Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: 9th December 2020

**DfE Early years and childcare data collection, changes to frequency and Ministerial letter**

Dear Early Years Provider

Thank you for your continued support with the weekly DfE data submission for Early Years and Childcare. Please find below some key messages about the continuation of the data submission.

**Data Collection Frequency Update**

We are pleased to inform you that the DfE have reviewed the frequency of the Early Years and Childcare data collection and that this will be moving to fortnightly from January 2021. They expect a **weekly return on the 10th and 17th of December,** with a break for Christmas on 24th and 31st December, and then the next return will be due on **7th of January** **2021**, followed by fortnightly returns.  The DfE will review the data collection frequency again in Spring. They are reserving the right to revert back to weekly testing should it become necessary.

**Letter to all providers from Minister Ford**

Attached is a letter from Minister Ford. This letter thanks all providers for their continuing hard work to provide essential childcare and also encourages you to engage with the local authority on the data collection process. They hope this small gesture will go some way to acknowledging the vital role that Early Years providers and staff have played in ensuring children can continue to access high quality childcare throughout the pandemic.

Kind regards

**Michael Jarrett – Associate Director, Children and Families**

**Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings**

List of critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children and young people who can access full-time education provision in the case of future restrictions on education during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

3 December 2020: Updated to reflect the latest guidance on the contingency framework for education and childcare settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=70bfa30a-6931-4171-b9a8-1f310c469a79&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate#history>

**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.

3 December 2020: Updated guidance on Ofsted inspections, parent and child groups, and local restriction tiers and contingency framework, and changed hyperlinks for 30 hours entitlement and tax-free childcare.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures?utm_source=38564e6a-9ac5-4e3b-8c9e-6b43641db8d0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

**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.

3 December 2020: Added details of our plans from January 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_source=ac4b4080-f121-463c-9213-b0b2c40ee6a4&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

**Update on NHS dental services in the South East**

**Access to dental services November 2020**

Dental services recommenced from 8 June and have remained open for face-to-face care during the current lockdown period. We would like to acknowledge all those dental staff who have risen to the various challenges and for their ongoing commitment to patient care.

Whilst dental services are operational, the priority remains focussed on patients who require access to urgent care, patients at higher risk of oral disease, and patients with outstanding treatment needs that cannot be delayed. All dental practices are continuing to provide remote consultations with triage and advice as necessary options.

This approach was set out in a letter of 2 November sent to dental practices from the Chief Dental Officer.

Practices are prioritising urgent dental care for those patients who require immediate attention. In addition, they are also prioritising the health and safety of both patients and staff. The nature of the treatments involved means adhering to strict infection control procedures between appointments, this reduces the number of patients that can be treated on a daily basis.

The other impact is on those patients wishing to resume their routine dental check-ups and treatments. Practices have been asked to prioritise those patients with urgent or emergency dental need. Therefore, patients requiring routine dental care such as check-ups and scale and polish will inevitably experience longer waiting times.

**Current arrangements**

Current operating arrangements are set nationally through a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and letters from the Chief Dental Officer outlining a phased transition to the resumption of the full range of dental services.

The patient pathway for dental care now consists of two broad stages – remote management and face-to-face management – for both urgent and routine care.

It is important to retain the initial remote stage, particularly to identify possible/confirmed COVID-19 cases (and household/bubble contacts), patients who are/were shielding, and patients at increased risk, to ensure safe care in an appropriate setting. This stage also helps to prevent inappropriate attendance, support appointment planning and maintain social distancing and patient separation.

**Update on NHS dental services in the South East continued ….**

During this phase, the baseline expectation is:

• Practices should be open for face-to-face care unless there are specific circumstances which prevent this which should be agreed with NHS England and NHS Improvement

• Practices should prioritise urgent dental care provision, with flexibility for practices to do what is best for their patients.

We are continuing to support dental practices during the recovery period from October to March 2021, whilst also increasing access to dental care for patients where possible Urgent Dental Care hubs are still in place to see patients referred to them where providers cannot provide certain dental procedures due to safety considerations for members of the dental team or they have service continuity issues due to local outbreaks. Referrals to these hubs have fallen by 98% since resumption of services in June when general dental practices started to reopen, but they remain vital to the local dental systems.

