



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Early Years Provider update

Provider Update 88- 3 October 2025



Dear provider,

October has arrived and with it, brings colder mornings, conkers, crunchy leaves, oh, and a pause in Ofsted Inspections (until 10th November at least). However, it is important to stress that Ofsted will continue with regulatory visits and inspections, for example where safeguarding concerns have been raised through a complaint or notification.

This week's email includes information about our new website, Black History Month, support to ensure the requirements for invoicing and voluntary charges are met, information from Foundation Years and up and coming training.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Early Education and Child Development team

Our New Look Webpage has Landed!

Over the last few months, elves have been working behind the scenes redeveloping our webpages, we are hoping things are a little easier to find now, but do bear with us as I am sure minor tweaks will be needed. Our webpages have new features including a 'news' page and we finally have our much-awaited EYFS Resources page.

Please do share the website link with your colleagues and parents [Early Years and Childcare Service](#) | [Early Years Service](#)

October is Black History Month

Whilst celebrating diversity and inclusion is part of our everyday practice, why not use this month to reflect and make meaningful changes.

When thinking about diversity and inclusion we often talk about providing children with 'Windows and Mirrors'. Think about the 'Mirror' being what the child sees in your provision that represents who they are, their family, their culture, and where they live etc. The 'Window' should provide opportunities to see the past, the people and places beyond the child immediate experiences.

How you provide 'Windows and Mirrors' for children needs to be carefully considered. This is where relationships with parents and your community are so valuable.

Top Tip – Have you thought about having a pen pal with another setting/childminder in Gloucestershire? Our inner city and town providers are rich in diversity whereas our providers in the countryside offer lots of opportunities to see animals, nature and farming. Sharing experiences and photos of your local community will naturally provide children with the 'Windows'.

Pop an email across to EarlyYearsQuality@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you would like to explore this further (and thank you to Jess for sharing this fab idea with us on a recent visit).

Voluntary Charges

In April this year the DfE introduced new requirements relating to voluntary charges and invoicing. These changes must be fully implemented by January 2026 and includes providing invoicing information on your website or glosfamilies directory.

For providers including childminders with less than 10 children you do not need to publish this information.

The webpage information and invoicing should clearly show the following:

- the free entitlement hours
- additional private paid hours
- food charges
- non-food consumables charges
- activities charges

A FAQ and supportive guidance will also be published in the next business team's bulletin.

The DfE requested that Local Authorities must work with all providers to ensure requirements are in place by the deadline of January 2026. Because of this the business support team will be contacting all Early Years Providers in Gloucestershire to ensure their invoicing and charging requirements are compliant and offer support where needed.

For more information or advice please feel free to contact the business team on eybusinesssupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Answering your questions on food brought in from home (packed lunch) policies

We know the [Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance](#) has had some debate within our sector, specifically regarding packed lunches

from home.

The DfE are keen to hear questions and early concerns from providers who have decided to write and implement a policy around this area. This will help them understand what further support and guidance may be useful.

If you would like to submit some questions, please contact foundationyears@beginbright.com

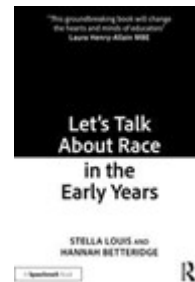
Further information: [Help for early years providers : Nutrition](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Hub recording

Please find Wednesday's DSL Hub recording [HERE](#) and minutes [HERE](#)

Book Corner

Following on from celebrating Black History Month, why not explore Dr Stella Louis and Hannah Bettridge book 'Let's talk about Race in the Early Years'.



This is an inspiring and easy to read book with some great reflective points and questions. Very thought provoking.

CPD Spotlight

Stronger Practice Hub – Back to Basics Series

Please do [check out this new CPD](#) being delivered by Bristol and Beyond

Stronger Practice Hub.

With the forever changing landscape of our sector sometimes we need to take a deep breath and reflect on how we are implementing the basics.

Training & Meetings

The following training & meetings are now available to book:

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) -
09/10/2025 4:00 - 6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School (Valley Gardens,
Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR. [Book here](#)

Welcome to the Early Years - 10/10/2025 - 9:30am - 12:30pm - Shire
Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester, GL1 2TG. [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - 14/10/2025 - 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online via
TEAMS - [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT Level 1) -
16/10/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Great Oldbury Primary Academy, Great
Oldbury Primary Academy Veterans Way, Stonehouse, England, GL10
3WH - [Book here](#)

Creating Your Early Years Curriculum - 17/10/2025 - 10:00am -
12:00pm - Shire Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester, GL1 2TG [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 20/10/2025 - 09:30 - 11:30am - The
Lighthouse Children and Family Centre, Linden Road, Gloucester,
Gloucestershire GL1 5JA - [Book here](#)

Getting it Right for Boys - 21/10/2025 - 1:00 - 3:00pm - Churchdown
Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3
2JH. [Book here](#)

Getting It Right for Boys - 21/10/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Churchdown
Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3
2JH. [Book here](#)

Baby Room Network meeting - 27/10/2025 - 6:15 - 7:45pm - All My
Friends Childcare (Barnwood), 87 Barnwood Nursery, Barnwood Road,
Gloucester GL2 0SF [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT) – Play to Ignite Development - 03/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Severnbanks Primary School, Naas Lane, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5AU - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 04/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Mary P's Day Nursery Old Dowty Clubhouse, Ashchurch Pkwy, Tewkesbury, GL20 8TU - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 2 - Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years - 06/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Chesterton Primary School, Apsley Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1SS - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 10/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Hesters Way Children Centre, Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, GL51 0ES - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 11/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Steam Mills Primary School, Steam Mills, Cinderford, GL14 3JD [Book here](#)

Leaders and Managers Network Meeting (Gloucester Farmers Club) - 12/11/2025 - 1:00 - 3:30pm - Gloucester Farmers club , Agricultural House, Greville Close, Gloucester, GL2 9RG - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 13/11/2025 - 4:30 - 6:00pm - Kings Stanley Playgroup, Kings Stanley Village Hall, Broad Street, Kings Stanley, Stonehouse GL10 3PN - [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.



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