

Early Years Education and Skills Hub Newsletter – March 2025.

This month's newsletter includes:

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- Early Years: Intersectionality in the Early Years Training
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- New Early Years Research Funding Available
- DfE invite senior managers to the Early Years and Childcare Provider Roadshow for the Yorkshire and the Humber region.
- Early Help Quality Mark.
- New to the HUB... Making Funding Work: The Use of Government Funding as a Sustainable Business Model.
- The Childcare Works Toolkits
- Advance Doncaster Recruitment Fair
- City of Doncaster Council Seeks Support for Childcare Course Placements
- Guidance - Experience-based route for early years staff
- Publication of the Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Standard
- Childcare Choices Campaign
- 'How To Love Your Job' new four-part early years series with Channel 4.

Open Consultation- Improving the way Ofsted Inspects Education

Ofsted are asking parents, carers, professionals and learners what they think about our proposals to improve education inspections and their new report cards for providers.

This consultation closes at: **11:59pm on 28 April 2025.**

Give your views here: [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education)

In summary, they propose:

- **Report cards** – these would give parents and carers more detailed information than the current reports, including a new 5-point grading scale to evaluate more areas of a provider's work and short summaries of what inspectors found.
- **Education inspection toolkits** – this tool shows providers and inspectors the evaluation areas that they focus inspections on and how they will assess and grade providers.
- **Inspection methodology** – changes to how they carry out inspection.

- **Full inspections and monitoring inspections, state-funded schools** – they plan to end ungraded inspections of state-funded schools and change their monitoring programmes so that they can check that timely action is taken to raise standards.
- **Identifying state-funded schools causing concern** – a new approach to how they will place a school into a category of concern.

Read the full plans here: [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education: consultation document - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years: Intersectionality in the Early Years Training



CALLING ALL EARLY YEARS EDUCATORS!

Experiences during the early years shape how a child sees the world. 80% of the brain development and growth happens in the first 3 years of life. Consider the different identities of each child you know – their interests, gender, culture, religion, ethnicity, background and so much more. All these identities determine how children’s everyday life is experienced, they are inextricably linked to the way children see the world and how they respond to the world in the future. **We are excited to welcome Warda Farah, a Social Entrepreneur, Speech and Language Therapist, Writer and Lecturer to Doncaster. Warda will be delivering training on**

the Intersectionality and the importance of culturally and linguistically affirming practice in early years. This is essential training for everyone working in early years education.

Please book your places via Buy Doncaster: [Early Years: Intersectionality in the Early Years | Buy Doncaster](#)

Department for Education have released information and guidance on: Toilet Training

How to support babies and young children with toilet training in your early years setting. This article was written by the Department for Education (DfE) in consultation with senior health professionals in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). Using the toilet is a new skill that children need to learn. You can play an important role in supporting children and their parents or carers with toilet training.

Read more here: [Help for early years providers : Toilet training](#)

New Early Years Research Funding Available

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has recently launched their latest research funding round, which includes opportunities for early years programmes. This funding round aims to support and evaluate existing programmes in the early years, with a specific focus on improving self-regulation or executive function in children or projects that support these as part of broader developmental goals. This funding will help build the evidence-base of 'what works' within early years settings across England, specifically in raising attainment and closing the education gap for children growing up in poverty.

The deadline for applications is **11am on Friday 14th March 2025**. Please visit the EEF website [here](#) for more information on the funding round and how to apply.

[Early years funding round \(Spring 2025\) | EEF](#)

DfE invite senior managers to the Early Years and Childcare Provider Roadshow for the Yorkshire and the Humber region.

When: Tuesday 25 March 2025

Venue: The Met Hotel Leeds, 5 King St, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 2HQ

Times: starts at 10:30 (registration from 10am) and closes at 3:30pm

The event will include an overview and update from the Department for Education, opportunity to share your experiences and views in roundtable discussions, and a best practice session. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Click here to : [Register your place for the roadshow](#)

This event is a great opportunity to help shape this government's plan for change and hear about the strategy and activity underway to meet the pillar in its Opportunity Mission to give children the Best Start in Life. You will have a chance to engage with DfE colleagues on the work we're doing to meet the expanded childcare entitlements from September 2025 and share your ideas, concerns and challenges. You will also hear how the department is working on the government's new vision for early years education and childcare. Throughout the day there will be opportunities to network with external membership organisation and partners who support early years providers. These roadshows, which started in January 2024, are an important part of

shaping early years and childcare policy and delivery. Further communications will be sent to registered delegates leading up to the event. When registering, please choose from the following roundtables (there will be 3 roundtable sessions).

