



Early Years & Childcare Provider Bulletin

EY and Childcare Provider Bulletin; 9 January 2026



Dear provider,

Happy New Year! We hope you all managed some rest time with family and friends.

It was lovely to wake up to a crisp frosty morning on Tuesday, with many areas of the county experiencing snow! If we are lucky enough to see further snow do take the opportunity to play outside. Many of the children may not have seen snow before!

Unfortunately, we have heard of some practitioners that were poorly over the festive period. Staying well during the winter months can be a challenge when working in early years.

Please see the '[winter update](#)' information to support you to stay well.

Early Education and Child Development team

Ofsted inspection framework

As you know the latest Ofsted inspection framework started to be used on 10th November 2025. There has not yet been many inspections in the county using the toolkit but we hope to share information with you regarding the process as we find out more.

Please continue to read through and take note of the documents listed which will guide and support you through your next inspection.

Remember from April 2026 Ofsted will return to inspections every 4 years.

- [EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers](#)
- [Early years foundation stage statutory framework for childminders](#)
- [Early years inspection toolkit](#)
- [Early years inspection operating guide for inspectors: for use from November 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Early years inspection information: for use from November 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

Over the last 2 years the Quality Leads have been out visiting all early years providers across the county.

As part of the Quality Improvement team offer we aim to offer a face-to-face visit to all those registered with Ofsted within a 2-year cycle that started in January 2026.

If you require support before one of the Quality Leads get in touch with you, please email the Quality inbox
EarlyYearsQuality@gloucestershire.gov.uk

GSCP webinar with Dave Jones

Before Christmas Dave Jone hosted a webinar that covered the escalation of professional disagreement protocol.

If you did not manage to attend the session, which took place on Thursday 11th December please do listen to the recording.

<https://youtu.be/tHF6djbvVOk>

Early Years Inclusion Champion Award

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

Please see the [here](#) for more details.

Training & Meetings - Book now!

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](#)

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](#)

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@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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