Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: 25th November 2020

**Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announces the COVID-19 Winter Plan**

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced the [COVID-19 Winter Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-winter-plan?utm_source=24%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) setting out how national restrictions will be lifted on Wednesday 2 December. On this date, England will move back into a regional, tiered approach. There will be 3 local tiers of restrictions:

|  |
| --- |
| * [Tier 1: Medium alert](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#medium-alert) * [Tier 2: High alert](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#high-alert) * [Tier 3: Very High alert](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#very-high-alert) |

These rules will apply from 00:01 on Wednesday 2 December. Current national restrictions must be followed until this time.

Since the summer, the government’s priority has been to ensure that education remains open and in England, education settings will continue to remain open in all tiers. Children’s life chances, as well as the long-term health of the economy, depend upon children and students continuing to learn and develop vital skills, and adults being able to train and retrain to meet the changing needs of industry and the economy.

Thanks to the enormous effort by early years practitioners, teachers, lecturers and support staff who have worked so hard to implement protective measures, 99% of schools have been open throughout the term so far, with millions of children and young people benefitting from attending their early years setting, school or college throughout the term.

We will be updating our guidance in the coming days to reflect how settings should operate under the Local Restriction Tiers.

**Funded Early Education**

Important things to remember … making sure you get the right payment at the right time

Start and Finish Dates

* The EY Portal dates are set to default to 01/09/2020, 01/01/2021 or 01/04/2021.  This **must** be changed by you to reflect the correct start date of the child. This is the 2, 3 & 4 year funding actual start date, not including settling in days.
* Once the correct start date is used, this will determine the number of weeks/hours the child can be funded for.
* If a child starts mid term – you must check if the child has been receiving funding anywhere else, firstly with the parent and/or with the Early Years team.  Using the actual date the child started with you will help with apportioning funding to both settings (if that is the case).
* If a child leaves your setting please use the last date the child was actually at your setting; not the end of the week or end of term.
* A child cannot go from term time to stretched, or stretched to term time in their funded year as they may not have sufficient hours.

**Important improvements to the coronavirus (COVID-19) testing call centre (119)**

The options that you will be asked to select when calling the coronavirus (COVID-19) testing centre on 119 are changing. These changes have been made to make the process quicker and clearer for schools and further education providers to reach the education support team.

This helpline can be used to answer questions on the following:

|  |
| --- |
| * how to order additional coronavirus (COVID-19) home testing kits * your Unique Organisation Number (UON) * account adjustments (for example updating your shipping address or changing an email address) * general queries relating to testing |

When calling 119, please select the following options to be directed straight to the schools and further education providers support team:

|  |
| --- |
| * if you are calling from England (option 1), Scotland (option 2) Wales (option 3) or Northern Ireland (option 4) * select whether you would like to hear how the data captured during the call is used (option 1) or to continue to additional options (option 2) |

You will then be asked to choose a further option:

|  |
| --- |
| * if you are calling because you have an upcoming hospital procedure, or from an organisation who receives test kits directly from the national testing programme, select option 1 * if you are an individual, such as a student, a parent or a carer, and are conducting testing off site and require support, please select option 2 |

It is important that you contact the correct helpline as it will help the coronavirus (COVID-19) testing call centre resolve your query as quickly as possible.

The helpline is open 7am to 11pm daily.

**Foundation Years: COVID-19 update #22 – New FAQs – 19 November**

[**Second Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**](https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Early-Years-QA-19-Nov-2020.pdf)

This second FAQ document answers questions from the early years sector on the national lockdown. These answers have been checked with the Department for Education (DfE) and cover:

* Visits
* EYFS disapplications
* Workforce
* Funding and financial support
* Safety measures in settings
* + more

You can view the first set of FAQs [**here**](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/11/covid-19-update-21-faqs-5-november/). If you have any further questions, please submit these to [**foundationyears@ncb.org.uk**](mailto:foundationyears@ncb.org.uk).

[Read the FAQs](https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Early-Years-QA-19-Nov-2020.pdf)

[**COVID-19 resources hub**](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/09/covid-19-resources-hub/)

The Foundation Years [**COVID-19 resources hub**](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/09/covid-19-resources-hub/) will continue to be updated to include the latest information and guidance on the national lockdown, in addition to hosting a variety of resources to support early years settings during the COVID-19 outbreak.

