Early Years and Prevention Service

Weekly News Bulletin: 22nd July 2020

**Contents**

* Funding: Autumn term
* DfE guidance document updates
* 30 hours childcare
* Promotions and marketing
* 2 year old entitlement
* Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
* Ofsted updates
* Safeguarding updates
* Support for settings
* Support for parents
* Changes to legislation
* Medication update
* National impact of COVID: Early years and childcare
* Research and resources
* Webinars

**Funding: Autumn term 2020**

**Funded Early Education- a special update**

**RE: Early years funding this autumn term**

On the 20th July 2020 the Department for Education announced its position on funding local authorities and childcare providers for the early years free entitlements for the 2020 autumn term. They have confirmed that they will fund childcare at the level they would have done before coronavirus, until the end of the year.

The guidance is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-free-early-education-entitlements-funding-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/use-of-free-early-education-entitlements-funding-during-coronavirus-covid-19).



**DfE guidance document updates**

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

[What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures)

* included content from the planning guide for early years and childcare settings so that all coronavirus (COVID-19) information for early years settings is in one place. The Planning guide has now been removed
* included an autumn funding update and hyperlink to updated local authority guidance
* updated information on wraparound care
* updated information on managing requests for site visits from parents and carers for new admissions in September
* updated information about data collection changes
* updated information about reporting to Ofsted when there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a setting
* updated information to reflect the removal of the requirement to keep children in small, consistent groups within settings but still minimising mixing where possible.

[Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consented-addresses-for-childminders-and-domestic-childcare?utm_source=c9bd1a8e-0317-4da3-85cf-8cc9387208d2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)  
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 30 June 2020.

[Childcare protocols between Ofsted and other organisations](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocols-between-ofsted-and-other-organisations-in-relation-to-childcare?utm_source=dfcb1620-5fa5-4877-b151-2b788b5e7ec0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)  
How Ofsted will work with other organisations.

Change made  
Updated the ‘Protocol between Ofsted, the Ministry of Defence and the Directorate of Children and Young people’ and the ‘Protocol between Ofsted and local authorities on sharing information about childcare providers’. Converted documents to a more accessible format.

[Safe working in education, childcare and children’s social care](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care?utm_source=9bf0f240-1f17-488c-ae3b-16d2ad94681e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)  
Preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE, in education, childcare and children’s social care settings during the coronavirus outbreak.

Change made  
Updated guidance to clarify advice on the system of controls measures including PPE and the NHS test and trace process.

**Reminder: Summer term applications for 30 Hours Free Childcare**

**Parents who want to take up a 30 Hours place in the Autumn term must apply before 31st August if they want to be sure they will get a place.** As always, parents should allow plenty of time to apply to ensure that a valid code is received well ahead of the deadline.

DfE has made some temporary changes to 30 hours policy, so that parents are not disadvantaged during the coronavirus outbreak. Specifically:

* Parents who lose income and fail to meet the minimum income threshold due to the outbreak will be treated as meeting that test.
* Critical workers who exceed the maximum income threshold due to working additional hours in response to the outbreak will also remain eligible.
* We would also ask you to exercise your discretion in accepting the codes of all children who missed the 31 March deadline, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and where there is capacity for providers to take them on. Parents with valid codes should have priority over those without valid codes.

Full details of these easements can be found on [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures).

We continue to strongly 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 and the closure of childcare settings due to lockdown. 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 during coronavirus outbreak if they have questions about their eligibility for their childcare offer.

**Promotions and marketing**

As we move towards September and plan for a fuller re-opening of childcare settings, we would very much appreciate your assistance in ensuring parents are aware of the need to ensure their 30 hours account details are up to date and that new applications need to have been made by 31st August in order to access a place in the autumn term. We know childcare has not been available for a large number of non-critical worker parents during lockdown and so many may not yet be up to date with the action they need to take to ensure they do not miss out on their entitlement.

Some parents may be feeling apprehensive about returning or using early years and childcare provision for the first time. Please consider what promotional material you have that will help to support parents to access your setting.

* Raise awareness of the benefits of accessing good early years provision
* Share your arrangements for keeping children safe whilst in your care
* Consider what support parents and children will need and share your ideas with them
* Advertise your availability for funded early education places and promote other services you offer
* You may also wish to include links to the [six case study videos](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2019/08/childcare-entitlements-2/) of families across England that have taken up 30 Hours and a short [“how-to”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-38fMXaGSk&feature=youtu.be) animation to support families applying for 30 Hours and Tax-Free Childcare online.