**Information for patients**

We understand that this is a confusing time for members of the public trying to access NHS dental care. Practices are communicating with their regular patients to keep them informed of services available from their practice and what they need to do to access these. Practices are also responsible for ensuring their information is up-to-date on the NHS website so that members of the public without a regular dentist can search for services local to them.

If patients do attend a dental practice on a regular basis then they should contact that practice if they believe they have an urgent need. If not, they can search for a dentist in their local area on the NHS website or they can call NHS 111 (or their local Dental Helpline) who will direct them to the NHS practice closest to their home address.

We ask patients to be understanding of the current situation with regards to the prioritisation of those with urgent needs and be respectful of the clinical decision. The dentist is best placed to clinically assess their dental issue. If they are deemed non-urgent, we would ask that they don’t then call 111 for a second opinion leaving 111 staff free to deal with other patients with urgent health issues.

**Communicating with the public**

Please find below a tweet/Facebook message and a digital asset for sharing on your own social media accounts:

**Tweet:** Please be aware that dentists are currently prioritising those patients with urgent dental needs; it is therefore unlikely that routine dental care such as dental check-ups will be available at this time. #helpushelpyou



**Nasal spray flu vaccine (Fluenz Tetra)**

The nasal spray flu vaccine (Fluenz Tetra) is available free on the NHS for:

* **Children aged 2or 3 on 31st August 2020 – born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2018**
* **All primary school children (reception to year 6)**
* **All year 7 in secondary school**
* **Children aged 2-17 with long-term health conditions**

If a child is aged between 6 months and 2 years and is in a high-risk group for flu, they will be offered a flu vaccine injection instead of the nasal spray, because the nasal spray in not licensed for children under 2 years.

Children aged 2-17 could also have the flu vaccine injection if the nasal spray is not suitable for them.

As you know, within our locality the uptake of the vaccine has been significantly lower that in other areas. This autumn has seen 1,000 families not allowing their children to have the vaccine. This has always been mainly due to the ‘porcine content’ (pork gelatine) of the nasal vaccine. Our Muslim community do not eat pork on religious grounds, so the use of pork gelatine in the creation of the vaccine makes it not halal.

However, for the fist time ever the NHS has committed to make provision of the non porcine version of the vaccine to children. This will be in the form of an injection, and supplied for children whose parents have declined the nasal vaccine due to the porcine content, subject to availability. The nasal vaccine will still be available for all other children.

Please share this vital information across your networks and groups. See attached social media image and poster.

This message could also be tweeted**…..*“There is now an alternative flu vaccine available for children whose parents decline the flu nasal spray due to its porcine gelatine content. For more information:*** [***https://www.eastberkshireccg.nhs.uk/berkshire-gp-confirms-new-alternative-vaccine-for-children/***](https://www.eastberkshireccg.nhs.uk/berkshire-gp-confirms-new-alternative-vaccine-for-children/) ***, ensure your children and loved ones are protected this winter and get #IamVaccinated”***

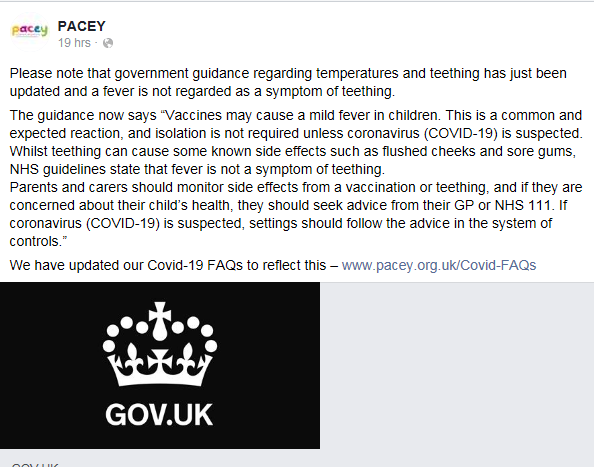


**Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

8 December 2020: Update to 'Side effects of children taking a vaccination or teething'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures?utm_source=bb89fdcf-bc04-4eb7-99b8-cc4bde409070&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>



**Early years foundation stage profile handbook**  
This handbook supports EYFS practitioners in making accurate judgements about each child's attainment.

