



Business News Tuesday - 20 May 2025



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Welcome

There have been a few changes to our service recently. Not least that we are now called the Early Years and Childcare Service. This is in part to recognise that as a service we support not only early years providers but all childcare providers. The successful awarding of funding through the National Wraparound Childcare Programme has seen a significant increase in our out of school providers and our new service name appropriately reflects this.

We have also had some changes in staffing and the current Early Years and Childcare Business Support team is as follows:

Anita McKelvey - Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Business Manager (Wraparound)
Deborah Robinson - Childcare Officer
Roxana Gregory - Early Years and Childcare Business Officer
Lisa Bruton - Early Years and Childcare Business Officer

Our Early Years and Childcare Finance team members are listed below:

Sue Bodenham – Finance Support Manager
Rio Barran - Early Years Funding Officer
Rachel Billingham – Early Years Funding Officer
Helen Boyce – Early Years Funding Officer
Ben Mumford – Early Years Funding Officer

If you have any questions please email [EY Business Support](#), EYfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk or [Wraparound Team](#)

Farewell and Thanks

Sarah Spencer has decided to take her well-earned retirement after 25 years of service. Sarah has always been passionate about all Gloucestershire providers and in addition, has had her own childminding business and childminders were again always on her mind. During her 25 years at GCC Sarah's priority focus has always been on the importance of delivery of high quality childcare provision, ensuring parents have choices when seeking childcare places to suit individual family needs. As part of this work since 2018 Sarah has led the Early Years Business Support and Funding Team managing functions including collating the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report.

Sarah says: "I will miss working with childcare providers and schools in Gloucestershire, some of whom I trained many years ago and have been delighted to see them develop and grow into fantastic childcare providers. I am looking forward to retirement and to being able to spend time with family and particularly my 4 grandchildren, whilst also using my business experience in Early Years to pursue some exciting future projects."

She will be sadly missed but is deserving of her retirement to enjoy her grandchildren.

Sarah will be leaving us at the end of June but will not be returning to GCC before then.

We know that you will join with us in wishing Sarah all the best for her future endeavours.

If you would like to send a message to Sarah to be included in her leaving card, please email to eybusinesssupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Business, Wraparound and Finance News

Would you like to win a £200 voucher to spend on your setting?

Self-Update Provider Portal

We know that there have been lots of new providers added to our SUPP as well as those existing providers already using it.

We are constantly looking at how to improve our knowledge of supply and demand for places across the county for both early years and childcare and we need your help. We are always asking providers to update information for us, so to try to encourage this for the next three terms we are including an incentive. We will enter all providers who update their information onto the SUPP into a prize draw to win £200 to spend in their setting.

All we ask is that you use the SUPP to update information about your setting.

We would also welcome any feedback that can help us improve the portal – such as:

How easy is it to enter information?

Is there anything else you feel we should be recording?

Draws will take place at the end of the Summer Term 2025; end of Autumn term 2025, and end of Spring term 2026 (so if you enter your information updates each term you have three chances of winning £200).

If you are new to the portal or if it is a while since you have updated details

and you need help in accessing or adding data to the SUPP please see the guidance below or email into us and we will be happy to help you. We can be reached at EYfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Nursery Funding Portal - Full User Guide

Protective Security and Preparedness for Education Settings April 25

Summary

This non-statutory guidance provides advice to help educational settings be better prepared and able to respond to terrorism and other major incidents. It sets out practical steps to keep learners, staff and volunteers safe in the event of an incident through simple and **cost-effective methods**.

The guidance is aimed at those working in settings who have existing responsibilities for emergency planning and response, site security, and staff new to concepts of protective security and preparedness. It is recommended that all staff read this guidance to ensure they are able to identify security vulnerabilities, suspicious activity and how to respond when there is an incident.

For the purpose of this guidance, educational settings cover settings from early years, all schools, further and higher education (including colleges, sixth-form colleges and independent training providers), and alternative provisions (including special schools and children's social care settings). This guidance can also be adapted to out-of-school settings (OOSS).

Protective Security and Preparedness for the Education Sector

EY Changes - Outdoor Space

This consultation seeks views on whether to introduce flexibilities to the indoor space requirements in section 3 (the safeguarding and welfare requirements) of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory frameworks. In response to the November 2023 Pulse Survey of

Childcare and Early Years Providers (published April 2024), one of the barriers identified by providers to expanding their childcare provision was physical space, and specifically the indoor floor space requirements set out in the EYFS.

