**Children and Families, Early Years Division**

**Weekly News Bulletin: 20th January 2021**

**Spring Term Census and FEE- DfE update**

**The Spring Term (Actual) 2021 Task deadline is Tuesday 26th January 2021. Please ensure that you complete and submit your task by this date.**

We have received additional supporting documentation issued today for both Early Years and Schools census. For the Early Years census, this guidance is to be used as an addition to the guidance already available on gov.uk regarding Early Years Census 2021 found here: Early years census 2021: *Early years census 2021: guide - GOV.UK (*[*www.gov.uk*](http://www.gov.uk)*).*

As announced on the 4th January 2021, early years provision should remain open to **all** children to attend their expected hours where this is operational viable to do so.

The Early Years Census 2021 is intended to reflect the provision made available to parents/ guardians and a provider’s usual expected attendance in census week commencing on the 18th January 2021.

**In summary, where a child is reasonably expected to attend EY provision, and the provision is made available by the provider, their expected hours should be recorded in the Early Years census. This applies to nursery classes of schools, maintained nursery schools, PVIs, children’s centres and childminders**

*The intention is to ensure parity of approach to counting of funded entitlements across both the School Census and the Early Years Census. Where a provider is counting a child on the census, the place must be genuinely ‘available’: this means a provider* ***must not*** *count a child where they have furloughed the staff who would be required to deliver the child’s place.*

If a setting **chooses** not to open to all i.e. to close or only offer places to key worker or vulnerable children only, they **should not** make a return in the census for any child who is not being offered a place. However, if a setting is temporarily closed, for example for staff infections or isolation periods, the census should be completed with the number of children who are on roll.

Please contact the Early Years Division on 01753 476554 or [earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk) if you would like to discuss further

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) staff testing in primary schools**

On 15 December, the Secretary of State for Education announced [plans to introduce asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secondary-schools-and-colleges-to-get-weekly-coronavirus-testing), starting with secondary and further education colleges and rolling-out to primary schools in January.

We can confirm that primary schools and maintained nursery schools should expect to receive a delivery of home testing kits between the 18 and 22 January for testing of staff. Further support and guidance on how to use the tests will follow shortly. If you have not received a delivery by close on 22 January, or have missing or damaged items, please complete this [contact form](https://form.education.gov.uk/service/rapid-testing-contact). You will need the URN for your school or college to complete this form. You do not need to start any testing before the week commencing 25 January.

Primary schools with attached early years settings will receive sufficient test kits to test both their primary and early years staff. Maintained nursery schools will also receive testing kits to offer to their staff. **Private early years providers will continue to be** [**prioritised for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#essential-workers) **through the NHS testing programme.**

Rapid testing and more covid officers Slough: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/coronavirus/mass-rapid-testing>

**Free safeguarding awareness training from the NSPCC for workers who enter people's homes**

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures, children and young people are spending much more time at home and we know isolation can put some children at a greater risk of abuse and neglect.

Workers including housing maintenance workers, who visit homes are well placed to spot any emerging safeguarding concerns or signs of possible abuse and neglect.

**The NSPCC is temporarily making their paid-for online safeguarding course (It's your call) free for you to access to help keep children safe.  It only takes 15 minutes to complete and could make a huge difference to a child’s life.**

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/safeguarding-awareness-course?fbclid=IwAR0uQ2lqU_M7-mJuDffNKl4k_WCzC6Ut7xoj9A-0ytJG6roOImU93U2SEzs>

**Please will you consider sending this out to your staff who may visit homes.**

It is recommended that the nurseries check who they are speaking to and then answer the questions with full responses.

**Spring term courses**

Please see the courses available from the East Berkshire Community Learning and Skills Service.



**Local Welfare Provision**

As we near towards the end of the financial year, we want to ensure the funding for the Local Welfare Provision is utilised to its full capacity so all residents can receive the assistance they need. Our residents are in need now more than ever, especially those affected by Covid-19. If you come across any individuals or families that you feel can benefit from the service please advise them to submit an application? I have attached the updated policy so you can see who is eligible, what we cover, award types etc.

Please find below our process for Local Welfare Provision.

All applications need to be completed online via our SBC website **(press ctrl + click to follow link below)**

<https://lwa.financialassessments.co.uk/LocalWelfareAssistance/Home/Redirector/Index/?id=63796d90-05ab-42cb-9303-41e5eaae76aa&mod=OA>

Residents who do not have access to the internet or those that are vulnerable needing assistance in completing the form they can call 01753 475111 option 7 and a Customer Service Advisor will complete on their behalf over the telephone.