[View the COVID-19 hub](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/09/covid-19-resources-hub/)

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/11/covid-19-update-22-new-faqs-19-november/?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=50f0120b93-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_21_05_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-50f0120b93-321730862&mc_cid=50f0120b93&mc_eid=7d8a2d186c>

**HMRC: COVID-19: Employer support – live webinars**

You can now claim for periods starting 1 November under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), which is running until the end of March for all parts of the UK.

You will still need to submit all final claims for periods up to 31‌‌‌ ‌October on or before 3‌‌‌‌0 November.

Make sure you have the latest information by joining the live **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** webinar, which includes:

* who can claim
* who you can claim for
* how to calculate what you can claim
* how to make a claim for all periods.

We will continue to update our webinars to reflect the latest information as it becomes available.

[**Register here**](https://links.advice.hmrc.gov.uk/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDExMjMuMzA5NTc1MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2F0dGVuZGVlLmdvdG93ZWJpbmFyLmNvbS9ydC84NTI4MDIxNDk5Njk2MTYzMzMxP3NvdXJjZT1Ob3ZlbWJlci1ITVJDLURDUy1TdXBwLUVtcC0zIn0.cnarQcXo4MkbuiYGodpHn9sWN1c2dO5obtTneP0kEX8/s/510004055/br/90239610714-l)

We are also running monthly webinars on the **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme**. Get the latest information on:

* who can claim
* who you can claim for
* how to make a claim
* what you may be entitled to, and more.

[**Register here**](https://links.advice.hmrc.gov.uk/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDExMjMuMzA5NTc1MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2F0dGVuZGVlLmdvdG93ZWJpbmFyLmNvbS9ydC8zNjY3NTQ1Njg1NzIzMTIwNjQzP3NvdXJjZT1Ob3ZlbWJlci1ITVJDLURDUy1TdXBwLUVtcC0zIn0.HZRTE5WQ0KqY1HBru4FgkOB9lJyyqxquuePA6ZSX2_Q/s/510004055/br/90239610714-l)

You can ask questions during all our live webinars using the on-screen text box.

Our webinars are regularly updated to provide the latest government guidance on changes as they develop.

**Cold weather alerts & COVID**

* + - * The Berkshire cold weather plan
      * A double page infographic on how to keep warm and well
      * A presentation summarising the local response to cold weather – Including the questions that we should be asking the most vulnerable, the impact of cold weather on COVID transmission and the key actions for different types of organisations e.g. CVS, healthcare, care homes, individuals

<https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/news/cold-weather-alerts-covid>

**Prevention and management of children choking on food**

You may be aware of the tragic occurrence at a Nursery in London just over a week ago where a 2 year old girl choked on a sausage while eating her lunch, and later died in hospital.

There has been too many of these tragic cases of children either choking on food, toys or other foreign objects over the years, and we just need to ensure we are doing all we possibly can to show due diligence.

Please see the below guidance that covers the prevention and management of children choking on food.



**COVID dashboard & self-isolation documents**

Unfortunately, Slough has got the lowest use of the COVID dashboard across Berkshire, but there still seems to be  lots of people  asking for clear and transparent data.

The community champions are doing their best to communicate the correct information to the community as they receive it in their weekly emails.

The link to the dashboard is available here -[www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/](http://www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/)

Images for social media attached…

I have also attached an infographic to support families if they have a child that has to self-isolate

**Advertising vacancies**

Does your setting currently have vacant places for early years children?

If you would like the Early Years Service to promote your vacancies on our [early years facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/sloughearlyyears/) or the Slough Borough Council [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sloughcouncil/) and [twitter](https://twitter.com/SloughCouncil?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor) pages please email [earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk) and we will include your details in future posts about vacancies. Deadline this week Thursday 26th November by 11am

Alternatively please call Raj Braich on 07395 258 096

**Early Years Service Annual Provider Audit 2020-21: Deadline Tuesday 1st December by 5pm**

Slough Borough Council has an annual duty to evaluate the early years and childcare provision available in Slough. We therefore need to gather information from all providers regarding services offered to families and details about each setting’s operational arrangements. As outlined in the Provider Agreement for the Provision of Funded Early Education for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds 2020 the local authority requires providers to complete an annual provider audit for sufficiency purposes.

This year’s annual provider audit focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on the early years sector. The results will be used to create a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) which will enhance our understanding of the early years market in Slough, enabling us to consider future developments and targeted support.

