Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: 2nd December 2020

**Supporting the early year’s sector / raising awareness**

We are committed to supporting the business sustainability of the early years and childcare sector!

Promoting funded early education is a key aspect to restarting the early years and childcare market. Many providers are still experiencing low participation rates following the first lockdown so in Slough we have started to create a number of videos and social media posts to help raise awareness of Covid-secure provision and the benefits of a good early education.

**Messages to share with parents:**

**Slough Early years – Staying safe, learning and having fun COVID-secure**

In response to COVID many nurseries and childminders have adapted their settings to be COVID-secure. Speak to your local provider to find out what safety changes they have made or contact Slough Family Information Service on 01753 476589, visit <https://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk>

Take a look at the following video to give you an idea of what to expect when you child starts their early years placement. <https://youtu.be/5HFsJdCqJYM>



All early years settings carry out robust risk assessments. Their assessments will directly address risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19), so that sensible measures can be put in place to control those risks for children and staff.

What are early years settings doing to help prevent the spread of the COVID virus?

- staff are wearing masks when they are face to face with parents

- In many cases indoor and outdoor shoes are being worn

- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices

- providing sanitising stations

- Adults are keeping 2 meters apart

- Enhanced cleaning routines

- Lots of time playing and learning outdoors

- Working in ‘bubbles’ to keep groups sizes smaller

- ensuring parents are advised to keep children with any symptoms at home

- ensuring staff who are symptomatic do not attend work

**A Slough parent champion talks about 2 year old free early education**

Accessing early education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and supports children’s social and emotional development.

Take a look at the following video to hear from a parent champion about what 2 year old funding was like for them: <https://youtu.be/uKe6HmLrW7k>

Follow Slough Early Years on facebook and <https://twitter.com/SloughCouncil> for future posts

**Government support with childcare costs during the Covid-19 pandemic**

HM Government is providing support for businesses and workers during the Covid-19 pandemic, protecting livelihoods and helping to contain the virus.

We also want to remind you about the government childcare support available for working parents through:

• 30 hours free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds in England.

• Tax-Free Childcare for children up to age 11 and disabled children up to age 17 across the UK.

Working parents who access Government Covid-19 related support schemes (e.g. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme or Self-Employment Income Support Scheme) will still be eligible for childcare support even if their or their partner’s income falls below the normal minimum threshold. This support will align with the duration of the other schemes (currently 31 March 2021).

Parents will also still be eligible if their or their partners income goes over the £100,000 normal upper threshold in the current tax year (April 2020-March 2021) because they are a critical worker and have worked extra hours because of the pandemic.

Working parents who are already using one of these schemes, must reconfirm their eligibility every three months.

Parents should visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to find out more information and what government offers they may be entitled to.

**Early Years promoting the entitlements: DfE toolkit**

Parents are likely to need additional reassurance that childcare settings remain open, particularly in light of the national restrictions.

As you have a detailed knowledge of your own local area and childcare market, you may already have developed your own strategies for doing this. However, to help, you also have access to a range of communications tools to help promote government childcare entitlements for children aged 2 – 4 as well as Tax-Free Childcare.

The DfE has produced a pack to help you communicate with working parents about the available offers and support that has been put in place. In this pack, you’ll find a range of materials including:

1. Draft emails to share with parents or providers

2. An online flyer to share via email or social media channels with parents, promoting available support in response to the pandemic.

3. Social media suggestions; which are available to download for you to share (below) and guidance on using the childcare choices logo. a. Social media asset 1

1. b. Social media asset 2
2. c. Social media asset 3
3. d. Childcare choices logo

All of the above materials have been posted on TheLink website for you to access: <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/news/early-years-promoting-entitlements-dfe-toolkit>

**Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

The guidance [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures) has been updated on Gov.uk

In this revised version of the guidance, we have included updates to address the exit from National Restrictions on 2 December and provided new and updated guidance on managing safety in settings, staffing, 30 hour entitlements and information on business support. A full list of updates is included at the beginning of the guidance document.

