

Early Years Childminder Newsletter - May 2025



Dear Childminders,

Welcome to your May Newsletter, I hope you have been enjoying the spring appearing and even a bit of warmth and sunshine over Easter. It has been wonderful visiting some lovely settings this month and hearing about all the learning opportunities for your children. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for all your hard work as we are celebrating Pacey's [Childminding Week 2025](#) this month.

In this newsletter there is information about the Childminding Week, the next Childminder Network Meeting and evening EY SENCO meeting, a reminder about the Safeguarding Audit and information about the new 'climate action plan' with a link to a brilliant new blog from the [Bristol and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub](#). There is also new guidance for nutrition for the children attending Early Years settings from September 2025.

Childminder Network Meeting (Teams)

May 19 - Guest Speaker – Zelfher Ferguson discussing Behaviour.

June 17 – PATA speaker to share their offer and available training.

July 16 – Climate Action Plan

Please use the opportunity to attend the Network meetings or they may drop to termly events.

Book Childminder Network Meeting (Teams) on 19 May

Aluna Behaviour Consultancy

A “Coffee Evening” for Childminders

Monday 19th May 2025, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm



What more would you like to know about children's behaviour?

This free 1-hour session is an informal space in which childminders can learn a little more about children's behaviour - and potentially about your own!

The session aims to:

- Share some general information about children's behaviour
- Explore some of the behaviour you might find challenges you
- Help understand the motivation behind children's behaviours
- Give suggestions of how common behaviours can be addressed
- Assist you in helping to foster children's behaviour for learning

You'll gain a greater insight into the influences behind your own style.

To book a place, email Zelfher Ferguson: zelfher@aluna-abc.co.uk

Early Years SENCO Cluster Meeting (evening) – 05/06/2025 18.30 – 20.00

Chesterton Primary School, (Aspley Road, Cirencester, GL7 1SS)

[Book Early Years SENCO Cluster meeting](#)

Don't forget to start your Safeguarding declaration process (Previously known as Safeguarding Audit)

To access the new assurance declaration, please visit
<https://www.gscpaudit.org.uk> (see section headed safeguarding).

The Keeping Children Safe in Education Assurance Declaration is a requirement of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) covering educational settings legal obligations under [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#), [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSiE) and Section 175/157 of the [Education Act 2002](#).

This process is not to make a judgement on the settings safeguarding arrangements but to seek assurances from the setting on their understanding of their safeguarding duties and responsibilities. OFSTED have the duty to make a judgement on settings safeguarding arrangements, those judgements will form part of the assurance process.

The Keeping Children Safe in Education Assurance Declaration becomes a statutory requirement and an integral part of the self-assessment and assurance of effective safeguarding practice for each setting under the GSCP's Published arrangements. It should not be considered as a stand-alone tool but should be a **live** document and **routinely reviewed** (termly is recommended) by the Childminder.

To complete the assurance declaration please sign in via <https://www.gscpaudit.org.uk>. The [KCSiE Assurance Declaration Procedure document](#) provides you with information on how to complete

the online platform. Do not complete the procedure document, all assurance declarations must be completed online.

Pacey Childminder Week

This year, Childminding Week will take place from **10 to 16 May 2025**.

The theme for 2025 is '**Unsung Childcare Heroes**'.

Building on the success of last year's childminding week, we want to use **#ChildmindingWeek25** to raise awareness of childminders, celebrate the incredible work they do, build a sense of community and involve more sector stakeholders.

Thursday 15 May, 7pm: PACEY Live webinar- From forging an influential career to igniting a superpower

Help us celebrate childminding week by joining us on **Thursday 15 May** for an evening of treasured conversation and inspirational stories. We will hear from Laura Henry-Allain, Lucy Lewin and Cheryl Warren about how their childhoods inspired lifelong careers in the early years and paved the way for them to discover different specialisms.

[Find out more.](#)

DfE - Sustainability Lead and Climate Action Plan

The Department for Education (DfE) has [set a target](#) for all education settings to have a sustainability lead and a climate action plan in place by 2025, to "help embed sustainability in all they do".

This includes an expectation that all education settings, including early years settings, will "nominate a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". Read a short blog which helps this feel very achievable in a childminding setting. [Sowing Seeds for the Future: Education for Sustainability for Childminders and Early Years Settings by Millie Colwey - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub](#)

As part of this work, Sustainability Support for Education – part of a set of projects commissioned by the DfE – is running a series of free online events on putting Climate Action Plans in place, including a number of

events aimed specifically at early years providers. You can find out more about these events [here](#).

Register your interest for the Alliance's new Environmental Sustainability toolkit

To help early years providers to meet these new expectations, the Alliance is preparing to release a new Environmental Sustainability toolkit later this summer, which will include comprehensive guidance on how to operate in an environmentally-sustainable way, create an effective Climate Action Plan, and support children to learn how to care for the environment.

If you'd like to be among the first to hear about the release of the new toolkit, you can register your interest via the button below.

[Register your interest](#)

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) nutrition guidance changes from September 2025

The Department for Education is committed to ensuring that all children in early years settings have the best possible start in life. As part of this, we are introducing new nutrition guidance in the EYFS statutory framework, which will replace the 'Examples menus for early years settings in England' guidance from September 2025.

The new guidance has been developed with nutrition and sector experts. It will help early years providers understand how to meet the existing EYFS requirement: *'Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious'*.

Good nutrition in the early years is crucial for setting the foundations for a lifetime of good health. From September 2025, providers will be required to have regard to the new nutrition guidance, meaning they must take it into account and should follow it unless there is good reason not to.

To read the new nutrition guidance, visit [Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition](#).

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 Years Quality Team](#).



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