A member of the LWP team will then contact the applicant and advise the verification proofs required to be sent to the following email address [localwelfarehub@slough.gov.uk](mailto:localwelfarehub@slough.gov.uk)

# Foundation Stage Forum: EYFS disapplications - 15 January

[**Early Years Foundation Stage Profile**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=3c7d73cbbf&e=6e26d5602e)

Ministers have decided it will not be mandatory to complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assessment in 2021 but instead will be asking schools to make ‘best endeavours’ to undertake it.

This is in recognition of the additional pressures and uncertainties that teachers are facing during this challenging time. This also aligns with the approach on KS1 and KS2 assessments this year. However, DfE recognise that the EYFSP is a valued assessment by teachers and early years professionals and is a crucial tool in supporting children’s development and the transition from reception to year 1.

It is for that reason DfE will be asking teachers and early years practitioners to use their best endeavours to still complete the EYFSP for children in the summer term if at all possible and to provide this important information to parents and to year 1 teachers, should the situation at the time allow. This will be a judgement for schools and teachers depending on their individual circumstances and will in many cases depend on the coming weeks and months.

We know many schools found they could complete the EYFSP in 2020, particularly due to its nature as a teacher-led assessment. Schools who decide they are able to complete the EYFSP this year and provide this information to parents and year 1 teachers will not be subject to statutory external moderation. There will be no requirement to submit data to the local authority or to confirm whether they have completed the EYFSP to DfE.

This change applies to schools who are early adopters of the Early Years Foundation Stage reforms, as well as schools who are following the current statutory framework.  
  
If you have any questions, please submit these to [**foundationyears@ncb.org.uk**](mailto:foundationyears@ncb.org.uk).

[**Paediatric First Aid requalification training**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=15e6536680&e=6e26d5602e)

DfE have also taken the decision that if Paediatric First Aid certificate requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with the COVID-19 pandemic, or by complying with related government advice, the validity of current certificates can be extended to **31 March 2021** at the latest. This applies to certificates expiring on or after **1 October 2020**.

This is in recognition of the fact that some practitioners are facing difficulties in accessing requalification training due to courses being cancelled. If asked to do so, providers should be able to explain why the first aider has not been able to requalify and demonstrate what steps have taken to access the training.  
  
Employers or certificate holders must do their best to arrange requalification training at the earliest opportunity.

**Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare**  
This report details the names and addresses for childminders and childcare on domestic premises, where the provider has consented for their name and address to be published on the Ofsted inspection report website.

Change made:  
Updated consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare as at 31 December 2020.

Updated: 15 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consented-addresses-for-childminders-and-domestic-childcare?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=76b9dbe8-da36-42b5-a917-6ac4156935dd&utm_content=daily>

## **School complaints procedures: guidance for maintained schools** How local authority-maintained schools and maintained nurseries can set up or review their complaints procedures.

Change made:  
Updated ‘Handling complaints during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak’ section in ‘Best practice guidance for school complaints procedures 2020’.

Updated: 15 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-complaints-procedures?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=b6ad1c1c-9f4c-4869-80e1-141a0dbdfe8f&utm_content=daily>

## **A Workforce in Crisis: Saving Our Early Years** [A new repor](https://www.cache.org.uk/media/1863/a-workforce-in-crisis-saving-our-early-years.pdf)t on the crisis in the early years workforce has revealed that without immediate intervention and drastic action, the sector is at risk of becoming unsustainable, with almost 70% of settings anticipated operating at a loss over the last six months of 2020 and 33% of practitioners suggesting they would leave the sector past their current job role. Produced by the Early Years Workforce Commission, a steering group made up of leaders from across the sector, "A Workforce in Crisis: Saving our Early Years" unveils the key challenges at play, and sets out solutions which will ensure the sector’s workforce is able to continue providing sustainable and high-quality early years provision, based on research and data gathered from a range of stakeholders.

## <https://www.early-education.org.uk/press-release/commission-calls-government-provide-package-changes-early-years-workforce>

**Legislation to enact EYFS reforms**

The DfE are currently planning to publish the revised EYFS by the end of March 2021, with the intention of allowing a term's notice ahead of statutory roll-out to all early years providers in September 2021. In light of the implications of COVID-19, particularly given the new variant and the third national lockdown, we remain acutely aware of the pressures that the early years sector face and we will continue to keep a watch on the implications of this. The early adoption of reforms is continuing this year and we are progressing the development and provision of support to providers and LAs for the reforms as much as possible within the current circumstances. They will endeavour to give as much notice as possible if any implementation plans were to change.