We are requesting that all providers complete the audit via an **online** **survey**

* **Childminders:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CSACMAUDIT>
* **PVI settings**: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CSAPVIAudit>
* **Nursery Schools and schools with nursery classes:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CSASchoolsAudit>

If you have any problems completing the audit online please contact Raj Braich - Project Support Officer on 07395 258096 or Aneesa Younus – Project Support Officer on 07923 260397. The deadline for the audit is **5pm on Tuesday 1st December 2020.**

For any further questions regarding the Annual Audit or the Childcare Sufficiency Refresh please contact Slough Early Years Service on 01753 476583.

**Talking Therapies has to offer for staff and families**

* Talking Therapies is a free NHS service that supports the residents of Berkshire who may be struggling with difficulties including; low mood, anxiety and stress
* Their services are available to anyone registered with a GP in Berkshire…. Clients can self-refer by calling the admin team on **0300 365 2000 or** alternatively they can [**Sign Up**](https://gateway.mayden.co.uk/referral-v2/7c824928-ff62-4838-855e-80d1281dfb94) via the website referral form.
* They offer a range of treatments including 1:1 therapy and online support…..Visit the website [**https://talkingtherapies.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-therapies/**](https://talkingtherapies.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-therapies/).
* There is also a **Wellbeing for new parents** page on their website that new parents can be signposted to [**https://talkingtherapies.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/self-help-resources/wellbeing-for-new-parents/**](https://talkingtherapies.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/self-help-resources/wellbeing-for-new-parents/)
* An email template is attached that can be forwarded with the attached leaflet to families you work with so they can also be made aware of the support they offer.
* For staff they are able to offer an online session that can be shown at a staff meeting or group….This can either be a brief overview and presentation of their services, or you can request a presentation that specifically tackles how to manage stress and anxiety

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**Training and Continuous Professional Development**

We have spaces remaining on the below training course on ‘**Early Years Schema Training’**. You do not need an invite to book; please see the link provided below.

**Schema**

**Online Training**

This training will develop practitioners’ understanding of schematic play behaviour and explore how they can use these to effectively respond to children’s schemas to develop their dispositions for future learning in a positive behaviour environment

**Thursday 10th December 2020**

1pm – 2.30pm or 6.30pm – 8pm

Appropriate for practitioners working in the EYFS; PVIs, childminders and Teaching Assistants in nursery and reception classes

Cost: Full price for this training is **£24.50** however we are offering an AUTUMN SPECIAL of 20% off book your space now for **only £19.60**

To Book (1pm): <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events/early-years-schema-training>

To Book (6.30pm): <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events/early-years-schema-training-0>

**MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING OFFER 2020-21 is under review (Level 2 Safeguarding)**

Covid 19 has presented many challenges for our workforce and has taught us a lot about Virtual working together!

We are currently revising all our training and developing virtual modules. We have committed to virtual training September through to March 2021 unless it is safe to have face to face training.

<https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/scsp/scsp/training/multi-agency-training-offer-2020-21-refreshed-in-light-of-covid-19>

**Safeguarding basics and COVID-19**

Below is a link to a video which has been developed to cover the basics of safeguarding during COVID-19.  It covers safeguarding for both children and adults at home and also includes domestic abuse and exploitation.

It takes less than 10 minutes to view and may be particularly useful as a resource for:-

* redeployed staff
* staff or volunteers  working in different ways within the safeguarding arena during this period
* volunteers who do not read English very well as there is no requirement to read the slides.

The messages are simple - “There is no excuse for abuse during Lockdown” and “Help is available -It is business as usual for safeguarding services”

Link to Slough Safeguarding basics <https://youtu.be/RDc4mBGbRmA>

**Safeguarding Level 3**

*It is always recommended that Designated Safeguarding Leads complete a localised Safeguarding course to ensure they have up to date information about local policy’s and procedures. Due to COVID 19 the Slough Safeguarding Partnership are currently unable to offer face to face training but will endeavour to review other options such as online training in the future. In the meantime there are a number of other organisations who offer Level 3 Safeguarding training online which you could access, however we strongly recommend that you ensure you are aware and up to date with Slough’s Safeguarding procedures* [*https://berks.proceduresonline.com/slough/index.html*](https://berks.proceduresonline.com/slough/index.html)

**Please note these courses are not recommendations and we are not endorsing the training. This list is not exhaustive**

**Level 3 Safeguarding Children: Paediatric First Aid Training Online**

This online safeguarding training level 3 course programme is aimed at all childminders, nursery staff, but also school teachers & support staff working with children & infants who could potentially assess and evaluating the needs of a child, infant or young person, who may be potentially at risk of harm.