8 December 2020: Updated early years foundation stage profile handbook for 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-handbook?utm_source=5ff2d820-4366-49f2-879f-fa867684ec0d&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

**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 3rd December by 11am

Alternatively please call Raj Braich on 07395 258 096

**DfE: End of term planning**  
We know that school and further education leaders, teachers and staff, as well as nurseries and childminders, have worked tirelessly over the last term. This has included their important role in contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. We are aware that this has led to additional work over weekends and holidays and we are incredibly grateful for this.

We recognise the challenges of this responsibility at the end of term. Public Health England has agreed a 6 day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. We are clear that beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing. It is also likely that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week.

## **Festive break – advice for early years providers**

We know that many nurseries and childminders will continue to operate over the holiday period, providing invaluable support to parents who still require childcare during this time. Private, voluntary and independent providers, and maintained nursery schools can continue to open during the period and should continue to follow the guidance for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

School-based nurseries that only open during term-time should follow the arrangements for their school.

## **Updated guidance for parents and carers**

We have updated our guidance on what [parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak](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) to include information on Ofsted inspections from January 2021.

We have also provided information on the arrangements for GCSE and A level exams in summer 2021, entry tests for selective schools, and assessments in primary and junior schools.

**Net Aware - Top tips to set up your child's device safely this Christmas**  
Giving your child any tech during the festive period? Lots of families give children devices at this time of year. Whether it’s a laptop, phone, tablet, games console or another device that connects to the online world, there is a lot you can do to make sure it’s set up safely for your child. Net Aware has put together a [checklist](https://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk/kb5/sloughcst/directory/service.page?id=ewL_sOB5RSk) to help you set up your child’s new device.



**Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline – holiday hours**  
The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) will be available over the holidays to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children’s social care. These helplines will, however, close on the bank holidays, and have shortened opening hours on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

24 December – 8am to 4pm  
25 to 28 December – Closed  
29 to 30 December – 8am to 6pm  
31 December – 9am to 4pm  
1 January – Closed  
2 to 3 January – 10am to 6pm

Until 24 December, the helpline opening hours are:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm  
Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Please listen carefully to all of the available options before selecting the most appropriate option for your nursery, school, college or university.

Please select option 1 or 2 if you require specific advice on the action to take to respond to a positive case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in your setting. This option will take you through to a dedicated team of NHS Business Services Authority advisors who will work through a risk assessment with you to identify close contacts and will inform you what action is needed based on the latest public health advice.

Please select option 3 or 4 for any other questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children’s social care.

**Local Government Association Update**

Ofsted have released their [operational guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/january-2021-registered-early-years-providers) and please see attached FAQs.

**Ofsted – Rules around taking children’s records off site:**

Permission to take records off site can be granted by our regulatory team at Ofsted. The nominates individual of a provider should contact the [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk) mailbox with information about why this is necessary and what they will do to mitigate risks and the team will get back to them. They may ask a few more questions too.

**Foundation Years wellbeing resources**

As the Department for Education’s early years stakeholder engagement partner, the National Children’s Bureau recently hosted five free *Learn – Explore – Debate* events focused on putting wellbeing at the heart of early years practice. The events brought early years practitioners, local authorities, consultants and academics together with officials from the Department for Education and Ofsted to discuss practical ways to support the wellbeing of children and staff.

The recordings, slides and case studies from the event, including a video from the Department for Education, thanking the early years sector for their hard work, are now available on the Foundation Years website [here](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/12/putting-wellbeing-at-the-heart-of-our-early-years-practice). Please do share with colleagues.

If you have any questions, please send through to [foundationyears@ncb.org.uk](mailto:foundationyears@ncb.org.uk).

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

Claims under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) are currently open for pay periods in November and December 2020.