Being ready to provide expanded childcare places in September 2025

Hear from DfE about the work in train and planned to support the sector to deliver the expanded entitlements for eligible working parents from September 2025, including the availability of regional data. Share your specific challenges, lessons learnt and opportunities that you would like DfE to reflect upon and consider in our planning, support and delivery.

The government-funded childcare entitlements system and future childcare delivery

Hear from the team that manage the government funded childcare entitlements system and the roll out of the new entitlements for working parents, including the delivery of the HMRC, DfE and LA digital systems and the overall policy. You will also have the opportunity to hear about considerations for the future of the entitlement system and feed in your views on how the provider market can support future childcare delivery.

How the early education and childcare funding system works

Hear from the early years and childcare funding team how the early years funding system works and tell us how you are preparing for this coming financial year and your reflections and challenges. You will also have opportunity to hear options being considered for the future of the funding system and to feed in your views.

Providing school aged childcare (Wraparound and Breakfast Clubs)

Encouraging successful partnerships between schools, trusts, PVI's and childminders is at the heart of successful and accessible school-aged childcare. Meet DfE's wraparound and breakfast club team and find out more about the expansion of childcare for primary school-aged children and tell the team how the programme is working for you, your barriers and the opportunities this programme has created. You will also have opportunity to hear options being considered for the future of school aged childcare and to feed in your views.

Early education for children with SEND

Setting up every child up to have the best start in life means delivering access to high-quality early education and childcare, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. During this session you will the DfE's early years SEND team will share insights on the latest training and guidance available to support

practitioners in caring for children with SEND, as well as recent developments in funding reform.

We want to hear your experiences supporting children with SEND in your setting, including what training and development opportunities would benefit you and your staff, your experiences with the early years SEND funding system, and what you feel we can do as a department both now and in the future to ensure that your setting has the support and resources it needs to ensure children with SEND can get the best start in life.

Building the early education and childcare workforce with the right qualifications

During this session you will have the opportunity to find out more about the department's work to support, grow and develop the early education and childcare workforce, including our 'Do something BIG' marketing campaign, Early Years Skills Bootcamps our financial incentives pilot and the Early Years qualifications landscape. We want to hear about the barriers and challenges you face when it comes to staff recruitment, retention and development. You will also have opportunity to hear options being considered for the workforce and to feed in your views.

Supporting quality practice in early education

On the early education and quality practice table we will be introducing you to the free support the department offers to help you deliver excellent education and care in your settings. We will cover training and resources from Early Years Child Development Training, Help for Early Years Providers website through to the networks and evidence-informed practice you can access via your local Early Years Stronger Practice Hub. We also want to hear from you! We'll be seeking your feedback on the Government's support offer to date, and your input will help shape what we provide in future.

Joining up family services

Find out about the Departments current policy on providing joined up services for families, focusing on the Family Hubs & Start for Life programme. Understand the important role of early years and childcare providers in facilitating that join up and connecting families to local support. In particular, how family hubs and EY settings can work together to improve take up of childcare entitlements and support for disadvantaged families, as well as identifying and connecting families who would benefit from targeted support. This is an opportunity to tell us what the strengths of the current policy are, any identified gaps and how Government can support the EY sector to join up better with family services.

Early Help Quality Mark

Would your organisation like to be recognised for its work to support children & families who require Early Help support by obtaining an Early Help Quality mark? The Quality Mark recognises good practice of organisations providing Early Help to children & families.

Find out more here: [Early Help - Professionals - City of Doncaster Council](#)

New to the HUB... Making Funding Work: The Use of Government Funding as a Sustainable Business Model

In this video for providers Lucy Lewin discusses information and strategies needed to make the most of government funding. The recording explores the different types of funding streams, how to apply for them, and ways to use these funds strategically for long-term sustainability. Encourage your providers to [visit the HUB](#) today!

Click here for more information: [Making Funding Work: The Use of Government Funding as a Sustainable Business Mode - childcareworks.org.uk](#)

The Childcare Works Toolkits

The Childcare Works toolkits bring together everything you need to grow, sustain and start childcare provision. With content curated by experts, you will find a wealth of useful and relevant information, all in one place.

The toolkits contain information specific to operating childcare provision, plus general information for businesses, childminders and charities, including expert marketing, HR and leadership and management, partnership working and more.

