Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: 3rd February 2021

**Early Years Funding rates consultation 2021-22**

Local authorities are funded for early years provision through the early years block in the dedicated schools grant (DSG).  The formula continues to allocate funding to local authorities for the existing entitlement for all two, three- and four-year-olds.  
  
The Early Years Service must consult with the early years sector regarding annual funding rates and any decisions made must be ratified by Schools’ Forum. Schools' Forum Early Years task group have reviewed a range of options presented by the local authority and agreed to run a consultation on the following two options.

Please vote on your preferred option, the results will be shared with providers at the end of the consultation period, once a final decision has been made. The consultation period is active between Friday 22nd January until Friday 5th February 2021.

The chosen funding rates will be introduced in Slough from **1st April 2021**. Both options outlined in the survey include a decrease to the SEND inclusion grant, please note this is based on previous years spending of the allocated budget.

**To access the consultation please click on the following link**: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EYFundingratesConsultation2021-2022>

For any questions about this consultation please contact [earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk)

## **February half-term** Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools#support-for-families). The £170 million scheme is being run by local authorities in England, with at least 80% of the funding earmarked to support with food and essential utility costs and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. It will allow local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals over the winter period. Local authorities have local ties and knowledge, making them best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need.

**Contact tracing over the February half-term**

Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who continue to attend their school. We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays. Given limited numbers on-site, we expect contact tracing activity to be reduced but this remains vitally important in the continued national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Staff responsible for contact tracing are not asked to be on-call at all times and may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). Where schools can do so, staff assuming responsibility for contact tracing during half-term can be offered equivalent time off at an agreed point during term time.

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**February half-term continued ….**

Where **early years setting** are closed during the holiday period please ensure parents/carers are aware that they must notify you if their child test positive for Coronavirus 6 days after they last attended. The setting must be contactable for 6 days after you close and this could be via email or telephone. In this scenario providers must ensure they have all of the relevant details to contact other parents to notify them of a positive case where their child will need to isolate. This arrangement should be in line with your policy regarding Communicable diseases and closure periods.

Please also follow other procedures for notifying the DfE and email: [CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk](mailto:CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk) to report the positive case

**Prime Minister’s statement on the national lockdown position**

The Prime Minister has announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

If the Government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus around three weeks later, that is by 8 March. It is for this reason that we hope it will therefore be safe to commence the reopening of schools from Monday 8 March.

Education settings, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education.

Schools and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other pupils will continue to receive high quality remote education at home. This is in line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.

Early years provision should continue to remain open throughout and should continue to allow all children to attend full time or their usual timetabled hours. This includes early years registered nurseries and childminders, maintained nursery schools, as well as nursery classes in schools and other pre-reception provision on school sites.

The Prime Minister has also committed to providing a programme of catch-up into the next financial year. This involves a further £300m of new money to early years, schools and colleges for tutoring, as well as working in collaboration with the education sector to develop specific initiatives for summer schools and a coronavirus (COVID-19) premium to support catch-up.

In recognition that extended school and college attendance restrictions will have a huge impact on children’s learning, the Government will work with parents, teachers and schools to develop a long-term plan to make sure pupils have the chance to make up their learning over the course of this parliament.

The government will also continue to provide support for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals through the national voucher scheme or lunch parcels to those learning at home during term time next half-term. Support will also be available during the half-term holiday for vulnerable families through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools#support-for-families)

Education attendance restrictions are to be reviewed again in mid-February when the Government will look at when more pupils and students can be brought back into schools and further education.

Read the [full statement made by the Prime Minister.](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-coronavirus-27-january-2021)

**Campaign for Early Years staff to be vaccinated alongside teaching staff**

You may have recently come across a campaign in the media regarding Early Years practitioners being included alongside teaching staff for priority Covid-19 vaccines. Early years practitioners and Childminders have been added to our priority lists across Slough Borough Council.

Below are two articles providing further information on Covid-19 vaccines.

**PACEY**are calling for early years workers to be included alongside teaching staff and are making this case to DfE as well as the opposition party.

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/news-and-views/news/news-pacey-update-on-schools-reopening-in-england/>

**The Guardian**

What Nurseries and childminders will need if they are to stay open

<https://amp-theguardian-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp.theguardian.com/education/2021/jan/13/what-nurseries-need-if-they-are-to-stay-open>

**Check early years qualifications**

Page summary:

Find out if a person’s qualifications allow them to work in an early years setting, and if you can include them in staff:child ratios.

Change made:

Updates to the ‘Overseas qualifications’ and ‘Qualifications started before 1 September 2014’ sections with clarification about qualifications information.

Time updated:

5:22pm, 28 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=7138868a-e84e-474d-a5d9-97602c9aee9e&utm_content=daily>

**EYFS staff:child ratios - DfE approved qualifications**

Page summary:  
Lists of qualifications that meet DfE’s criteria for counting in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework staff:child ratios.