The guidance continues to be applicable to settings during national restrictions although it should be read alongside the [education national restrictions guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020). The national restrictions guidance supersedes the early years and childcare guidance where it touches on the same policy areas. This applies until national restrictions end on 2 December.

Minor updates have been made to the [EYFS disapplications guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications):

* Remove reference to the transition period for the original disapplications, which ended on 25 November 2020.
* Remove reference to extending the validity of PFA certificates if certificate requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, or by complying with related government advice. The period up to which the validity of certificates could be extended ended on 25 November 2020.

For [early years providers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures?utm_source=27%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) we have clarified the position under the local restriction tiers for:

|  |
| --- |
| * managing safety in settings and staffing
* 30 hour entitlements
* business support
 |

Please also see the following announcements:

* [New funding to support schools and colleges during Covid pandemic - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-support-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-pandemic)
* [Coronavirus (COVID-19) contingency framework for education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings)

**Additional guidance on restrictions**

* This [**guidance**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=00ee785cf8&e=6e26d5602e) provides information on the national restrictions, including what they mean for working from home and business closures, why they are being introduced and the financial support available.
* Guidance on how the national restrictions impact education, childcare and children’s social care settings can be found [**here**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=e1e422813c&e=6e26d5602e).
* Information for shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 can be found [**here**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=e479a50fa8&e=6e26d5602e).

This [**COVID-19 contingency framework for education and childcare settings**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=6c2ae3ff3a&e=6e26d5602e) sets out how restrictions on education would work in the rare circumstances they are needed. How settings can prepare for restrictions to help contain community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Foundation Years**

[Frequently Asked Questions](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/09/covid-19-resources-hub/?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=2489a4b3d2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_25_03_13_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-2489a4b3d2-321554625&mc_cid=2489a4b3d2&mc_eid=6e26d5602e)

Foundation Years has published two FAQs with questions from the early years sector being answered by DfE. The answers cover:

• Attending more than one setting

• Outdoor learning

• Visits to early years settings

• EYFS disapplications and Paediatric First Aid

• Safety measures in settings

• Funding and financial support

• + more

You can find the first set of FAQs published on 5 November here and the second set published on 19 November here.

If you have any further questions, please submit these to foundationyears@ncb.org.uk

[**COVID-19 resources hub**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=6d6b053f28&e=6e26d5602e)

**The Foundation Years website features a** [**COVID-19 resources**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=19b05add36&e=6e26d5602e) **hub where you can find all the latest policy announcements, Government guidance and free resources from across the sector to support early years providers during the pandemic.**

The hub will be updated as new resources become available and we will continue to send key updates straight to your inbox so you don't miss a thing.

**What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

Page summary: Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in the autumn term.

Change made
Updated to reflect the local restrictions, including changes to the sections on shielding, face coverings, school and college trips and extra-curricular activities. We have also added information about performances in schools.

Updated: 27 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=22329a87-564c-45dd-ab84-869a1730d028&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

**Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**
Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made: Updated guidance in the following sections: home education; educational visits and trips; providers of music, dance and drama or sports provision; who can attend your out-of-school setting; and equality. Added guidance about social distancing. These updates apply from 2 December.

Updated: 27 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=65c2ec81-5d52-4531-b8b0-4b6b5f0e8e0c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

**Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**
Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

Change made
Updated sections on ‘Children with health concerns’ and ‘Live performances of children’s dance, music and drama’. Added section on ‘Parent and child groups’.

Updated: 27 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

**Providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

Page summary
This document sets out guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations in response to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Change made
We have added information about managing national and local restrictions. This guidance makes it clear that apprenticeship training and assessment can continue to be delivered under national restrictions and all local restriction tiers.