**You have until 11‌.59pm Monday‌‌‌ ‌14 December to submit claims for November.**

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

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

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

[**Register here**](https://links.advice.hmrc.gov.uk/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDEyMDguMzE3MTMwNDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2F0dGVuZGVlLmdvdG93ZWJpbmFyLmNvbS9ydC84NTI4MDIxNDk5Njk2MTYzMzMxP3NvdXJjZT1EZWNlbWJlci1ITVJDLURDUy1TdXBwLUVtcC0yIn0.l03EH91s8zSIQo9Q1z93vm8JGPeRKQ4y76dFe-dTNpA/s/510004055/br/91245708909-l)

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

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

[**Register here**](https://links.advice.hmrc.gov.uk/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDEyMDguMzE3MTMwNDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2F0dGVuZGVlLmdvdG93ZWJpbmFyLmNvbS9ydC8zNjY3NTQ1Njg1NzIzMTIwNjQzP3NvdXJjZT1EZWNlbWJlci1ITVJDLURDUy1TdXBwLUVtcC0yIn0.DMzn4UZbsxLFz0LudgD3E7a-ROznYqcgL_DnAyE67Aw/s/510004055/br/91245708909-l)

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

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

**Funded Early Education**

The Spring Term 2020/2021 Forecast Task was sent out on 27/11/2020 – the task must be completed and submitted by 10/12/2020

The Spring Census task will be sent out in January 2021. The Department of Education has, in previous years, reported that there was a high percentage of ethnicities of children not obtained.

This data forms part of the Parent Declaration so can you please ensure that the information is obtained from parents/carers and shared with us for this years return

If you have a question about your funding claim please call 01753 476554 or email [Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk)

**HMRC - CJRS: what you can claim and when**  
The UK Government will pay 80% of employees’ usual wages for the hours not worked, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. The terms of the scheme will be reviewed in January.

There are now monthly deadlines for claims.Claims must be submitted **within 14 calendar days** after the month they relate to, unless this falls on a weekend in which case the deadline is the next weekday. We'll continue to send you reminder emails before the deadline each month.

As we approach the Christmas period, I appreciate your payroll dates may differ this month. Don’t forget you can claim before, during or after you process your payroll as long as your claim is submitted by the deadline.

**What you need to do now**

1. 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.
2. **Submit any claims for November, no later than 14‌‌‌ December**.
3. Keep any records that support the amount of CJRS grant you claim, in case HMRC needs to check them. ‌

**Frequently asked questions about CJRS**

You can find everything you need to know about CJRS on GOV‌‌‌.UK by searching 'Job Retention Scheme',

# Adults to gain new skills on 400 free courses Tens of thousands of adults will be able to benefit from almost [400 free courses](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-in-new-funded-offers) next year, in the first major development in the Lifetime Skills Guarantee [announced by the Prime Minister](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-expansion-of-post-18-education-and-training-to-level-up-and-prepare-workers-for-post-covid-economy) in September.

**Level Three early years and childcare courses are included among the** [**list of almost 400 courses.**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-in-new-funded-offers)

[The fully-funded courses](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-in-new-funded-offers), ranging from engineering to healthcare to conservation, will be available to adults without a full qualification at Level 3 (A-level equivalent) from April 2021 to help them gain in-demand skills and open up further job opportunities.

Designed to help our country build back better after the pandemic, the qualifications in this offer have been carefully chosen to help adults improve their career prospects and meet the needs of the economy. They will be reviewed regularly so the courses offered can be updated as the economy changes.

The announcement marks an important step in the development of the government’s landmark Lifetime Skills Guarantee, which will transform the skills system to ensure more people, no matter their age or background, can get the skills they need to progress in employment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adults-to-gain-new-skills-on-400-free-courses?utm_source=6014d629-8b21-4d39-bd9d-9c871d20bd69&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

**Family Fund**In May the government announced that they were identifying £37.3 million of direct support in 2020 – 21 to the Family Fund for SEND children in England.

