

EY and Childcare Provider Bulletin 23 January 2026



Dear provider,

Whilst most places of work might have been saying 'rain, rain, go away' this week, we have loved seeing so many of our early years colleagues fully embracing the glorious British weather we've experienced over the past few days!

The team have been on 'welly walks' whilst chatting to leaders about their curriculums, built pebble bridges and water walls with children in puddles whilst observing interactions in preschool, and even did some 'rain dancing' with some babies in their baby garden.

We hope the weekend brings you more fun adventures with your own family and friends.

Early Education and Child Development team

Gloucestershire Early Years Conference

Following feedback from the sector it has been agreed that the Early Years and Childcare Service will hold **2** conferences in the academic year 2026/27.

The details confirmed so far:

- Duplicate events will take place on Friday 6th November 2026 and Saturday 24th April 2027.
- Events will take place at The Cheltenham Chase Hotel
- Both dates will be open to daycare and childminder providers
- There will be 120 delegate places available at each event
- There will be a keynote speaker, a choice of 4 workshops, and an endnote speaker. Each workshop will take place in a breakout room as opposed to the main room which has previously been used.
- Providers can book 4 spaces at each event. If spaces are not filled by a specific date providers may book more spaces.
- There will be a short lunch break of 45 minutes where a buffet lunch of sandwiches and hot chips will be included in the ticket cost.

More details will follow over the coming months. Bookings will be open on **the 7th September 2026** so save the dates in your diary now!

Using the Early years inspection toolkit to support self-evaluation and continuous improvement

Statement spotlight: 'A sharp focus on developing children's

communication and language and their love of books’

Idea to support practice: Is your setting taking part in the [National Year of Reading 2026](#)? It’s the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives, and we can help spark that joy in the early years!



The [National Literacy Trust](#) is an independent charity which empowers children with the literacy skills they need to succeed. They offer a range of [resources and tools](#) to support early language development and parental engagement, including their comprehensive ‘[National Year of Reading Toolkit](#)’ designed to equip early years practitioners with key dates, information and assets that will help you inspire children and implement plans to boost positive engagement with books.

Forest School Leader training



The team are often asked by our early years colleagues about local opportunities for Forest School training so this week we visited [Inspired Forest School](#) for a tour around their fantastic Forest School at Churchdown Village Junior School.

Inspired Forest School is a non-profit organisation and Leader, Shane Gue, offers outdoor learning expertise from his firsthand experience of the Scandinavian approach through his time in the Swedish education system.

If you are interested in joining an award-winning, 5-star rated training centre to gain your professional qualifications in Forest School you can

explore their upcoming courses [here](#).

GSCP webinar

Please find the [recording](#) and [notes](#) from this weeks' DSL support hub meeting.

The Safeguarding in Education team will be delivering the next DSL support hub on Wednesday 4th February 2026, from 8.30am.

These 30-minute sessions run every other Wednesday throughout the academic year (term time only) with 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.

[Log in to the meeting here.](#)

Community Social Workers

Do you know who our local Community Social Workers are?

Here is a helpful [leaflet](#) to explain their role, who they are, what they can support you with and how you can get in touch with them.

The Community Social Work team offers a range of bespoke training opportunities as well as their [online Bitesize training](#).

Gloucestershire's Guide to Good Transitions

Please don't forget to make use of our [Gloucestershire's Guide to Good Transitions](#).

It gives simple advice and guidance for providers, schools and parents of children through their pre-school year and into their first term in

reception.

Please share with parents of your pre-school children as this document is intended for children on the graduated pathway as well as those who do not require any additional support. For children with EHCPs, please signpost parents to their child's Case Co-ordinator in the EHCP Team for information about transitions.

If you have any questions about using our 'Gloucestershire's Guide to Good Transitions' document, please contact the Early Years Advice Line on 01452 425959 (Monday and Wednesday 12pm-5pm) or email us on eyesadvice@goucestershire.gov.uk

Support for children with additional needs transitioning to primary school

The Advisory Teaching Service would like to inform providers of the upcoming deadline for requests for involvement for preschool children who will be transitioning to primary school in September 2026.

To ensure timely planning and support, all requests for involvement for children currently attending preschool and due to start primary education must be submitted to the Advisory Teaching Service **no later than Friday, 20 March 2026**.

This deadline enables their team to review information, allocate advisory support, and liaise with receiving schools to ensure smooth and effective transitions for children with additional needs.

Please ensure referral forms are completed fully and submitted via the usual process. If you have an urgent or priority case that falls outside the timeframe above, please speak to your locality Lead Advisory Teacher for advice.

If you require guidance on completing the referral, or if you would like to discuss a child prior to submitting, please contact the [Advisory Teaching Service](#).

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

Dingley's Promise training



Dingley's Promise have launched another brand new, expert-led training course, fully funded by Comic Relief. There are now 10 courses available.

