



Provider Update 87 - 26 September 2025



Dear provider,

We cannot believe we are fast approaching the end of September! There has certainly been a change in the weather.

The team are busy visiting providers and enjoying seeing those new babies and children settle in.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Early Education and Child Development team

Are you new to working in the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Have you recently returned to childcare? And need a refresher?

Welcome to the Early Years – A course that supports you in understanding the EYFS

An opportunity for practitioners new to working in the Early Years Foundation Stage to explore the EYFS statutory framework together, in a friendly and welcoming environment. This session is also useful for those returning to childcare.

We will discuss statutory and non-statutory documents, explore the EYFS statutory framework and development matters, and discuss being a Key Person and working in partnership with parents.

All attendees to please bring along a copy of the EYFS Statutory Framework. [**Book here**](#)

Updates to the way Ofsted will inspect Early Years Education

Last week many of us attended the webinar Ofsted ran to discuss the way they will inspect from November 10th 2025.

Please see the link that is shared on You Tube and share with your teams. [Ofsted education inspection framework: nurseries, pre-schools, other registered early years settings](#)

A reminder of the publications you will require to support you in your role, and during inspection from November:

[**Early years inspection toolkit**](#) – what inspectors and early years providers use to discuss the quality of provision on inspection

[**Early years inspection operating guide**](#) – a step-by-step guide for inspectors on how to inspect a registered early years setting

[**Information about early years inspections**](#) – for staff and leaders, parents and carers and the wider public

EYFS changes webinar – Champa Miah

Thank you to those providers who joined Champa Miah, senior Ofsted inspector this week who shared information about the EYFS changes.

You can access the [presentations here](#) and [here](#).

Lots of providers were asking questions regarding obtaining references. There was a query about sending a reference to a new employer before the practitioner ends their employment. Champa has sought advice about this and the response is:

'While we understand the provider's concern about safeguarding issues potentially arising after a reference is given but before the staff member leaves, it's important to note that references should not be delayed unnecessarily. If a provider is satisfied with the individual's suitability at the time of the reference request, they should provide it in a timely manner without waiting until the final day.'

Should any safeguarding concerns arise after the reference has been issued, the [Report a serious childcare incident - GOV.UK](#) guidance explains the procedure for notifying Ofsted. The provider could also update the reference if necessary to reflect new, substantiated information. Delaying a reference could hinder the individual's ability to transition smoothly into their new role and may not be justified unless there is an active concern being investigated.'

The Early Years Quality team are also available to support providers to familiarise with this new documentation; you can get in touch to request support via EarlyYearsQuality@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Early Years Conference – SOLD OUT

The team are receiving lots of emails asking if there will be more places available for the conference. Sadly, the venue is unable to accommodate more delegates. We are sorry if you missed out on this year's event.

The team are starting to talk about next year so we can ensure everyone who wants to attend is able to. We shall be asking for provider views over the coming months.

If you missed out on a place, you can still be added to the waiting list by selecting '[Book now](#)' and entering your details.

DSL hub

The Safeguarding in Education team will be delivering the next DSL support hub on Wednesday 1st October 2025. These 30 minute sessions run every other Wednesday throughout the academic year (term time only) – there will be input from GHLL, Early Help, Community Social Workers and Police decision makers within the MASH, who alongside the GSEP team will be passing on current information, guidance and policies.

The next DSL Support Hub meeting is at 8.30am on Wednesday 1st October 2025. Log in details below:

[**DSL Support Hub meeting**](#)

Meeting ID: 331 965 298 918 2

Passcode: r64C8Qx2

Ready for learning (RFL) Toolkit

We had an excellent response from our EY providers, with over 100 submitting their RFL spreadsheet.

For those of you who have not yet received yours please contact the EYSadvice@gloucestershire.gov.uk or download it from our Early Years and Childcare Service website [RFL Spreadsheet](#)

We will continue to run drop-in sessions at key times throughout the year that will be advertised through our EY provider emails.

Good News! We will only ask you for the information once a year – in May! After submission, you will receive a short, personalised data

report, together with Gloucestershire's average scores.

You can also use the newly designed RFL questionnaire as your transition document.

Training & Meetings

The following training & meetings are now available to book:

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) -
02/10/2025 4:00 - 6:00pm - Oakwood Primary School, Cotswold Road, Cheltenham, GL52 5HD. [Book here](#)

SENDCO in the Early Years - (2 days) Day 1 - 02/10/2025 9:15 - 3:00pm - **Day 2** 09/10/2025 - 9:15 - 3:00pm - Shire Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester, GL1 2TG. [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) -
09/10/2025 4:00 - 6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School (Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR. [Book here](#)

Welcome to the Early Years - 10/10/2025 - 9:30am - 12:30pm - Shire Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester, GL1 2TG. [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - 14/10/2025 - 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online via TEAMS - [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) -
16/10/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Great Oldbury Primary Academy, Great Oldbury Primary Academy Veterans Way, Stonehouse, England, GL10 3WH - [Book here](#)

Creating Your Early Years Curriculum - 17/10/2025 - 10:00am - 12:00pm - Shire Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester, GL1 2TG [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 20/10/2025 - 09:30 - 11:30am - The Lighthouse Children and Family Centre, Linden Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL1 5JA - [Book here](#)

Getting it Right for Boys - 21/10/2025 - 1:00 - 3:00pm - Churchdown

Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. [Book here](#)

Getting It Right for Boys - 21/10/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. [Book here](#)

Baby Room Network meeting - 27/10/2025 - 6:15 - 7:45pm - All My Friends Childcare (Barnwood), 87 Barnwood Nursery, Barnwood Road, Gloucester GL2 0SF [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT) – Play to Ignite Development - 03/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Severnbanks Primary School, Naas Lane, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5AU - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 04/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Mary P's Day Nursery Old Dowty Clubhouse, Ashchurch Pkwy, Tewkesbury, GL20 8TU - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 2 - Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years - 06/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Chesterton Primary School, Apsley Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1SS - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 10/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Hesters Way Children Centre, Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, GL51 0ES - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 11/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Steam Mills Primary School, Steam Mills, Cinderford, GL14 3JD [Book here](#)

Leaders and Managers Network Meeting (Gloucester Farmers Club) - 12/11/2025 - 1:00 - 3:30pm - Gloucester Farmers club , Agricultural House, Greville Close, Gloucester, GL2 9RG - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 13/11/2025 - 4:30 - 6:00pm - Kings Stanley Playgroup, Kings Stanley Village Hall, Broad Street, Kings Stanley, Stonehouse GL10 3PN - [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@goucestershire.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@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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