The support is partly in response to COVID 19 pandemic. Families can apply to the Family Fund for a grant for items to support their SEND child/ren such as:- washing machines, computers,  educational toys and specialist equipment, there is a definitive list of what can be applied for on the Family Fund website <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/Pages/Category/using-your-grant>

Families can complete an application online, with a separate form for each additional child, and there is a video to support them. <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/how-do-they-apply>

To make an application there is a suitability criteria, again the Family Fund have included a video to help make this information more accessible to families <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/our-disability-criteria>

In summary, they are:

* A permanent resident in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
* Have current legal residency in the UK and have lived in the UK for 6 months, be eligible to work and apply for funds.
* A parent or carer of a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 and under who lives at home.
* Eligible for and can send evidence of one of the following: tax credits or benefits – Universal credit, Child tax credit, working tax credit, Income based jobseekers allowance, Incapacity benefit, Employment support allowance, Housing benefit, Pension credit.
* Asking for a grant related to the needs of their child, children or young person.

You can fund out more information about Family Fund here: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Read the government press release here: <https://bit.ly/2ygnv39>

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**Family Fund Continued….**

**Eligibility Criteria**

Family Fund uses its own Child and Young Person’s Eligibility Criteria to assess a disabled or seriously ill child or young person’s additional support needs based on a [social model of disability](https://www.familyfund.org.uk/socialmodel).

Children and young people with additional support needs arising from a disability or disabling condition or with a serious or life limiting illness meet this criteria where:

* There is evidence that their additional needs impact on family’s choices and their opportunity to enjoy ordinary life; the degree of planning and support required to meet their needs are much greater than that usually required to meet the needs of children.

**and**

* They require a **high** level of additional support in three or more of Family Fund’s seven areas of support below.

**and**

* Their condition is long term or life limiting (by long term we mean lasting or likely to last 12 months or more).

**Family Fund seven areas of support**

Your child should require additional support in at least **three** of the seven areas below:

* Personal care– we mean things like physical support required with feeding, washing, toileting or moving and transferring child.
* Access to social activities – we mean things like engaging socially and taking part in activities.
* Education – we mean the type of support that is given for learning and who gives it?
* Communication – we mean listening, speaking and understanding.
* Supervision and Vigilance – we mean supervision and measures in place to ensure a child’s safety.
* Medical or therapeutic treatment or Condition management - we mean what treatment or therapy is given, who does this, how often and when?
* Physical environment and Specialist resources - we mean things like physical adaptations and adjustments required with getting around and what specialist equipment or resources are used.

**General Eligibility Criteria**

young person aged 17 or under. You can apply to Family Fund if:

* You live in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales (**Please note**: If you are a family living in Wales, [please visit our Wales application pages to apply](https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/wales-who-do-we-help/).)
* You are the parent or carer of a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 0-17 who lives with you
* You are currently living in the UK and done so for at least six months, or three months if your child is less than six months old. You are eligible to work and apply for public funds
* Your child is not in Local Authority care
* You have evidence of entitlement to any one of the following:
* Universal Credit
  + - Child Tax Credit
    - Working Tax Credit
    - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
    - Income Related Employment Support Allowance
    - Income Support
    - Housing Benefit
    - Pension Credit.
* Your child or young person has a high level of additional support needs arising from a long term disability or disabling condition or a serious or life limiting illness. By long term we mean lasting or likely to last 12 months or more.  Please read our [child and young person eligibility criteria](https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/our-disability-criteria).

You must meet all Family Fund eligibility criteria in order to be considered for a grant.

# <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/our-disability-criteria>

# National business support Zoom webinar for early years and childcare providers

**‘Business Map’**

19 January 2021

9.45 to 12.30 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/business-map-a-national-webinar-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-tickets-131608780405>

or

6.30 to 8.45 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/business-map-a-national-webinar-for-early-years-and-childminders-tickets-131614619871>

**FREE**

DfE has funded Hempsall’s to deliver a new national webinar for all types of early years and childcare provider. You can book your FREE place(s) today by clicking the links.