On 24 October 2019, government launched a 14-week public consultation on the EYFS reforms. The consultation received 2,452 responses and closed on 31 January 2020. On 1 July 2020, government published its [official consultation response](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896872/EYFS_reforms_consultation_-_government_response.pdf). As a reminder, this confirmed:

· Final educational programmes and early learning goals (ELGs)

· Intention to remove the 'exceeding' judgment criteria

· Plans to proceed with removal of the requirement for local authorities to moderate EYFS Profile judgements in 25% of schools in their local area.

· A small policy change to the safeguarding and welfare requirements to explicitly promote the good 'oral health' of children.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children’s social care**  
Funding and financial support available for education, childcare and children’s social care organisations.

Change made:  
Added a note to the section on supply teachers and other contingent workers in state-funded schools to make it clear that it is out of date and the procurement notices mentioned are no longer in effect.

Updated: 18 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=308eb27d-03c1-43f1-9c46-8379c1ea2322&utm_content=daily>

**Legislation to enact EYFS reforms continued …**

As government has conducted a full consultation on the above changes and confirmed these in the official consultation response, we are not seeking views in relation to these changes. We do however wish to share a number of proposed small changes to the safeguarding and welfare section of the framework which are intended to keep children safe and/or reduce burdens. These changes relate to updates in the law since the last EYFS revisions or incorrect/misleading references identified since the previous revision of the EYFS in 2017 and many of them have been suggested to us by the sector. Due to the nature of these changes we were not required by law to consult on these changes as part of the consultation on 24 October 2019. However, we are seeking your views on these changes to ensure that all of the changes are clear and are understood. Ofsted have proposed some of the changes to improve how things work for early years providers, however we are nevertheless required to consult Ofsted formally on them which is underway.

Please see attached a breakdown of the changes we propose making to the safeguarding and welfare section.

EYFSP in 2021

Ministers have decided it will not be mandatory to complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment in 2021 but instead we will be asking schools to make ‘best endeavours’ to undertake it.

This is in recognition of the additional pressures and uncertainties that teachers are facing during this challenging time. This also aligns with the approach on KS1 and KS2 assessments this year. However, we recognise that the EYFSP is a valued assessment by teachers and early years professionals and is a crucial tool in supporting children’s development and the transition from reception to year 1. It is for that reason we will be asking teachers and early years practitioners to use their best endeavours to still complete the EYFSP for children in the summer term if at all possible and to provide this important information to parents and to year 1 teachers, should the situation at the time allow. This will be a judgement for schools and teachers depending on their individual circumstances and will in many cases depend on the coming weeks and months. We know many schools found they could complete the EYFSP in 2020, particularly due to its nature as a teacher-led assessment. Schools who decide they are able to complete the EYFSP this year and provide this information to parents and year 1 teachers will not be subject to statutory external moderation. There will be no requirement to submit data to the local authority or to confirm whether they have completed the EYFSP to the Department for Education.

This change applies to schools who are early adopters of the Early Years Foundation Stage reforms, as well as schools who are following the current statutory framework. [Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications) has been updated to reflect this, as well as an update on paediatric first aid allowing certificates that expired on or after 1 October 2020 to be considered valid until 31 March 2021 if providers have tried everything possible but cannot access retraining due to covid-19 restrictions. Providers remain responsible for ensuring the safety of children at all times.

**HMRC: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**

The next deadline for claiming under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), and update you on the information we’ll be publishing shortly on your claims.

Also included is information on furloughing employees who may need to care for children at home due to school and childcare closures, and an update on VAT deferral.

**December claims**

Thank you if you submitted your December furlough claim by the deadline of 14 January.

If you didn’t, we may still accept it if you have a reasonable excuse for not claiming by the deadline, such as you were self-isolating or had an unexpected stay in hospital that prevented you from completing it.

If your reason means you can claim late, please do so as soon as you’re able to, and note that reasonable excuses only apply to late claims for periods from November onwards. For more information on reasonable excuses, go to GOV‌‌‌.UK and search 'claim for wages'.

If you have already submitted your claims for December but need to make a change because you didn’t claim enough, you can do this until **Thursday‌‌ ‌28 January**. To find out how to amend your claim, search 'Get help with the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme' on GOV‌‌‌‌‌.UK.

**You can now make January claims**

You can now submit your claims for periods in January. These must be made by **Monday‌‌ ‌15 February.** You can claim before, during or after you process your payroll. If you can, it’s best to make a claim once you’re sure of the exact number of hours your employees will work so you don’t have to amend your claim at a later date.

You and your employees do not need to have benefitted from the scheme before to make a claim. You can check if you’re eligible and work out how much you can claim using our CJRS calculator and examples, by searching 'Job Retention Scheme' on GOV‌‌‌‌.UK.