U pdated:26 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response?utm_source=f8b39347-5704-4271-b9a9-200b4bc40565&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

**Chancellor’s, Rishi Sunak, Spending Review statement**

The Chancellor announced on 25th November an extra £44 million in 2021-22 for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers for the government’s free childcare entitlement offers. This is an above inflation average hourly funding rate uplift for 3-4 year-olds and 2 year-olds, compared to 2020-21. Further information on how this will be distributed will be made available as soon as possible.

The government continues to recognise that maintained nursery schools are an important part of the early years sector and provide valuable services to disadvantaged children. We have secured a continuation of around £60m of supplementary funding for them in the financial year 2021-22, as part of this year’s Spending Review.

The government’s commitment to the long-term funding of maintained nursery schools, made in October 2019, is unchanged, and DfE continues to consider what is required to ensure a clear, long-term picture of funding for MNS. The DfE will say more about this soon.

The spending review will also fund investment in the Holiday Activities and Food programme to provide enriching activities and a healthy meal for disadvantaged children in the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays in 2021.

**Grace Periods: 30 hours Childcare**
As you are aware, the 30 hours entitlement has a “grace period” built in to provide stability for children, parents and providers. The grace period is intended to provide stability for families, children and childcare providers.

Whilst in a grace period, a parent can reconfirm their eligibility through the Childcare Service and their 30 hours free entitlement would continue without a break. If a parent has not reconfirmed their eligibility within the grace period, they will stop being eligible for 30 hours. They will then remain eligible for the 15 hours universal entitlement for three and four year olds.

Providers should be aware of the grace period dates for each parent and should be encouraged to share these with parents who experience a change in eligibility status. Providers should be reminded to check eligibility dates carefully before agreeing a start date with parents.

With the introduction of the new minimum income easement, we have provided some worked examples for how the easement could work alongside our established 30 hours grace period policies.

**Example one:**

Sayeed was benefitting from the previous minimum income easement for his 30 hours entitlement from June as his employer reduced his hours in response to COVID. He had a reconfirmation deadline of **8th November**. He was informed by his employer he will **not** be put on the CJRS, and will instead be made redundant after 31st October. He was therefore found ineligible for 30 hours and TFC at his next reconfirmation (8th November), and entered a grace period for 30 hours. As his loss of eligibility fell in the second half of the autumn term, he can continue to use his 30 hours free childcare place until his grace period expires on **31st March 2021**. If, at any point during his grace period, he secures another job that satisfies the income criteria, he can reconfirm his eligibility and continue with his access to his 30 hours place as normal.

**Example two:**

Sophie had a valid 30 hours code for her three-year-old child, with a reconfirmation date of **1st October**, but lost her job on 10th September. She remained eligible for 30 hours until her reconfirmation date, at which point she was unable to reconfirm due to unemployment. She then entered **a grace period until the end of the autumn term (31st December 2020)**, as she became ineligible during the first half of the term.

**Example three:**

Chris had been accessing the 30 hours minimum income easement since mid-July, when his employer furloughed him. With the extension of the furlough scheme until December, his employer confirmed he will **remain on the CJRS**. As he will be receiving support from a government support scheme, **Chris can continue to claim his 30 hours,** even though his income has reduced below the income threshold. He will reconfirm as usual through the Childcare Service application website and his continued eligibility will be verified by HMRC.

**Please note**: grace period end dates are dependent on individual validity end dates and are unique to when the parent applied. A child cannot start at a new setting in a grace period. However, if an ineligible parent finds work that takes them above the minimum income threshold during their grace period, they will be able to reconfirm and carry on with their 30 hours as normal. More information about grace periods can be found in the [Statutory Guidance.](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjPue7ZsK3tAhXRolwKHXVOBiIQFjAAegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F718179%2FEarly_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1lyeb9Xa5dn6jh98kybHx_)

**Minimum income easement: 30 hours and Tax-Free Childcare**
From 1 November, if a parent who is temporarily not meeting the minimum income requirement for 30 hours free childcare and/or Tax-Free Childcare as a direct consequence of the coronavirus outbreak, they will be treated as eligible if they would normally meet the threshold and are in receipt of government coronavirus support schemes such as the extended Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme or Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