Managing an early years and childcare setting, whether it be a homebased childminder, out of school club, a small voluntary playgroup, a nursery or a chain, a school or children’s centre, is complex task. It is one of balancing quality, health and safety, with parents’ and children’s needs, funding and fees, and business sustainability.

The webinar will outline steps providers could take to business plan for now, summer term and across 2021. Developed around a six-step Business Map process, the webinar will assist anyone thinking about necessary business decisions to support business change and sustainability, whether they are new to the role or an experienced manager.

James Hempsall OBE, director says: “At Hempsall’s we’ve spent 20 years helping providers to create childcare places, introduce funded early years entitlements for two-, three- and four-year-olds, and manage business sustainability. This year has been no exception and our team has been busy delivering very many online information sessions, online training workshops and one-to-one business support to make sense of the current business needs in early years prompted by COVID-19. Hempsall’s has been asked by DfE to share our approach and some new tools and resources, as well as highlighting all the support that already exists in the sector.”

* **Why is it called Business Map, and what is it aiming to achieve?** We know there are a lot of business planning tools out there. We didn’t want to duplicate that. We know there is a need for thinking about a whole process of looking at the current and future needs of childcare businesses. The Business Map shows the way.
* **How has it been developed?** Business Map has been developed this year through very many information, training and one-to-one business support sessions. We have listened to the challenges and needs of settings and created something new and different.
* **What are the six steps?** We start by looking at what’s changing, then how we find out more about how this affects each setting. After which there is a risk assessment process, this is more about identifying what the pressure points are. Then we explore possible ideas and options, including what has worked for others. After that we help everyone to consider their own plans and decisions. At the end there is a review and the process starts again if adaptations are needed.
* **What is on offer?** Webinar attendees will be able to download the FREE Business Map, certificate of attendance, and supporting resources at the end.

# Kitemark Accreditation My name is Jacqui Shadrache and I am the Health Improvement Officer for Children and Families, and I work alongside Public Health and Early Years settings.

The past few months has indeed seen unprecedented change within our society as we know it, and the spread of the coronavirus has brought about a ‘new normal’ for us all.With the focus on health of greater importance at this time, I would like to inform you of the Health and Well-being Kitemark accreditation that has been developed for early years. It has been created in partnership with Public Health, and its aim is to enable improvement of the health and well-being of children and their families. The working document has been shared with our Ofsted colleagues, and it will help you to showcase the required evidence at your early year’s inspections.

It is an accreditation scheme that focuses on 4 key areas:

**1: Health and Well-being**

**2: Nutrition and Oral Health**

**3: Physical Activity and Active Play**

**4: Emotional and Mental Well-being**

As a locality, prevalent health issues present themselves in all these areas, and these conditions will no doubt have been exacerbated during the pandemic.

Here are some statistics for you, based on each of these areas:

* **Oral health**….37.9% of local 5 year olds suffers with dental decay and 26% of 3 year olds.

The current national average is 23.4%. Slough has the highest rates in the South East.

* **Obesity levels**…. Latest data (2018/19) shows that 21.9% of reception aged children in Slough are either overweight or obese. The average statistic for the South East is 21.2%.
* **Physical activity**….17.5%of school aged children and young people are meeting the current Chief Medical Officer guidelines of taking part in sport and physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day. However 32.9% are doing less than an average of 30 minutes a day.
* **Mental & emotional wellbeing…..**2017 data revealed that 1in 8 (12.8%) 5-19 year oldshad at least one mental disorder. Such disorders are either emotional, behavioural, hyperactivity or other less common. There has been the greatest increase in emotional disorders since 2004.

With the likelihood that this pandemic will have had a negative affect on all of these health issues, it is imperative that as an early year’s provider you are aware of any greater prominence of these issues in the lives of the children in your care, and their families. The Kitemark will enable us to work together to address the needs, and afford an opportunity for your setting to showcase the great work already being carried out, as well as help to improve present practices.

Each of the aforementioned areas of the Kitemark has assessment requirements that will be evaluated, and a point system will allocate the acquired points based on the evidence submitted. These points will lead to an award of a framed certificate of accreditation for either a bronze, silver, or gold level achieved. The pièce de résistance will ultimately be the Platinum level, when an engraved plaque will be presented to any setting that is able to showcase great practice to this standard.

