

14 March 2025



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Early Years
Provider update

Provider Update 67 - 14 March 2025



Dear provider,

I hope you are all well.

We were very spoilt at the weekend with the glorious sunshine, then yesterday we had snow! I expect the children were very excited to see this scene.

Early Education and Child Development team

Information regarding funding

Following the publication of the new LA EY entitlements statutory guidance, which includes revised guidance in relation to provider charging policies, we have received a number of phone and email

queries from childminders and group providers, seeking clarification about its implementation. We acknowledge the challenges you are facing in respect of the revised guidance, but given the number of queries, it is proving difficult to respond to them all individually, however there are some emerging themes that reflect concerns across the sector. We have therefore, set up 2 webinars, taking place on 20th March 7-8pm for childminders (this is the pre-planned CM monthly networking event) [book here](#) and 24th March 12.30-1.30pm for all providers [book here](#). We will use this time to provide responses to the most common queries and talk through some examples of how you might revise your operating models and set out your charging policies to ensure compliance with the statutory guidance. Following the webinars we will circulate FAQs to further assist with your planning.

Please see the latest document [Early education and childcare \(effective from 1 April 2025\) - GOV.UK](#)

Credit Card Payment System Going Live!!

Hooray!! We are delighted to confirm that GCCPlus will accept credit card payments with effect from Monday 25th March 2025. This means that you can now make payment for all training at the time of booking, rather than waiting for an invoice.

If you are unable to pay by debit/credit card, you can follow the existing process of payment and receive an invoice.

Please note that refunds will be processed as follows for all payments made by credit card:

- Cancellation at least 2 weeks before the training course – full refund
- Cancellation less than 2 weeks before the training course – no refund but a place will be offered on a subsequent/alternative course
- Cancellation of course by GCC – either refund or offer of alternative course

We have all waited a long time for this option and it's finally here! Our hope is that it will simplify both the booking and the administrative tasks currently taken up with our current system. We will closely monitor the success of this system and please send any feedback you have after using the credit card function, to EYService@gloucestershire.gov.uk

University of Worcester conference – 6.3.25

Last week Sue was lucky enough to be invited to a conference offered by the university of Worcester. Sue was very pleased to listen to Ben Kingston-Hughes as the keynote speaker. He gave 2 great talks, one talking about children's creativity, which was thought provoking.

We are lucky that Ben will be returning to Gloucestershire on Wednesday 14th May to deliver 2 sessions on Mathtastics in Early Years. For those of you who did this session at the Gloucestershire conference last year you will all agree Ben delivers a session not to be forgotten!

We would love to see many of you there – [**book 10am - 12.00 session here**](#) or [**book 13.00 - 15.00pm session here**](#)





Play Matters

We're delighted to share that the new *Play Matters* document will be available for free download from the **18th March**. This can be accessed by going to the page here: <https://www.early-years-reviews.com/play-matters>. This resource highlights the essential role of play in early childhood development and provides valuable insights for those shaping early years policy and practice.

As leaders in early years education, your role in advocating for high quality play experiences is vital for our youngest children. I would love to hear your thoughts on the document once it's available and explore how its key messages can support your work within your Local Authority Networks.

If you would like to hear from one of the authors of *Play Matters*, please register to listen to Dr Aaron Bradbury on the PACEY website on 19th March at 7pm. [PACEY Live webinar: Play Matters with Dr Aaron Bradbury - PACEY](#)

Early Education evening – Monday 24th February at Gloucestershire University.

Thank you so much to all who joined us to celebrate the re-launch of the Early Education Gloucestershire Branch. It was fabulous to see so many amazing Educators taking the opportunity to join together.

This sold out event was hosted by the Early Education Gloucestershire team at the University of Gloucestershire in collaboration with the Early Years Childhood Study Degree Team.

Thriving Language spoke about Gestalt Language Processing and gave an introduction to this, also discussing the importance of following the child's ideas and play to enable their speech and language.

The next two events are already planned: On 19th May Kym Scott is presenting on STEAM Education and then early July Mindy Pickering from Badger Wood Adventures and Becky Poulter Jewson from Thriving Language, join together outside to explore The Forest Play Approach for children's life long learning.

These events will soon be live and bookable on the main Early Education website. Each event is an opportunity to continue to support children, build a community in early years, meet other educators and explore the latest research in practice.

Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP3)

On Friday 7th March 2025, Early Years professionals from across Gloucestershire came together to celebrate their success at completing the Early Years Professional Development Programme. In total 57 EYP's from 35 settings completed the programme over 4 cohorts.

Cohort 1 – February 2023 – October 2023

Cohort 2 – September 2023 – May 2024

Cohort 3 – January 2024 – September 2024

Cohort 4 – April 2024 – December 2024

The programme, delivered by the Education Development Trust and funded by the Department for Education has now ended. It was lovely to all come together, network and celebrate the end of a great programme.





Book Corner

Mindy and Mo - books to support Early Years children.

This set comprises 8 entertaining and engaging books which are written with a target sound at their core – 1 key sound per book. The books expose the child to their target sound (a sound which they are having difficulty saying and may be substituting with a different sound) through natural rhythm and good quality rhyme. You will be familiar with one of the authors - Rebecca Skinner.



Training and other opportunities!

Early Years SENCO Cluster Meeting - 18 March 4.00 - 5.30pm
Longford Park Primary Academy (Clock Tower Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 9FP) [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting (Teams) - 20 March 19:00pm - 20:00pm
- Teams link will be sent out before training [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 2 - 20 March - 16:00 - 18:00pm - 16:00 - 18:00 | Scheduled | SUM24SIOTL208 | Early Years | Great Oldbury Primary Academy (Great Oldbury Primary Academy Veterans Way, Stonehouse, England, GL10 3WH) [Book here](#)

Guidance 25/26 in Early Years Settings (Teams) - 24th March - 12.30pm-1.30pm - Online via TEAMS - Links will be sent out the day before the meeting. [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 1 - 27 March - 16:00 - 18:00pm - Oakwood Primary School, Cotswold Road, Cheltenham, GL52 5HD [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCO Cluster Meeting - 2 April 2025 - 16:00 - 17:30pm - Steam Mills Primary School , Steam Mills, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3JD - [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting(Teams) - 23 April 2025 -19:00- 20.00pm. Online via TEAMS - Links will be sent out the day before the meeting. [Book here](#)

Welcome to the Early Years - 9 May 2025 - 09:30am - 12:30pm - Gloucester Farmers club, Agricultural House, Greville Close, Gloucester, GL2 9RG. [Book here](#)

Mathtastics in Early Years - Wednesday 14th May - Gloucester Farmers Club. 10am - 12noon - [Book here](#) or 1pm - 3pm - [Book here](#)

SENCO Training for Early Years - 15 May 2025 (Day 1) and 22 May 2025 (Day 2) 09:00am - 15:00pm - Shire Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester, GL1 2TG - [Book here](#)

Total Communication Training in the Early Years

Exciting news to all providers! 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.**

The training will help your staff to develop their skills by exploring:

- How children develop their communication skills
- How to provide good quality adult:child interactions
- How to provide a communication friendly environment, using a range of communication methods including signs
- Why and how to use visuals

This session will also enable you to add resources to your practitioner communication tool kit and each delegate will receive a certificate for their CPD.

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

The standard GCC Cancellation Policy will apply:

- *100% refund 10 days or more before the course starts.*
- *50% refund between 9 and 5 days before the course starts.*
- *0% refund between 4 and 2 days before the course starts.*
- *0% refund between 1 day or fewer before the course starts.*





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