The DfE continue to encourage all eligible parents to continue to apply for, and reconfirm, their 30 hours and Tax-Free Childcare entitlement, even if they have not been accessing their entitlement due to COVID-19. This will help to ensure parents have a smooth transition back into childcare when possible. Parents can use the guidance available on [Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-can-get-tax-free-childcare-and-30-hours-free-childcare-during-coronavirus-covid-19) during coronavirus outbreak if they have questions about their eligibility for their childcare offer.

**When schools can apply for free of charge PPE from SBC or the government**

* Schools and other education and childcare settings are responsible for sourcing their own PPE. It is the responsibility of schools/ child care settings to source PPE at the required standards for employees to use whilst at work.
* If schools and other education and child care setting have critical unmet need, they can approach SBC for support to meet this emergency need. Examples include that the delivery has not arrived on time or the setting is unable to source the required PPE due to national shortages etc.
* PPE can be sourced through the council for staff in education and childcare settings. It is recognised that Covid-19 related PPE use will be very limited, namely for:
1. when caring for a child or individual who develops symptoms while attending their setting (and then only if a distance of two metres cannot be maintained), and
2. when performing aerosol generating procedures (AGPs).
* Schools can source, through the council, Type II face masks for staff required to cross bubble - for example the Head Teacher, facilities staff etc. (NB: remember to update your risk assessment to cover staff cross bubbling).
* Children’s homes, secure children’s homes and residential special schools can access PPE via the national PPE portal on <https://www.nhs-ppe.co.uk/customer/authentication>

If you require PPE from SBC, for the purposes listed above, please complete the ‘PPE Request Form’ on: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe>

Schools and educational settings ordering from SBC will be responsible for picking up PPE from SBC council offices.

Please note that the council do not hold an unlimited amounts of PPE, hence **all** requests will be assessed upon receipt, to ensure compliance with the requirements set out above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the PPE Team on ppe@slough.gov.uk

**Permanent extension of the eligibility criteria for a free early education place for disadvantaged two-year olds**

In March, the government temporarily extended eligibility for the free early education entitlement for the most disadvantaged two-year-old children whose parent(s) who meet both of the following conditions for the duration of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

a. That they are excluded from claiming public funds as a consequence of their immigration status, or their lack of immigration status; and

b. They are in receipt of support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

On the 1st September 2020 the government permanently extended eligibility for the free early education entitlement to this group of children.

The children of these families will be entitled to a free place if their parents are working and meet similar low-level income requirements to others eligible for the scheme (e.g. a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax).

We expect the numbers, who fall within this cohort of two-year olds, to be small. Local authorities should ensure their Family Information Service is aware of the extended eligibility criteria and the local application process, so these groups of families are referred to the appropriate team. Where children in these circumstances come to the attention of the local authority they should be funded for a free place if their parents want one and they meet the eligibility criteria. Local authorities should also ensure that any marketing/publicity about free places for disadvantaged two years olds takes account of this new group of families.

The Department has updated the eligibility criteria for the free early education entitlement for the most disadvantaged two-year olds on gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>).

**Ofsted updates****: Early years and childcare**
[Press release: Ofsted announces new early years inspection arrangements](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=1d44c0458c&e=70d748a98b) - A new approach to inspecting early years providers will give good and outstanding providers more consistency while prioritising providers rated less than good.

[Data on COVID-19 visits: registered early years providers](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=18e273e48b&e=70d748a98b) - Data about Ofsted’s visits to registered early years providers during the interim phase of our return to inspection.

[Reported COVID-19 cases by registered early years and childcare settings](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=a49ce4bff9&e=70d748a98b) - Added data to cover 19 October to 9 November 2020. Also updated the figures for the weeks commencing 5 October 2020 and 12 October 2020 to correct an error in the number of reported cases.