**What you need to do now**

1. If you haven’t submitted your claim for December but believe that you have a reasonable excuse, check if you can apply to make a late claim by searching 'claim for wages' on GOV‌‌‌.UK.
2. Check you claimed the right amount in December by looking at the eligibility criteria and calculating how much you can claim – search 'Job Retention Scheme' on GOV‌‌‌.UK.
3. **Submit any claims for January no later than Monday‌‌ ‌15‌‌ ‌February**.
4. Keep records that support the amount of CJRS grants you claim, in case HMRC needs to check them. ‌

**Making your claim online**

To make a CJRS claim, you will need to be registered and have the required access, password or activation code for HMRC online services. For more information search 'HMRC services' on GOV‌‌‌.UK.

**Furlough for caring responsibilities**

Your employees can ask to be furloughed because they have caring responsibilities resulting from coronavirus, such as caring for children who are at home as a result of school or childcare closing. You can place them on furlough and claim for them under the CJRS.

**Publishing information on claims**

On 26‌‌ ‌January we will be publishing a list of employer names who have claimed CJRS for periods from December onwards, on GOV‌‌‌.UK.

From February, we will publish the names, an indication of the value of claims and Company Registration Numbers (for those who have one) of employers who make CJRS claims for periods starting on or after 1‌‌ ‌December. The published value of your claim will be shown within a banded range – to find a list of these, search 'Check if you can claim for your employees' wages' on GOV‌‌‌‌‌‌.UK.

We will not publish details of employers claiming through the scheme if they can show that publicising these would result in a serious risk of violence or intimidation to individuals, or those living with them. To request for your details not to be published, complete the online application form – go to GOV‌‌‌.UK and search 'Check if you can claim for your employees' wages'.

If you need to do this, we will not publish your details until a decision has been made and you have been informed. You'll only need to apply once, as the decision will cover all CJRS claim periods starting from 1 December 2020. You must make the application yourself, and it can’t be made by an agent on your behalf.

Your employees will also be able to check if you have made a CJRS claim on their behalf through their online Personal Tax Account from February. They can set up a Personal Tax Account by going to GOV‌‌‌‌‌‌.UK and searching 'Personal Tax Account: sign in or set up'.

Details of CJRS claims will now be published monthly as part of HMRC’s commitment to transparency and to deter fraudulent claims.

**VAT Payments Deferral Scheme – correcting errors**

If you notice an error on a VAT return which relates to a period covered by the VAT Payments Deferral Scheme, you should send a VAT652 form to us as soon as possible. Go to GOV‌‌‌.UK and search 'Correct errors on your VAT Returns' for more information.

You will then receive a Statement of Account confirming your balance, and if any extra payments are needed as a result, you can contact us to defer these too, before the end of January.

You can:

* pay the deferred VAT in full on or before 31‌‌ ‌March 2021
* opt in to the VAT Deferral New Payment Scheme when it launches in early 2021 (more information to follow shortly)
* contact HMRC if you need more help to pay.

**Where can I get further support?**

Thousands of people have joined and benefitted from our live webinars which now offer more support on changes to CJRS, and how they affect you. To book online, or to view updated guidance, go to GOV‌‌‌‌‌‌‌.UK and search 'help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus'.

There’s also a list of monthly claims deadlines and a helpful step-by-step guide on GOV‌‌‌.UK, summarising the latest information on CJRS and the steps you need to take to make a claim – you can find these by searching 'Job Retention Scheme step-by-step guide'.

Our phone lines and webchat remain very busy, so the quickest way to find the support you need is on GOV‌‌‌‌.UK. This will leave our phone lines and webchat service open for those who need them most.

**Protect yourself from scams**

Stay vigilant about scams, which may mimic government messages as a way of appearing authentic. Search 'scams' on GOV‌.UK for information on how to recognise genuine HMRC contact. You can forward suspicious emails claiming to be from HMRC to [**phishing@hmrc.gov.uk**](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) and texts to 60599.

**COVID vaccine - Information, misinformation and vaccine hesitancy**

Please see the attached V2 of the covid vaccine FAQ’s (this is the updated version that includes a paragraph for pregnant women).

* The FAQ’s on the vaccine needs to be displayed in every setting where staff can see it. A staff notice board would be a good start, [here](https://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-vaccine-FAQ-page-January-2021-V1.pdf)
* The information produced by the Imam’s (Top 10 Q’s asked about the vaccine) should be made available to our Muslim community, who based on the controversy involving the flu

Vaccine will have questions. This document will be priceless to them



* Make staff aware of the Public Health website so they can have a look. It has a wealth of health information, promotes the various health campaigns running, and presents Facts!