Change made:  
Updated guidance about titles of early years qualifications in ‘Early years qualifications: pre-September 2014’ and a new listing of a DfE approved qualification from Peterborough University in ‘Early years qualifications: from 1 September 2014’.

Time updated:  
5:22pm, 28 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eyfs-staffchild-ratios-dfe-approved-qualifications?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=1e814b18-9109-4a04-b859-70885182c6e6&utm_content=daily>

**Early adopter schools: EYFS framework**

Page summary:

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) framework sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to 5.

Change made:

Updated the EYFS reforms early adopter list.

Time updated:

3:58pm, 28 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-adopter-schools-eyfs-framework?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=5c8046d5-61a2-43d1-bf8e-02ea97ca7d76&utm_content=daily>

**Early years foundation stage profile handbook**Page summary:

This handbook supports EYFS practitioners in making accurate judgements about each child’s attainment.

Change made:

Added information about the early years foundation stage profile no longer being mandatory in 2021.

Time updated: 12:26pm, 29 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-handbook?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=4eedc46f-effb-4f6a-a8aa-9245780247f4&utm_content=daily>

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**Ofsted News - Issue 97 - January 2021**

**Early years and childcare**  
[Assurance inspections 2021: registered early years providers](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=1ab81cca8d&e=70d748a98b) - An operational note for inspectors carrying out assurance inspections of registered early years providers.

[Childcare providers: telling Ofsted about significant events](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=418537b201&e=70d748a98b) - From the end of January 2021, childminders, nurseries and all other childcare providers must use an online notification form to tell us about significant events.

[Publication of statistics on childcare providers and inspections](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=c526cd057a&e=70d748a98b) - A consultation seeking your views on proposed changes to our statistical release on childcare providers and inspections.

[Guidance on writing complaint and compliance action outcome summaries](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=817c4c5cb7&e=70d748a98b) - ‘Principles for publishing an outcome summary’ section updated to reflect that, as part of our focused additional regulatory ‘consider at next inspection’ (CANI) work during COVID-19, we will publish outcome summaries in cases where we raise actions for the provider to take to meet requirements.

[Reported COVID-19 notifications by registered early years and childcare settings](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=270cbac201&e=70d748a98b) - Added data for weeks beginning 16 November 2020, 23 November 2020, 30 November 2020, 7 December 2020, 14 December 2020, 21 December 2020, 28 December 2020 and 4 January 2021.

[Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=d780eb65a1&e=70d748a98b) - Updated consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare as at 30 November 2020 and 31 December 2020.

[Joiners and leavers in the childcare sector](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=906411e5e0&e=70d748a98b) - Published data on joiners and leavers in the childcare sector in November 2020 and December 2020. Also, the release end date has been updated to July 2021.

**Foundation Years**

[**New Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=d21a3f715e&e=6e26d5602e)

This [**document**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=f8e2ebc8fe&e=6e26d5602e) answers the FAQs from the early years sector on the national lockdown. The previous FAQs can be found [**here**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=6d593028e1&e=6e26d5602e). These answers have been checked with the Department for Education (DfE) and cover:

* Safety of settings
* Testing and vaccinations
* Clinically vulnerable children and staff
* Funding and financial support
* Reception-aged children
* Children's centres
* + more

If you have any further questions, please submit these to [**foundationyears@ncb.org.uk**](mailto:foundationyears@ncb.org.uk).

**PACEY - NEWS: Letter from Minister Vicky Ford MP on testing and vaccination**  
28 January 202

We wanted to share this letter with all PACEY members and to reassure you that we are continuing to call on Government in England and Wales to prioritise early years and childcare practitioners for vaccination (once the most vulnerable have been treated) and to ensure all private, voluntary and independent providers, including childminders, can use home testing kits as part of their efforts to reduce the risk of virus transmission and not simply be expected to rely on community testing sites which continue to be inaccessible for many of our members. And of course to call on the Department for Education and HM Treasury in England to improve the financial support they offer to providers, in particular the many childminders who have not benefitted from any of the current support schemes available.  In Wales extra funding for 2020-21 has been provided to local authorities through the Children and Communities Grant to support providers, see the section on financial support in our latest [update for Wales](https://www.pacey.org.uk/news-and-views/news/news-welsh-government-updates-diweddariadau-llyw/).

[Read the letter from Minister Vicky Ford MP here.](https://www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Website-files/Non-PACEY%20documents%20(PDFs)/280121-Vicky-Ford-MP-letter.pdf)

**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 by 11am

Alternatively please call Raj Braich on 07395 258 096

**Funded Early Education**

Thank you to everyone who has completed and submitted the Spring 2021 Headcount and Early Years Census Information

We will be contacting by email, anyone who has not completed the above

If you require any assistance please contact us:

Balli Grewal or Sandra Andrews

01753-476575 or 07523-933028                    01753-875719 or 07749709909

## **Children’s Mental Health Week begins 1st February** Children’s Mental Health Week, an annual week-long campaign run by children’s mental health charity [Place2Be](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/), begins today and will run until Sunday 7 February.

