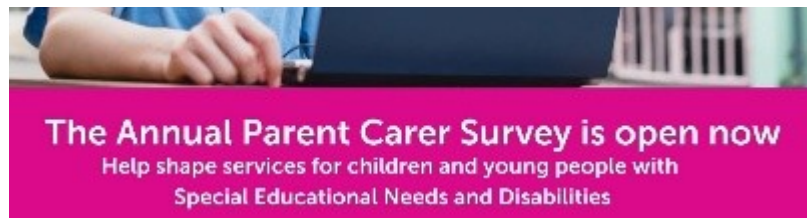
Dave Jones (GSCP Business Manager) will be joining us at our [Leaders and Managers meeting](#) in February to discuss these changes and answer any questions. You can also contact the EY Quality Improvement Leads at EarlyYearsQuality@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Annual Parent Carer Survey

Please share the [survey link](#) with your parents of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and encourage them to complete before the closing date on Friday 5th December.

At present, there have been minimal responses from parents with children in the EYFS who are receiving education or support and services in Gloucestershire, please help us to spread the word!





Ofsted Inspection Briefing

Don't forget to sign up to these [Ofsted Education Inspection Framework Briefings](#) hosted by Stronger Practice Hub and delivered by Ofsted.

These sessions will ensure you are fully informed about the renewed inspection framework which came into effect on Monday 10th November.

Updated Guidance: Levels of Intervention



The [Levels of Intervention](#) document has been developed to help and support professionals decide what kind of support a child might need based on their individual circumstances.

This guidance is designed to help professionals take action confidently and appropriately, provide examples of concerns and the right steps to take and signpost to further support and resources



Birth to 5 Matters Review – Sector Consultation

Five years after the launch of Birth to 5 Matters, the Early Years Coalition will publish an enhanced second edition to ensure that it best meets the needs of the early years sector today.

As "Guidance by the sector, for the sector", the review depends on hearing directly from EYFS practitioners to find out what works, what could be improved, and where there may be gaps to be filled.

[Complete the survey to have your say by Monday 24th November.](#)

Early Years Conference

We had a fantastic day at this year's Early Years Conference, with 150 EY educators joining us to take part in a range of CPD workshops, visit resource filled stands, and network with colleagues from across the County.

We also welcomed Liz Pemberton and Ben Kingston-Hughes to Gloucestershire as our key-note speakers who both provided thought-provoking and stimulating talks.

Look out for exciting news coming soon about future conferences as the demand for attendance at these inspiring events continues to grow!





Leaders and Managers network meetings



We had an excellent turnout of over 50 managers at this week's meeting hosted by our Early Years Quality team.

Networking time was bustling with some fabulous conversations taking place to share good practice and problem-solve challenges together.

We were joined by Robbie Foran, Education Safeguarding Lead, to talk about [Martyn's Law in the Early Years](#). Cath Davenport, EYFS Improvement Lead, shared the [DfE's aspirations for the Good Level of Development](#) in Gloucestershire with everyone, and Lucy Driver from [Bristol and Beyond's Stronger Practice Hub](#) shared lots of helpful information about what is available to all providers.

Places for network meetings in 2026 are available to [book now](#).



Dingley's Promise Inclusion Programme

training

A reminder that Dingley's Promise Inclusion Programme training will no longer be fully funded from June 2026.

[Sign up now](#) to complete the ten helpful short courses, each designed around practical topics to help you improve your confidence and skills to work more inclusively.

CPD Spotlight - Equality Diversity and Inclusion Workshop

Delivered by Bristol and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub, this FREE workshop provides an opportunity for Early Years educators in Gloucestershire to reflect on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

In a supportive space, we'll explore how our own values and experiences shape our practice, how we understand the identities of the unique child and their families, and how we can use this awareness to create more inclusive, equitable environments where every child feels they truly belong.

The session will take place on Tuesday 27th January, 9.30am – 12noon, at Gloucester Farmers Club - [Book your FREE place now](#)

Training

Training & Meetings - Book now!

Childminder Play Session - 18/11/2025 - 9:30 - 12.00pm - The Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 18/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Longford Primary Academy, Clock Tower Road, Gloucester, GL2 9FP - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 19/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - The Rissington School (Upper Rissington Site) Mitchell Way, Upper Rissington, Cheltenham, GL54 2PL - [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - Adult Education (GCC) - 19/11/2025 - 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online via TEAMS - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 2 - Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years (FULL) - 20/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Great Oldbury Primary Academy, Veterans Way, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3WH. - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 2 - Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years (FULL) - 27/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 1 - 01/12/2025, 4:00 - 6:00pm at Oakwood Primary School. [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT) – Play to Ignite Development - 04/12/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Oakwood Primary School, Cotswold Road, Cheltenham, GL52 5HD - [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 09/12/25, 9:30 - 11:30am - The Link Children's Centre, Matson Avenue, Matson, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL4 6DB. [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - 11/12/2025 - 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online via TEAMS - [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 16/12/2025 - 9:30 - 12:00pm - The Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR - [Book here](#)

Total Communication Training in the Early Years - This training is provided in house at your setting.

You can now book Total Communication in the Early Years through GCC+. To do this you will need to log into your setting's GCC+ account. Go to the **search bar** on the **home page**, and type in Total Communications and **press the search key**.

You will then see the link for the Total Communications for you to book.

(Please note – if you search in the ‘training section’ or the ‘services’ section, you won’t find it. It must be searched for in the home page search and the search key pressed). NB - If you just press enter, it won’t find it.

Once you have booked and checked out your training, you will be contacted by an EY Inclusion Advisor to arrange the date and time for the delivery of your course. If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks, please contact the EY Admin Team: eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Please note: Most training and all events (excluding some meetings) are subject to a charge. Please check the price when you make your booking. If you are in any doubt, please email eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Please refer to the cancellation policy for your event, as charges may apply.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- 2 weeks before the training course is due to take place – 100% refund
- Less than 2 weeks before the training course is due to take place – 0% refund
- If GCC cancels a training course, we will issue a refund automatically. If you paid by credit card, the refund will be paid back to the same card. If you paid by invoice, you will receive a credit note.
- If you need to cancel your place on a training course within two weeks of the course and there are special circumstances, please contact eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk and we will consider your request on a case-by-case basis.

Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester
GL1 2TJ

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