



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Early Years
Childminder edition

Early Years Childminder Newsletter - October 2025



Dear Childminders,

Welcome to your October Newsletter.

Autumn has definitely arrived. A few childminders have been telling me it is their favourite time of year for outside learning with a wealth of loose parts and natural resources such as leaves and conkers. I have seen tubes for rolling them down and lovely mark-making by rolling them through trays of paint.

In this newsletter there is booking information for the October play session and the links for the revised Ofsted framework. We are looking at this in the October Network meeting so do come along if you are interested (online). The links to book are below.

Childminder Play Session - Free to attend

Date 20 October 2025 **Time** 9.30am-11.30am **Venue** The Lighthouse Children and Family Centre, Linden Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL1 5JA

The perfect opportunity to meet up with other local childminders, share tips and socialise in a relaxed and friendly environment. Please bring your own snacks and drinks. Parking is off site.

NB: After you have booked your place on GCC Plus please email me at caroline.vans@gloucestershire.gov.uk to let me know how many adults and children you will be bringing in total so that we can let the venue know how many to expect.

[Book: Childminder Play Session](#)

New Ofsted Inspection Framework

Ofsted will be inspecting using this after November 10th

[Early years inspection toolkit](#)

[Education inspection framework: for use from November 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

[Early years inspection operating guide for inspectors: for use from November 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

Ofsted has also confirmed that from April 2026, it will reduce the six-year inspection cycle for early years settings to a four-year cycle and carry out providers' first full inspections within 12 to 18 months (compared to the current 30 months) after they register.

Ofsted Youtube video about the new inspection framework for childminders

Childminder Network Meetings (Teams)

14 October 2025, 7.00-8.00pm, online via TEAMS (Free) - New Inspection Framework.

[Book: 14 October - New Inspection Framework](#)

19 November 2025, 7.00-8.00pm, online via TEAMS (Free) - Adult Education (GCC).

[Book: 19 November - Adult Education \(GCC\)](#)

11 December 2025, 7.00-8.00pm, online via TEAMS (free)

[Book: 11 December - Safeguarding Policies](#)

19 January 2026, 7.00-8.00pm, online via TEAMS (free)

[Book: 19th January - Early Help](#)

Please use the opportunity to attend the Network meetings, which are all free, or they may drop to termly events.

If the links above don't take you straight to the training page please login to GCC Plus, click on the Training tab and search for it.

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.

Stronger Practice Hub Events - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub

The Stronger Practice Hub has a number of training sessions:

Stronger Practice Hub Events - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub

CPD Programme: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – It Starts with Us

Date 8 October 2025 **Time** 18:30 - 20:00

Venue Virtual Event **Organiser** Bristol & Beyond Stronger Practice Hub

Price Free

CPD Programme: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – It Starts with Us

Introduction to Makaton for Childminders

Date 15 October 2025 **Time** 18:30 - 20:30

Venue Virtual Event **Organiser** Bristol & Beyond Stronger Practice Hub

Price Free

This session will explore the basics of effective, authentic, meaningful interactions with children in the early years. We will cover what makes for quality interactions: the way we use our body and voice, how we listen, pause, and reflect on children's learning with them, how we can deepen their thinking, provoke new learning, and delight in the children's fascinations. We

will use the quality interaction checklist to learn more about how to develop good practice, as well as guidance from the EEF Evidence Store.

Introduction to Makaton for Childminders

Music in the Early Years for Childminders

Date 4 November 2025 **Time** 19:00 - 20:30

Venue Virtual Event **Organiser** Bristol & Beyond Stronger Practice Hub **Price** Free

Music in the Early Years for Childminders

Emotion Coaching for Childminders and Settings

Date 11 November 2025 **Time** 18:00 - 20:00

Venue Virtual Event **Organiser** Bristol & Beyond Stronger Practice Hub **Price** Free

Emotion Coaching for Childminders and Settings

Every Child a Talker (ECAT) training

Please can you express an interest to Caroline.vans@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you are interested in training in an evening session for this course.

Every Child a Talker (ECAT) Guidance

The new Family Hub website is now live!

These hubs offer support and advice to families in Gloucestershire as well as providing stay and play sessions, pop up play days and many more wonderful activities.

They have a brand new website full of support and information ranging from the HAF programme to the local SEND offer.

Family Hub Website

Want to know more about the new style inspections?

Ofsted are attending the Childminding UK conference to explain what to expect from new inspections from November.

Saturday 18 October 2025 • Hilton Hotel, Northampton

The new Inspection Toolkit has been published. Wendy Ratcliff is an Ofsted Inspector and Principle Officer for Early Years Education, Policy and Practice and will be delivering the Keynote speech to tell us more about the changes and how they will benefit childminders.

Gill and Lora will also have a stand to enable you to chat to them and ask any other questions you have.

Childminding UK Early Years Conference

Please share this poster with any parents of preschoolers who maybe interested

Event Details:

Date: Saturday 18th October 2025

Time: 9.30 AM – 4:00 PM (Registration from 8.30am)

Location: Hilton Hotel, ~~Collingtree~~, Northampton, NN4 0XW

Cost: £55 (£45 for members)

9. Please share this poster with any parents of preschoolers.



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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