Content is organised into six 'topics' with each topic divided into sub-topics:

- Business Planning
- Business Growth
- Running of Your Childcare Provision
- Leadership and Management
- Partnership Working
- SEND and Inclusive Practice

Access the Wraparound Toolkit - [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)

Access the Early Years Toolkit - [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)

Advance Doncaster Recruitment Fair



On the 5th of February Advance Doncaster held a recruitment fair at the Doncaster Racecourse. Amanda, Donna, Shelley, Katie, Kirsty, and Louise attended to talk to attendees about early years and what it is like to work in the sector. They were also supported by Sam from Education and Skills, who is supporting people to come into the childcare sector. It was a great day meeting lots of potential early years staff. There were many who were very interested in the sector and have been sign posted to appropriate next steps.

City of Doncaster Council Seeks Support for Childcare Course Placements

The City of Doncaster Council is excited to announce an opportunity for local childcare establishments to support the next generation of childcare professionals. The council is currently offering an accredited Childcare course and is seeking placements for learners pursuing an Entry Level 1 Award in Childcare.

A Fantastic Opportunity to Make a Difference

The council is in search of dedicated childcare establishments willing to host individuals for a minimum of 4-8 hours or more between March and December 2025. In return for their support, participating establishments will receive a small financial incentive to assist with any additional costs incurred.

Why Should You Support Our Course?

- **Funding Available:** Financial support to assist with the placement.
- **Professional Development:** Help shape the career of a passionate individual.
- **Additional Support:** Gain an extra pair of hands to support your daily activities.

Requirements for Participation

- A willingness to mentor and support the individual within their placement hours while they complete their qualification.
- Provide a safe and nurturing environment for practical learning.
- Support individuals to become one step closer to the labour market.

Get Involved

If you are interested in participating, please complete the expression of interest form using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/tSyJA6WVwS>

For further information about the qualification or to discuss this placement opportunity in more detail, please contact cassie.richardson@doncaster.gov.uk or view the leaflet here: [Provider Leaflet for Innovation Childcare.pdf](#)

This is a wonderful chance to contribute to the development of future childcare professionals while benefiting from additional support in your setting.

Guidance - Experience-based route for early years staff

How early years providers can implement the experience-based route for staff who do not hold full and relevant qualifications. **The experience-based route and this guidance do not yet represent the law, until the related statutory instrument has been made and comes into force, expected on 3 March 2025.**

This guidance outlines the recommended approach for early years providers who are interested in carrying out the experience-based route for staff in their setting. This route allows for suitable and experienced staff, who do not hold full and relevant qualifications, to be included in the staff:child ratios at level 3 following a period of supervised practice.

This guidance is for:

- registered early years providers required to comply with the [Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for group and school-based providers](#)
- early years provider and premises managers
- early years staff
- school leaders, school staff and governing bodies in schools providing early years provision

The experience-based route: initial and final check form and record can be used:#

- as a template when making assessments of staff proceeding with this route
- to record evidence of decision-making

This route is only available to providers and staff that meet the requirements set out in the [Early years qualification requirements and standards](#) document.

Click here to read more: [Experience-based route for early years staff - GOV.UK](#)

Publication of the Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Standard

The Department for Education is delighted to announce a new Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship (EYTDA) leading to Early Years Teacher Status. A sector-led trailblazer group worked with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to develop the EYTDA, a full and relevant level 6 early years qualification.

A degree level apprenticeship gives everyone from junior staff to senior leaders the opportunity to easily move into a specialist career in the early years sector. The EYTDA enables employers to invest in the staff they already employ and provide progression opportunities, whilst allowing them to remain in their current role and continue to contribute to the running of the setting.

This apprenticeship will put foundations in place to provide a highly qualified workforce to support the next generation of young children whilst enabling future early years leaders and teachers to earn whilst they learn.

Read more here: [Become an early years teacher | Get Into Teaching GOV.UK](#)

Childcare Choices Campaign

The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness of the financial support available for childcare costs and the benefits of early education. We want to help all parents find the support that fits their family, whether it's funded hours to help balance costs, or wraparound childcare to juggle those early morning school drop-offs.

We are pleased to share the new Childcare Choices partner communications toolkit featuring our new look and feel with new leaflets, posters, and social graphics, as well as newsletter/blog copy that you can incorporate into your communications.

We would be extremely grateful if you could help us to spread the word about government childcare support and the 31 March deadline for parents to apply for their childcare code to start in April.

You can download the toolkit in our guidance and resources section on the website: [Guidance and resources | Childcare choices.](#)

'How To Love Your Job' new four-part early years series with Channel 4

The Do Something Big campaign team is delighted to share second episode of our new four-part series with Channel 4. In this episode, Ryan dives into the world of early years education to see if this could be the fresh, fun start he's been craving. Will it be his new creative calling? Life Coach, Anna Williamson, finds out. You can watch the episode [here](#).