



## Early Years & Childcare Provider Bulletin

### EY and Childcare Provider Bulletin; 12 December 2025

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Dear Provider,

We have really enjoyed being out and about on visits this month, there has been a real festive buzz and excitement in settings!

We have seen wonderful festive activities, heard beautiful singing and listened to some wonderful festive stories.

It's a busy month and we do hope that you all get chance to relax and unwind over the festive holidays.

This will be our last newsletter before Christmas so we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

Early Education and Child Development team

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## Information for Parents

Ofsted has improved how they report the findings of education inspections.

They've designed their new-look report cards with parents and carers in mind, to give them a clearer picture of what's working well and where the next steps for improvement are at their child's setting or potential setting.

This [Ofsted webpage](#) explains more about the new report cards and the grades Ofsted give in them.

Please share this with your parents and carers.

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## Potty Training Guide

The government has launched a new guide aiming to help parents potty train their children.

[The guide](#) has been developed by the same organisations who created the [Starting Reception](#) resources and information.

[The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#)

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## Early Years Funded Entitlements - Spring Term 2026

Children become eligible for the funded entitlement from the term after they reach the relevant age and up until statutory school age, which is the term after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The table below confirms when a child is

eligible to receive funding in the Spring term:

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## Best Start in Life Webinar for Practitioners

As part of its [Giving every child the best start in life](#) strategy, the Government has set a national target that by 2028 at least 75% of children should be ready to start year 1 ready to learn, as measured by the Early Years Foundation Stage assessment (EYFS).

Gloucestershire has been set a GLD target of 77.2% and 60% for children in receipt of Free School Meals.

Each LA has been awarded 3 years funding to support the increase of our GLD.

Our current priorities are -

- By January 2026 we need to have identified a Best Start Family Hub site.
- By end of March 2026 we need to identify which parenting and home learning environment training programmes will be delivered in Gloucestershire to support 3 & 4 year olds.
- From April 2026 we need to start the delivery of the parenting and home learning programmes.

We would like to invite you to attend a webinar on Wednesday 21 January 2026 10-12 where we will provide information about the Best Start Family Hub funding and the programmes we have selected to deliver across Gloucestershire.

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 330 563 855 161 01

Passcode: 5ES3oZ33

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## Early Years Inclusion Champion Award

We are excited to announce the launch of our Early Years Inclusion Champion Award!

This award will acknowledge and celebrate Early Years Providers that deliver high quality inclusive practice to all children, including those with SEND.

We know that many of you are already doing this, and we would therefore encourage you to sign up to showcase your practice and receive recognition and financial reward.

To successfully gain the award, you must demonstrate that your setting meets the standards of inclusion as set out on the platform. There is no time limit on completion so you can work through this at your own pace.

All applications will be quality assured by the Early Years Inclusion Team and additional support/advice is available from this team throughout your journey. On successful completion, the award is valid for 3 years.

You should consider re-applying for this award after two years to ensure continuous Champion status.

To find out more and/or to register please visit [Early Years Inclusion Champion Award](#).

If you have any questions before you apply, please contact the EYS Adviceline on 01452 425959 or email [EYSadviceline@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:EYSadviceline@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

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## **Autumn term amendment payment – Early Years Entitlements**

We need to inform you of an IT issue that has affected your autumn term amendment payment.

For children who became eligible for EYPP after the September actual payment, the rate applied is higher than the standard rate. To meet the published payment date, we were unable to correct the effected children in time.

After reviewing options, we have decided to process all the current claims.

However, this will result in an overpayment, which will be recovered from either your spring term funding or the autumn term deprivation payment, depending on which one is higher.

We believe this approach minimises disruption to you all, particularly at this time of year.

We will notify all affected providers of the estimated amount to be deducted within the next few days.

We will also issue a reminder of the reclaim amount before the next EY payment due in the New Year.

We apologise for any inconvenience and assure you that all possible solutions have been considered.

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## DSL Support Hub

Please find below the link to the recording for this week's DSL Support Hub and [agenda notes](#).

This took place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. [https://youtu.be/\\_DTT-gFUW8s](https://youtu.be/_DTT-gFUW8s)

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## GSCP Escalation protocol and working together 2023.

This week Dave Jones, the business manager for Gloucestershire safeguarding children's partnership delivered a webinar to educational settings.

This webinar lasts approximately 55 minutes and covers everything you need to know about the escalation policy. To access, please see the link below.

## Training & Meetings - Book now!

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

**Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT) – Play to Ignite Development** - 15/01/2026 - 4:00 -6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, GL2 2AR [Book here](#)

**Childminder Network Meeting** - 19/01/2026 - 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online via TEAMS [Book here](#)

**Childminder Play Session** - 20/01/2026 - 9:30am - 12:00noon - The Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR [Book here](#)

**Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) –** 22/01/2026 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Longford Park Primary Academy, Clock Tower Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 9FP [Book here](#)

**SENCO in the Early Years** - 22/01/2026 & 29/01/2025 (2 day course) - 9:15am - 3:00pm - Shire Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester, GL1 2TG [Book here](#)

**Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) –** 29/01/2026 - 4:00 - 6:00pm | Scheduled | WIN26SIOTL1-04 | Early Years | Severnbanks Primary School (Naas Lane, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5A [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](mailto:eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk) and we will consider your request on a case-by-case basis.



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