[www.publichealthslough.co.uk](http://www.publichealthslough.co.uk)

* E-mail the appropriate information to your families, and staff who are working from home
* Use what’s app to send to your friends, families, contacts. Don’t assume people know.

Please make people aware of the scams and to stop and think before sharing (see attached SHARE checklist) also here: [www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/share](http://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/share...also)

As everyone uses their phone so much we just need to ensure they can access the information easily

**Keeping children safe in education**

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment.

Change made:  
Updated ‘Keeping children safe in education – for schools and colleges’ to reflect legal changes following EU exit, including guidance on checking the past conduct of individuals who have lived or worked overseas.

Updated:18 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=cc08ff11-8aba-49b5-8e8b-cc8e61b09a99&utm_content=daily>

**Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update**  
Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children’s social care and further education and skills providers.  
Updated the ‘first aid certificate’ section for childcare providers: if you cannot renew your paediatric first aid qualification because of coronavirus restrictions, certificates will be valid until 31 March 2021.

Updated: 18 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=1912db36-b25c-433e-a72f-b8f01559a449&utm_content=daily>

**Safer Recruitment updates**   
Important legal changes came into force from a judgement by the Supreme Court, which

include:

• Cautions given to under 18s are no longer legally disclosed

• The multiple conviction rule has been removed so that each offence should be

considered individually

• Applicants must be told how to get independent, confidential advice on which

cautions or convictions they must disclose and be given time to obtain advice.

Please see attached for further information

**Key COVID-messaging to note, action and share**

**Update on close contact definition**

There has recently been a change in the definition of a close contact in relation to COVID-19.

A close contact is now defined as:-

* anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19
* anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test:
  + face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  + been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
  + sexual contacts
  + been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
  + travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

An interaction through a Perspex (or equivalent) screen with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 is not usually considered to be a close contact, as long as there has been no other contact such as those in the list above.

**Lockdown and managing staff**

**Clinically Extremely Vulnerable**

People classified as clinically extremely vulnerable will receive a letter from Government confirming they should be shielding.

These employees should work from home. If this not possible because of the nature of their job, consider alternative duties that they can do from home. If this is not an option, they must stay at home for the period of the restrictions. They will continue to receive full pay. This includes pregnant women - see government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees>)

**Clinically Vulnerable**

Employees who are clinically vulnerable are advised to remain at home as much as possible, and to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their households.

Where they can work from home or undertake alternative duties from home, then this category of staff should do so. This includes pregnant women - see government guidance  (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees>)

If they do need to return to the workplace managers should ensure the workplace is made as safe as possible with rigorous social distancing and other measures put in place.

Individual risk assessments will be needed and, depending on the circumstances, medical or occupational health advice might be necessary and ultimately the decision could be taken that the individual concerned should remain away from work.

**February Half Term Holiday Provision**

Kidz Enterprise is open this half term please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Contact: 07973 791419

**www.kidzenterprise.co.uk**

**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 17th December by 11am

Alternatively please call Raj Braich on 07395 258 096

**Reminder: DfE Early Years Data collection**

Before Christmas, the DfE wrote to local authorities to inform us that they would be reducing the frequency of the local authority early years data collection from weekly to fortnightly with effect from 7th January.  At the time of that decision, the DfE felt that the national situation was stable enough to make the change. Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on 4th January of a new national lockdown, we now find ourselves in a different position. **After careful consideration the DfE have decided that we need to return to a weekly collection while the current national COVID restrictions are in place, with immediate effect**. We have no intention of resuming the twice-weekly collection of the previous national lockdown period.

The DfE know that this will be frustrating for some of you and that it will cause additional work. However, with the new lockdown in place, **it is essential that they have timely data to enable them to monitor supply, demand and resulting sufficiency of childcare places closely**, and to identify emerging risks and issues as a result of the current lockdown. They also think that the data should be operationally useful to you and your local authority in helping to build an intelligence picture of what is happening in your area. Please be assured that it is our intention to reduce the frequency of the collection to fortnightly again as soon as we are able.

The Department for Education uses your data for the following purposes:

       Identifying attendance trends at a national level, which helps us to understand changes in the health of the childcare market.

       Identifying areas which are experiencing difficulties in meeting local demand for places, and understanding the causes of these challenges.

       Targeting our communication with LAs, so that our regional leads can bring forward routine calls or offer more frequent check-ins if needed.

       Sharing the information you provide with colleagues across Early Years and wider government to create an evidence base to inform policy development

Thank you in advance for your efforts in providing us with this important information.



**Training and Continuous Professional Development**

**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 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)