<https://www.onlinepaediatricfirstaid.co.uk/product/level-3-online-safeguarding-children-course-childminders-nursery-staff/>

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 3): The National Nursery Training**

As part of the National Nursery Training Designated Safeguarding Lead course you will learn:

* Understand the safeguarding structure and have an understanding of the law, policy and recommended guidance to uphold the highest safeguarding standards
* Understand the roles and responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
* Be able to identify signs of possible abuse
* Understand the process to follow when a safeguarding issue is identified
* Understand the correct procedure for dealing with disclosures.
* Understand the varying levels of need of individuals and processes to follow.
* Understand the correct procedure for recording information and following due process beyond referral to external agencies.

<https://nationalnurserytraining.com/product/designated-safeguarding-lead-level-3/>

**Designated Safeguarding Lead online Course: EYFS Resources**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead course covers the following:

◦the definition of safeguarding and child protection,

◦recap on signs and symptoms of abuse

◦how to report concerns

◦how to respond to allegations of abuse

◦recording information correctly

◦roles and responsibilities of people and agencies

◦creating a child protection policy

◦the role of a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

<https://www.eyfsresources.co.uk/training/early-years-safeguarding-courses/designated-safeguarding-lead-online-course>

**NSPCC Safeguarding Training**

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training>

**Prevent**

Prevent should be seen as part of the existing safeguarding framework;

While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, young people from an early age can be exposed to terrorist & extremist influences or prejudiced views. As with other forms of safeguarding strategies, early intervention is always preferable.

Slough Borough Council working with other local partners, families and communities, play a key role in ensuring young people and their communities are safe from the threat of terrorism.

Prevent training, aims of session.

• Understand Prevents aims

• Think about who may be vulnerable to Extremism and Radicalisation – all forms

• See why some people are able to influence and manipulate others to commit crimes

• Recognise when a vulnerable individual may be in need of help

• And be clear on what help and support looks like in this area, and who you should turn to if you have concerns

• Look at the threats, risks and vulnerabilities

9th December 2020 @ 10am – 12pm

12th January 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

9th February 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

9th March 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

To book a free space please email [Philip.Dobson@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Dobson@slough.gov.uk)

Alternative evening session will run on 23rd February 2021 @ 6.30pm – 8pm bookings via the Link <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events/early-years-prevent-training-1>

**Strong Home Learning Experience to support children’s learning and development**

**National Literacy Trust – Words for life /New digital platforms for families and teachers**

The virtual school library will help primary schools give children who have been most adversely affected by COVID-19 access to books all year round. The words for life website supports with the home learning environment for children <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/?mc_cid=ea64f10f58&mc_eid=dfacb06fa7>

The websites are packed with free books, fun activities and exclusive author content.

For more information look [here](https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/to-celebrate-international-literacy-day-hrh-the-duchess-of-cornwall-opened-ivydales-new-school-library-and-launched-our-virtual-school-library-for-all-uk-schools/?mc_cid=ea64f10f58&mc_eid=dfacb06fa7)

**For Happy Healthy Early Years** - Support from trusted NHS professionals <https://healthforunder5s.co.uk/>

**Simple, fun activities for kids, from newborn to five** <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

**Talk to your baby**

[www.talktoyourbaby.org](http://www.talktoyourbaby.org)

**Building a happy baby - a guide for parents**

[www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly](http://www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly)

**Education Endowment Foundation**

NEW: Supporting reading at home - we have made some of our resources available in Polish, Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, and Lithuanian. <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/support-resources-to-share-with-parents/>

**Improving the Home Learning Environment** guide by the Department of Education and National Literacy Trust <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756020/Improving_the_home_learning_environment.pdf>

**The Toddler Meal Planner is a must have in every kitchen!**

Created in collaboration with parents to solve a real need, it makes it easy for parents to get the balance right, helping to take the guesswork out of toddler meals and set up healthy habits for life at a critical time in children’s development. You can find the meal planner [here](https://infantandtoddlerforum.org/blog/new-resource-inspired-by-parents-for-parents-the-toddler-meal-planner-is-a-must-have-in-every-kitchen/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=August%20email)