



Early Years Childminder Newsletter - January 2026



Dear Childminders,

Welcome to your January Newsletter, I hope you have had a wonderful break over Christmas and wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year 2026!

I know there is some concern for Ofsted registered childminders about the renewed Ofsted inspection toolkit and schedule for four yearly inspections, this will mean anyone previously inspected in 2020, 2021 and 2022 are now due Ofsted sooner than previously thought.

Our team can help, please get in touch if you would like the opportunity of a Quality Lead visiting your setting. The visits are very relaxed and give you the opportunity to celebrate your successes and time to discuss challenges, as well as the renewed framework – we would love to see you!

In this newsletter, there is information about future training events, play sessions, and future network meetings.

I am awaiting further information about the renewed Ofsted inspections due this month and will share more once we have it, in the meantime Ofsted have a new website with local data that will be considered during inspections.

The [Bristol and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub](#) have relaunched their Childminder Connect network, do have a look and use the support they have available to Gloucestershire childminders.

Childminder Play Session - free to attend

The next free Childminder Network play session is available to book now.

Date - 20/01/2026

Time - 09:30 to 11.30

Venue - The Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR

The perfect opportunity to meet up with other local childminders, share tips and socialise in a relaxed and friendly environment. Please bring your own snacks and drinks.

After you have booked your place on GCC Plus please email me at caroline.vans@gloucestershire.gov.uk to let me know how many adults and children you will be bringing in total so that we can let the venue know how many to expect - Thank you.

Childminder Network Meeting (Teams) - Book Here!

19 January 2026, 7.00-8.00pm, online via TEAMS (free). Early Help are coming to explain what they offer and how you can refer to them.

[Book: 19 January - Early Help](#)

10 February 2026, 7.00-8.00pm, online via TEAMS (free). Early Years Alliance will be talking about their new Family Corner.

[Book: 10 February - Early Years Alliance](#)

11 March 2026, 7.00-8.00pm, online via TEAMS (free). This session will be focussed on Inclusion

[Book: 11 March - Inclusion](#)

If the links above don't take you straight to the training page please login to GCC Plus, click on the Training tab and search for it.

Ofsted: Explore an Area

Ofsted will be discussing the context of your setting with you during your inspection, they will not expect all settings to be mirroring the information in the local area data, but they will expect you to understand the context of the area you are working in. This includes your own knowledge and experiences of your locality and the families you work with.

If you search by local authority, you can view information about factors such as the number of children living in income-deprived families, rates of obesity, and poor oral health. These will form a discussion point when Ofsted talk to you about your setting

 Local authority (view data by area)
Hint: Start typing, then select from the list

[Ofsted: Explore an Area](#)

Stronger Practice Hub Events. Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub

- free training sessions for Gloucestershire childminders

The [Bristol and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub](#) have re-launched their Childminder Connect Network.

· Network 'Meet Ups' for Shared Learning and making connections:

Join them for scheduled, online gatherings designed for genuine connection. These aren't just networking events; they are safe spaces for shared learning, problem-solving, and emotional support. Swap strategies, discuss the latest policy changes, and build a reliable circle of professionals who truly understand your day-to-day challenges.

· Personalised Online Support from Childminder Connectors:

Access one-on-one help and tailored advice from their dedicated Childminder Connectors.

· Vibrant Online Community:

Stay informed and stay connected via their Facebook group. Use this to share a quick win, ask a pressing question, access last-minute resources, or simply feel the support of hundreds of local colleagues.

Search 'Bristol & Beyond SPH Childminders' on Facebook to find the group.



Thank you for reading and I hope you find the Childminder Newsletters informative and useful. Please email [Caroline Vans](#) with any questions. Alternatively, if you need something more urgent, please email the [Early](#).

Please note; Some GCC+ training and 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@goucestershire.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@goucestershire.gov.uk and we will consider your request on a case-by-case basis.



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