Through this consultation we are seeking views on two potential options for amending the EYFS indoor space requirements and the potential benefits and risks for each option. The policy intent is to give early years providers more flexibility and autonomy to exercise professional judgement in the way in which they utilise their spaces to meet demand for places in their settings, according to the needs of the children they educate. We are also asking for your views on alternative ideas about how we might change the indoor space requirements, including whether we should leave the current space requirements as they are.

Consultation: EY Changes - Outdoor Space

Update to Qualifications Checker - 8 May 2025

UK qualifications that meet the Department for Education (DfE) criteria for counting in the early years foundation stage statutory framework staff:child ratios.

Early Years Qualifications Checker

Childcare Expansion Myth-buster for Providers

Our colleagues in Childcareworks have produced this useful information sheet to address some of the common misconceptions around the childcare expansion. You can view the full document on their webapges using the link below:

Childcare Expansion Myth-buster for Providers -
childcareworks.org.uk

Other news

We work closely with other local organisations to help and support our

providers. You may have seen links in our bulletins to documents you can purchase from PATA. These have included how if you are a PATA member you can get these documents at a reduced cost. Below is information about what joining PATA could mean for you.

Why join PATA?

PATA Membership offers fantastic value and is open to anyone involved in the Early Years and Play sectors - including wrap around providers.

As a member you will have access to our friendly and knowledgeable Support for Settings team through our phone line which is open every day, or via email. We're here to help with any queries you may have - our members often just want a second opinion or reassurance they are doing the right thing.

We don't just support the sector, we're part of it. Our Support for Settings team has real, on the ground experience because we run our own settings too. We understand the daily challenges you face and we're here to help, whether you need guidance on the EYFS, ratios, curriculum, staffing - no question is too insignificant.

You'll also get regular updates to keep you informed and access to a wide range of training (open to everyone but discounted for members). If you are looking for resources, our policy and document bundles, based on what we use ourselves, are available to buy online along with accident books, registers and more.

You can check out the full member benefits and find out how to join on our website here:

[PATA \(UK\) - Become a Member](#)

Training

The following training & meetings will be taking place during June and July - Book now!

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 04/06/2025 - 6.00pm - 8.00pm - Slimbridge Primary School, St John's Road, Slimbridge GL2 7DD - [Book](#)

[here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 05/06/2025 - 6:30pm - 8:00pm - Chesterton Primary School, (Aspley Road, Cirencester, GL7 1SS) - [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy Training (SIOT Level 2) – Practical Strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years - 05/06/2025 - 16:00 - 18:00pm - Oakwood Primary, Cotswold Road, Cheltenham, GL52 5HD – [Book here](#).

Creating Your Early Years Curriculum - 06/06/2025 10:00am - noon - Gloucester Farmers club, Agricultural House, Greville Close, Gloucester, GL2 9RG - [Book here](#).

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 10/06/2025 - 4.00pm - 5.30pm - Mary P's Day Nursery (Ashchurch Parkway, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8TU) (Training Room) – [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 11/06/2025 - 4.00pm - 5.30pm - Steam Mills Primary School (Steam Mills, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3JD) - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 12/06/2025 - 4.00pm - 5.30pm - Great Oldbury Primary Academy (Great Oldbury Primary Academy Veterans Way, Stonehouse, England, GL10 3WH) – [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy Training (SIOT Level 2) – Practical Strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years – 12/06/2025(Awaiting venue to be confirmed), booking not yet available. Training will be held within Gloucester locality.

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy Training (SIOT Level 2) – Practical Strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years – 19/06/2025 (Awaiting venue to be confirmed), booking not yet available. Training will be held within Stroud locality.

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 23/06/2025 - 4.00pm - 5:30pm - Hesters Way Children Centre (Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 0ES) (Elliott Building) - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 24/06/2025 - 4.00pm - 5.30pm -

Longford Park Primary Academy (Clock Tower Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 9FP) - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 25/06/2025 - 4.00pm - 5.30pm - Stow Nursery, Stow on The Wold Primary School (St Edwards Drive, Stow-On-The-Wold, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 1AW) - [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy Training (SIOT Level 1) - 26/06/2025 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Chesterton Primary School, Apsley Road Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1SS - [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy Training (SIOT Level 2) - Practical Strategies: Sensory Processing in the Early Years - 03/07/2025 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Severnbanks Primary School, Naas Lane, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5AU - [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy Training - Play to Ignite Development – 10/07/2025 (Awaiting venue to be confirmed), booking not yet available. Training will be held within Cotswolds locality.

Childminder Network Meeting - 16/07/2025 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm - Online via Teams [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.



Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TJ

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