**2 year old entitlement**

**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) meet the following conditions for the duration of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

1. a. That they are excluded from claiming public funds as a consequence of their immigration status, or their lack of immigration status; and
2. b. They are in receipt of support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

The government has decided that from 1st September 2020 this extension, will be made permanent. From September 2020 places for the two year old entitlement for children who meet the criteria listed above will be funded by the Department for Education in the normal way through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The department will inform local authorities as soon as possible how they can claim funding for any such children who have taken up an entitlement place since March.

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 early education places for disadvantaged two years olds takes account of this new group of families.

The department will update the eligibility criteria for the free early education entitlement for the most disadvantaged two-year olds on gov.uk as soon as possible (https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds). Local authorities should take this opportunity to update their websites to reflect the new criteria.

We will provide information and guidance to local authorities about assessing the eligibility for a free place for this new group of children.

The department intends to consult on the eligibility criteria for the two-year-old entitlement later this year and is currently considering the most appropriate time to undertake this in the circumstances.

**Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) was introduced to support employers whose operations have been severely affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) by providing them with a grant to help them to continue paying part of their employees’ wages who would otherwise have been laid off during this outbreak.

Specific advice for Early Years providers on accessing this scheme is set out in the Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children’s social care guidance.

This guidance has now been updated to reflect changes to the scheme recently announced by the Chancellor on 29 May to support employers bringing employees back to work whilst still receiving support from the scheme. These changes include new flexibility from 1 July, meaning providers can bring furloughed employees back to work for any amount of time and any shift pattern, while still being able to claim a grant for the hours not worked. From this date, only employees that have previously been furloughed for at least 3 consecutive weeks any time between 1 March and 30 June 2020 are eligible for the scheme. The last day an employee could have started furlough for the first time was 10 June. This may differ for employees returning from statutory parental leave. There have been no changes to the scheme in June and July in terms of employer contribution. From August onwards employers will be asked to contribute to the cost of furloughing. Support through the scheme will be gradually tapered until its close at the end of October. Further details are set out in the updated guidance.

As previously, providers should only access the CJRS if necessary, and only if the conditions set out in the guidance continue to be met. The updated guidance reminds providers about the importance of ensuring that claims continue to be proportionate to income lost, and that providers are responsible for ensuring that they have followed the relevant guidance and that the information they have provided is accurate. If providers require further advice, or think that they may have made an error in their application, they should contact the HMRC helpline to discuss this further.

On 8 July, the Chancellor announced the introduction of the Job Retention Bonus, a one-off payment of £1,000 to employers for each employee who was ever furloughed, has been continuously employed until 31 January 2021 and is still employed by the same employer as of 31 January 2021. Employees must have been continuously employed, earn an average of more than £520 per month in November, December and January and have been furloughed and successfully claimed for under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme at any point to be eligible. Further detail about the scheme will be announced by the end of July, and we will then update the relevant guidance accordingly.

**Ofsted Updates**

**The National Ofsted Big Conversation: Inspecting during times of COVID-19**

Jul 24, 2020 11:30am

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DXqfR50qTySIuyy3dlpTDg>

**Safeguarding Updates**

Please find below some documents to include as appendices to your settings safeguarding policies and procedures. These documents can be used to support your safeguarding arrangements.



**Support for settings: Foundation Years newsletter, July 2020**

* National Day Nurseries Association have a [**dedicated web area**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=1fb7ac8501&e=6e26d5602e) to support the early years sector through this time and are posting stories and photos from nurseries welcoming children back, and their innovative ideas to reassure children, on their [**Twitter**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=1b0618bde4&e=6e26d5602e), [**Facebook**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=c9c69fc10e&e=6e26d5602e) and [**Instagram**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=3421acef0d&e=6e26d5602e) pages.
* This Early Years Alliance [**blog**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=bb116f5b0c&e=6e26d5602e) explores how settings can welcome and connect with prospective parents in these times of social distancing, staggered start times and strict guidance. Local Early Years Alliance hub teams are also running a series of [**online networking events**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=aa994c66ba&e=6e26d5602e) to support providers to take part in discussions such as managing preparations to re-open, risk considerations and outdoor play.
* PACEY continue to develop their free CPD platform [**EY smart**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=4880c206ed&e=6e26d5602e). In response to the pandemic, it now includes courses to support all practitioners to navigate the ‘new normal’. Their [**reopening toolkit**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=b0db562123&e=6e26d5602e) includes a free settings risk assessment template and their [**series of blogs**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=527f0b0dbb&e=6e26d5602e) from across the sector and parents, explore the reopening of settings.