The new course, **Creating Inclusive Learning Environments**, guides learners through the essential concepts of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in early years settings. It reframes SEND not as a label but as a range of needs requiring thoughtful, responsive practice. Every child's developmental journey is unique, and understanding this

diversity is key to effective inclusion.

Sign up now to gain your Dingley's Promise Mark of Achievement as funding will be ending in June.

Request from the Early Years Business and Funding support team – Charging compliance

If the Business team haven't been in contact with you already regarding your charging compliance, please can you share with them any relevant policies, procedures, website information and invoices.

Please send this information to the Business team inbox:

eybusinesssupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Reminder: All settings must have a published fee policy on their website (or GlosFamilies) by the end of January.

Expansion and Wraparound Updates

The next Grant Panel for the Early Years Expansion Capital Grant and the Wraparound Revenue Grant is February 27th 2026. We are currently accepting applications and will be accepting them up until 30th January 2026.

For more information on the grants please visit:

[Early Years](#)

and

[Wraparound](#)

Please do be in touch if you have any questions: eybusinesssupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk

CPD spotlight – Working with Babies

We are very fortunate to be hosting the Bristol and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub next month for some **FREE** face-to-face CPD opportunities, all about working with babies. There are two sessions available, both taking place at Gloucester Farmers Club, on **Wednesday 18th February**.

The first session is all about [How Babies Learn](#) (9.30am to 11.30am) and the second session is about [Curriculum and Slow Pedagogy in the Baby Room](#) (1.15pm to 3.15pm)

Each session stands alone but complements the other so practitioners can choose to attend one or both.

This is a really exciting opportunity to build understanding and confidence in supporting babies through meaningful relationships and experiences, as well as networking with other baby room educators from across Gloucestershire.

Training & Meetings - Book now!

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](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 2) – Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years
02/02/2026 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR. [Book here](#)

Every Child a Talker (ECAT) 'how to use the ECAT monitoring tool'
training - online - 03/02/2026 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - [Book here](#)

Leaders and Managers Network meeting - 04/02/2026 - 1:00 - 3:30pm
- Gloucester Farmers Club, Agriculture House, Greville Cl, Sandhurst Rd, Gloucester GL2 9RG [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) –
05/02/2026 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School (Valley Gardens,

Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - 10/02/2026 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Online via TEAMS - [Book here](#)

Getting It Right for Boys - 12/02/2026 1:00pm - 3:00pm - Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3

2JH. [Book here](#)

Getting It Right for Boys - 12/02/2026 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3

2JH. [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) -

23/02/2026 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Oakwood Primary School, Cotswold Road, Cheltenham, GL52 5HD - [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 24/02/2026 - 9:30am - 12:00noon - The Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire,

GL2 2AR. [Book here](#)

Early Years Senco Cluster Meeting - 04/03/2026 - 6:00 - 8:00pm -

Slimbridge Primary School, St John's Road, Slimbridge, Gloucester, GL2 7DD - [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 2) –

Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years -

05/03/2026 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Severnbanks Primary School, Naas Lane, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5AU. [Book here](#)

Early Years Senco Cluster Meeting - 05/03/2026 6.30pm - 8:00pm -

Chesterton Primary School, Apsley Road, Cirencester, GL7 1SS - [Book here](#)

Early Years Senco Cluster Meeting - 10/03/2026 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm -

Longford Primary Academy, Clock Tower Road, Gloucester, GL2 9FP - [Book here](#)

Early Years Senco Cluster Meeting - 11/03/2026 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm -

The Rissington School (Upper Rissington Site) Mitchell Way, Upper Rissington, Cheltenham, GL54 2PL - [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - 11/03/2026 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm -
Online via TEAMS - [Book here](#)

Early Years Senco Cluster Meeting - 12/03/2026 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm -
Mary P's Day Nursery Old Dowty Clubhouse, Ashchurch Pkwy,
Tewkesbury, GL20 8TU - [Book here](#)

**Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 2) –
Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years** -
12/03/2026 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School, Valley
Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR. [Book here](#)

Early Years Senco Cluster Meeting - 16/03/2026 - 4.00pm - 5:30pm -
Hesters Way Children Centre, Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, GL51
0ES. [Book here](#)

Early Years Senco Cluster Meeting - 17/03/2026 - 4.00pm - 5:30pm -
Steam Mills Primary School, Steam Mills, Cinderford, GL14 3JD. [Book
here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 17/03/2026 - 9:30am - 12:00noon - The
Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire,
GL2 2AR. [Book here](#)

**Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 2) –
Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years** -
19/03/2026 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Oakwood Primary, Cotswold Road,
Cheltenham, GL52 5HD. [Book here](#)

**Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training - Play to Ignite
Development** - 26/03/2026 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Alderman Knight School,
46 Ashchurch Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8JJ. [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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