This award is very pertinent for Slough, and it will be good to see as many settings as possible signing up to it. In the recent Government announcement of reforms to the EYFS framework, it was stated that the requirement within the framework to ‘promote the good health of children’ will also explicitly include oral health education. This inclusion will enable good habits to be established in the children, and provide them with a solid foundation on which to build on their knowledge as they transition to primary school. Settings will therefore be required to demonstrate at inspection how they are providing this education, and this is an example of where the Kitemark can be used as documented evidence.

# Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings: code of practice

Safeguarding guidance for providers of activities, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

4 December 2020: Updated information on DBS checks for self-employed providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-out-of-school-settings-code-of-practice?utm_source=8e11fa19-2be0-44f5-9149-e34d0911c4b4&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

# I would love to have the opportunity to have a more in-depth discussion with you and your team, to go through how the accreditation will work in practice; an online training session is available for this purpose. If you would like to know more and wish to set up a meeting, please

E-mail: [**jacqui.shadrache@slough.gov.uk**](mailto:jacqui.shadrache@slough.gov.uk)

# National Minimum Wage – new webinars on what counts as working time

# Understanding what counts as working time is important to ensure you’re paying the correct National Minimum Wage. Sometimes even employers who are paying above minimum wage rates can make a mistake leading to underpayment.

HMRC is offering a live webinar covering the aspects of working time that cause the most confusion to employers.

[**Register now to book your place**](https://links.advice.hmrc.gov.uk/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDEyMDQuMzE1ODQyNTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3JlZ2lzdGVyLmdvdG93ZWJpbmFyLmNvbS9ydC80MjAxNzE1OTI2NjE1OTY2OTg5In0.A0J9JgZfHVu6nuofuA-glaxy_RBjqBDcGrYyme18z90/s/510004055/br/91103975717-l)

**The COVID Winter Grant Scheme 2020**

The COVID Winter Grant Scheme has been made available during December 2020 to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking and lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials. The aim is to give vulnerable households peace of mind in the run up to Christmas and over the Winter months during the pandemic by helping those who need it to have food on the table and other essentials, so every child will be warm and well-fed this winter.

Every qualifying child will be eligible for a £30 payment, and we need your help to ensure that the children and their families in **PVI and childminder settings** are able to receive this.

Children qualifying for this grant in **PVI and childminder settings** are

* those in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium
* those in receipt of 2 year old funding

If you need a list of qualifying children in your setting, please email [Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk) where our staff will be happy to help.

We need you to provide vouchers (we suggest supermarket vouchers) in the sum of £30 to each of these children, and we propose to cover the costs of these either:

* on receipt of an invoice raised by you giving the details of the children who received the vouchers, or
* if cash flow is an issue, in advance through a transfer directly into your bank account

Audit requirements: we will need

* evidence of spend purchasing the vouchers
* evidence that the child’s family has received the voucher

If we work together we can make sure that all families have a happy holiday this year.

Yours faithfully,

**Michael Jarrett – Associate Director, Children and Families**



**Training and Continuous Professional Development**

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

**Schema**

**Online Training**

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

**Thursday 10th December 2020**

1pm – 2.30pm or 6.30pm – 8pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Safeguarding basics and COVID-19**

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

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

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

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

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

**Safeguarding Level 3**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Designated Safeguarding Lead course covers the following:

◦the definition of safeguarding and child protection,

◦recap on signs and symptoms of abuse

◦how to report concerns

◦how to respond to allegations of abuse

◦recording information correctly

◦roles and responsibilities of people and agencies

◦creating a child protection policy

◦the role of a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

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

**NSPCC Safeguarding Training**

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

**Prevent**

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

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

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

Prevent training, aims of session.

• Understand Prevents aims

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

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

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

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

• Look at the threats, risks and vulnerabilities

9th December 2020 @ 10am – 12pm

12th January 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

9th February 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

9th March 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Talk to your baby**

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

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

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

**Education Endowment Foundation**

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

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

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

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