[Tell Ofsted if you have a COVID-19 incident at your childcare business](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=919cfbeb67&e=70d748a98b) - You must tell Ofsted if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at your nursery, childminder business or other day care. You should also tell us if you have to close your setting as a result.

[Joiners and leavers in the childcare sector](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=d8e14b9f0f&e=70d748a98b) - Published data on joiners and leavers in the childcare sector in October 2020.

[Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=fd4fb4fda7&e=70d748a98b) - Updated consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare as at 31 October 2020.

You can [subscribe to this newsletter here](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=1c06ba9400&e=70d748a98b).

### Coronavirus: Business support

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) support is available to businesses**

* Loans, tax relief and cash grants are available
* Employers might be eligible for financial support to pay wages
* Self-employed people might be eligible for a taxable grant covering 55% of trading profits

**Check if you can claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme**

If you're self-employed or a member of a partnership and have been impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) find out if you can use this scheme to claim a grant.

29 November 2020: The online service for the third grant is now available.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme?priority-taxon=09944b84-02ba-4742-a696-9e562fc9b29d#history>

**Financial support for businesses during coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Find out what financial support you can get for your business.

12 November 2020: Added support for businesses affected by coronavirus restrictions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19?priority-taxon=09944b84-02ba-4742-a696-9e562fc9b29d#history>

**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 and we will include your details in future posts about vacancies. Deadline this week Thursday 3rd December by 11am

Alternatively please call Raj Braich on 07395 258 096

### Coronavirus and support for businesses: Slough

**Lockdown 2 grants**

The government has announced a number of new business rate grant schemes for Lockdown 2.

* Local Restrictions Support Grant (closed) – national restrictions

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/business-rates/coronavirus-and-business-rates/2?documentId=142&categoryId=20043>

* Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/business-rates/coronavirus-and-business-rates/3?documentId=142&categoryId=20043>

* Grant support after national restrictions

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/business-rates/coronavirus-and-business-rates/4?documentId=142&categoryId=20043>

# Coronavirus and Support for residentsSelf-isolation grants

From 28 September, if you receive a positive Covid-19 test result or are told by the NHS to self-isolate because of close contact with someone who has Covid-19, you may be eligible for a £500 lump sum.

The government has announced the new Test and Trace Support Payment for people on a low income who must self-isolate for 14 days and cannot work from home during that time. [Advice on when to self-isolate and what to do is on the NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/).

To be eligible for the new Test and Trace Support Payment, you must be able to say yes to **all of the following four points:**

* have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace either because you've tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has **and**
* employed or self-employed**and**
* unable to work from home and will lose income as a result **and**
* currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and or Pension Credit.

Individuals who qualify and who meet **all** the criteria will be entitled to a £500 lump sum payable into their bank account. These payments will be subject to income tax but not National Insurance contributions.

The scheme ends on 31 January 2021. Eligible people will be able to claim for each period of self-isolation.

You will be considered for a £500 discretionary payment (with additional criteria) if you meet the first 3 points but are:

* not currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit **and**
* on low incomes and will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while you are self-isolating

General information to support and enforce self-isolation is [on the government's website.](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-package-to-support-and-enforce-self-isolation)

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/coronavirus/support-residents/2?documentId=670&categoryId=20179>

**Funded Early Education**

You will have received your interim task for the spring term. In these challenging times more children than ever may be entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium, so to enable us to check this and potentially fund you an additional £1.25 per hour for each child you must provide the following information:

Parents’ first name and surname

Parents’ date of birth

Parents’ National Insurance number

We find that a lot of parents often give the wrong surname, perhaps their maiden name but not the name on official documents. If this happens it will appear that the child does not qualify for EYPP and this may not be the case. Please double check this with your parents.

The deadline for completion of the task is Thursday the 10th December 2020.

If you have a question about your funding claim please call 01753 476554 or email Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk

**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

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)