**Support for parents: Foundation Years newsletter, July 2020**

* PACEY have a range of content to support parents delivering learning at home [**here**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=0cf14f5d59&e=6e26d5602e).
* Early Years Alliance hubs are delivering a range of [**free virtual support**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=add1498a48&e=6e26d5602e) direct to families with very young children, with a focus on interpersonal and enriching face-to-face support using fun, learning through play videos and webinars.
* Parents can join the free [**myNDNA**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=a32e66c269&e=6e26d5602e) community for blogs, activities and tips.
* Education Development Trust and Elklan have developed [**Family Resources**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=9bd0782d49&e=6e26d5602e), fun and friendly guides for parents to support their 2-4 year-old's communication skills.
* The BBC have launched [**Tiny Happy People**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=bcda0300b1&e=6e26d5602e) to support parents with activity ideas for children aged 0-4 that will help parents develop their child's communication skills.

**Changes to legislation**

**Amendment to The Childcare (Exemptions from Registration) Order 2008**

**DfE has made a technical amendment to Article 6 of** [**The Childcare (Exemptions from Registration) Order**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=21223f2a49&e=6e26d5602e) **2008 (the “2008 Order”) to ‘clarify’ when activity-based provision must register on the Early Years Register.**  
  
In effect, activity-based provision must register on the Early Years Register where a child under the age of 5 attends the provision, including the activity and any time spent in the provision that is incidental to the activity, for more than four hours in any one day. This amendment has been made to avoid any ambiguity in the agreed policy stance for anybody reviewing the legislation in the future, and is in line with Ofsted’s existing [**guidance**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=16e391297e&e=6e26d5602e) on this matter (see “When you do not have to register” / “Tutoring, coaching and clubs”).  
  
This amendment to the 2008 Order will come into effect on **1 October 2020** to enable any providers who must be registered on the Early Years Register to take steps to register with Ofsted on its Early Years Register or adjust the way they operate if they wish to remain exempt from compulsory registration.

**Medication update**

Aspar Pharmaceuticals Limited, Ibuprofen 200mg and 400mg tablets packaged in various liveries, EL (20)A/30

Please find  below the link to the latest MDHA relating to : Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Aspar Pharmaceuticals Limited, Ibuprofen 200mg and 400mg tablets packaged in various liveries, EL (20)A/30

Aspar Pharmaceuticals Limited has informed the government dept. that the Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) within the ibuprofen packs below are missing some information identified from post-marketing experience that should be documented in Section 3 (How To Take The Tablets) and Section 4 (Possible Side Effects) of the PIL.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/class-4-medicines-defect-information-aspar-pharmaceuticals-limited-ibuprofen-200mg-and-400mg-tablets-packaged-in-various-liveries-el-20-a-30?utm_source=127ab8c7-56bc-4963-a95b-0da0ff6d6362&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate>

**National impact of COVID: Early years and childcare**

**FOOD POVERTY**

* Data from the NHS shows that almost [2,500 children](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/food-poverty-hunger-child-malnutrition-hospital-layla-moran-coronavirus-a9615161.html) were admitted to hospital due to malnutrition in the first six months of 2020, double the number reported over the same period in 2019. Food poverty has been exacerbated in the UK by the COVID-19 crisis.
* Government figures reveal as many as 7.7 million adults cut down on portion sizes or missed meals due to food affordability.
* There has been a major increase in foodbank use. The Trussell Trust has handed out 89% more food parcels in April compared to the same month last year.

**CHILDREN**

* The Director of Children’s Services in Kent and Medway, revealed [five children](https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jul/13/deaths-special-needs-children-kent-raise-concerns-over-school-closures) with special educational needs have died by suicide in the space of three months in Kent. Concerns have been raised that the children might have struggled without the routine of a school during lockdown.
* [The National Child Mortality Database](https://www.ncmd.info/2020/07/09/suicide-covid/) published a report highlighting possible increases in child suicides across England during the lockdown with restrictions to education, school settings, disruption to care and support services, tensions at home and isolation.
* The Youth Violence Commission has expressed serious concerns about a spike in [knife crime](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/knife-crime-could-spike-in-young-people-after-lockdown-warns-report-a4496346.html), as children who have witnessed domestic violence emerge from lockdown. They have issued an urgent call for measures to ensure that schools and pupil referral units are adequately resourced and prepared.
* The Prime Minister has [ordered a major review](https://www.andrealeadsom.com/news/150720/1001-critical-days-formally-launched?mc_cid=9ed032ddc4&mc_eid=6e26d5602e) of early years care to improve the life chances of babies and toddlers in poorer families across the country. The review’s aim is to establish a gold standard for support to young families against which local health bodies and councils will be judged. The intention is to set up online hubs that will allow parents to compare local support services when deciding what support they need to bring up their children.
* Councils urged to reopen play areas as health charities are concerned not to exacerbate the [obesity epidemic](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/11/councils-accused-worsening-obesity-crisis-not-reopening-childrens/). The British Obesity Society has stated, ‘the pandemic will continue to worsen the obesity crisis…children are not getting the two hours exercise that they usually do per day from school.’