This year’s theme is “Express Yourself” with the focus on children finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas through creativity. Mentally Healthy Schools have created a [toolkit of resources](https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/express-yourself-children-s-mental-health-week-toolkit/) for children, staff and parents to use during Children’s Mental Health Week.

Throughout the week, we will be using our social media platforms to share a variety of mental health resources including ‘wellbeing for education return’ and the [children and young people’s psychological first aid training](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/psychological-first-aid-covid-19/1) which is run by Public Health England.

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**Frimley Healthier Together**

Frimley Health and Care are excited to announce that today we launch our new website [Frimley Healthier Together](https://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/). The website helps to support local parents and carers who are worried about their child’s health, to manage a range of common childhood illnesses themselves.

It can be extremely stressful when a child is unwell, and this website provides information to help recognise what might be wrong, including advice on what 'red-flag' signs to look out for, where to seek help if required, what you should do to keep your child comfortable and how long your child's symptoms are likely to last.

The website covers a range of topics to support parents and carers:

* Expert advice about newborn babies and babies less than 3 months old
* Can my child go to school or nursery?
* Childhood vaccinations
* Child development
* Infant feeding and child nutrition
* Information about children’s medication
* Supporting children’s emotional and mental wellbeing through Covid-19
* Talking about bereavement with children
* Children and young people’s emotional and mental wellbeing

The website has been designed and developed in partnership with parents and healthcare professionals from across Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System.

Dr Alexandra Streeter De Diego\*, Clinical Lead Frimley Healthier Together 0-18, said: “We know that parents and carers often face the predicament of managing minor illness in their children. When to seek medical advice? When to try over the counter or home remedies? Do they need antibiotics?

“At a time when you are worried and unsure of what to do, everyone needs fast, up to date, expert advice and reassurance from a trusted source and this website is an excellent place to start. It gives parents and carers the information they need to be able to care for minor illnesses and help with any concerns they may have about their child's health and wellbeing.

She continued: “It gives “red flags” of worrying features that need urgent medical review. This way parents and carers can be reassured they are taking appropriate action at home and know when they need more specialist help.

We hope it will keep more children at home but will allow the sickest children to be seen by the appropriate specialist more quickly.”

Feedback from parents has been positive:

"It’s like having a mini doctor for you at home, that’s how I see it. It gives so much information on what I should do when they are ill, in what cases I need to get more support or go to hospital, or how I can treat my baby at home."

**We need your support**

In most cases, childhood illnesses can be managed at home with over-the-counter medication and rest. We hope this website will keep more children at home but will allow the sickest children to be seen by the appropriate specialist more quickly.

Please share details of the Frimley Healthier Together website (<https://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/> ) internally to anyone who works with families/parents/carers and external local networks. Don’t forget to the signpost to the website from your website, your online social media channels, within your newsletters and any other channels you have.

There is a press release issued on the [Frimley health and Care ICS website](https://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/news/posts/2021/february/healthier-together-new-website-for-parents-and-carers-of-children/)

**Updated guidance for providers of after-school clubs and out-of-school settings**

We have updated our guidance for providers of after-school clubs and out-of-school settings to provide further information on remote education in relation to vulnerable children who have difficulty engaging in remote education and information on NHS Test and Trace support payments.

We have also updated the guidance for parents and carers whose children attend out of school settings making it clear that as far as possible, parents should try to limit the number of settings their children attend.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

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

**Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

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

Change made:  
Updated the home education section with further information on vulnerable children who have difficulty engaging in remote education. Also added a section on Test and Trace Support Payments.

Time updated: 2:06pm, 2 February 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=f8b561e4-addd-48cf-8bb2-72edde88a87b&utm_content=daily>

**Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update**

Page summary:  
Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children’s social care and further education and skills providers.

Change made:  
Updated to clarify that we will carry out planned inspection work remotely until March 8 at the earliest.

Time updated: 10:49am, 2 February 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=7e99893d-6b18-4002-a264-d2f9bc2b0740&utm_content=daily>

**Ofsted inspections to be done remotely**

Page summary:

All planned inspection activity will be carried out remotely until March 8 at the earliest.

Change made:

Updated dates to clarify that we will carry out planned inspection work until 8 March at the earliest.

Time updated: 10:59am, 2 February 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-inspections-to-be-done-remotely-until-half-term?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=6c72368d-8faf-46cb-bff3-b45a7a77c59b&utm_content=daily>

**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 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)