**EMPLOYMENT**

* The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published data suggesting that 650,000 people left company payrolls between March and June.
* The figures, taken from HM Revenue Customs (HMRC), showed 74,000 fewer people on the PAYE register during June in comparison to the previous month.
* Treasury figures showed 9.4 million furloughed workers were still getting salary support from the Job Retention Scheme. This is due to end in October.

**FACEMASKS**

* The government has made it [compulsory to wear](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-53397617) a face covering in shops and supermarkets in England from the 24th July. Failure to comply with the new rules could result in a fine of up to £100.Children under 11 and those with certain disabilities will be exempt.
* Please see attached information about a housing option available to families when they need to consider a move out of area on safety grounds. HomeFinder UK looks for social housing for people without having to wait for years in council’s lists; so worth advertising it.



**Research and resources**

[**Nurturing healthy minds together**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=dd8803292c&e=6e26d5602e) **NCB has published** [**research**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=b4dcb00a71&e=6e26d5602e) **exploring the literature and policy developments around prioritising and supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children – from conception to reception.**  
Source: National Children's Bureau

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| |  | | --- | | [**Identifying SEN in the early years**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=077f3ee58f&e=6e26d5602e)  **nasen has published** [**research**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=0f90f9e1a7&e=6e26d5602e) **exploring the process of identifying SEN in early years settings, from the perspective of the SENCO, including their working relationship with children, parents and staff.** Source: nasen | |

[**Supporting you to raise anti-racist children**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=0f689f84af&e=6e26d5602e)

**This** [**resource**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=a7552056dc&e=6e26d5602e)**, written by Laura Henry-Allain and Emma Worrollo, contains information and tips to support the ongoing journey of raising anti-racist children.**  
Source: Mattel

[**What is infant mental health?**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=c5d651d154&e=6e26d5602e)

**This** [**infographic**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=da92d16e0d&e=6e26d5602e) **describes what infant mental health is and why it matters. It explains the fundamental role of early relationships and how infant mental health lays the foundations for a range of important outcomes.**  
Source: Parent-Infant Foundation

[**Early Years Alliance report**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=329d816cf6&e=6e26d5602e)

**The Early Years Alliance published a new report,**[**The Forgotten Sector**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=3237ef8263&e=6e26d5602e)**, which details the financial impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the early years sector in England.**

**Webinars**

The Department for Education (DfE) ran three webinars at the beginning of July and the recordings are now accessible on the NHSE collaboration platform, as well as by following the links below. In addition the National Children’s Bureau in consultation with DfE has produced a mental health and wellbeing toolkit for primary schools. A toolkit for secondary schools will follow shortly – further details are the bottom of this email.

**DfE webinar: Relationships, Sex and Health Education for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, 7th July 2020**

Recorded webinar is available here: <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/content/send-hub>

**DfE webinar: Supporting pupil and student mental wellbeing, 9th July 2020**

Recorded webinar is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYmBLnSQh3M>.

*Note, due to some technical difficulties on the day, the segment ‘The Recovery Curriculum’ has been updated with a recording. A pdf copy of the webinar slides and additional resources signposted by Professor Barry Carpenter are also attached above.*

**DfE webinar: Local systems supporting education settings with children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing, 14th July 2020**

Recorded webinar is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0J6t3Z_ZQHQ>

**National Children’s Bureau mental health and wellbeing toolkit for primary schools** (Secondary school toolkit to follow in the coming weeks)

The mental health and wellbeing toolkit for primary schools, developed by the National Children’s Bureau in consultation with DfE, has now been published: <https://www.ncb.org.uk/news-opinion/news-highlights/primary-schools-given-support-mental-health-and-wellbeing>.

The toolkit itself is here: <https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Blog_reports/Schools_Wellbeing_Partnership_RecoveryTool_FINAL%20.pdf>.