

Early Years Workforce Newsletter

Summer 2021

Welcome to the Early Education Development Team newsletter. This issue contains:

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Coronavirus financial support for your business

A range of Coronavirus (COVID-19) support is available, from the Government.

Use the [business support finder](#) to see what support is available for you and your business.

You can [sign up for email updates about business funding and support](#) from the government.

Support you may be entitled to	Links for further information
<p>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ('Furlough Scheme')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The scheme has been extended until the end of Sep 2021. ➤ There will be changes to the level of the grant and employers' contributions w.e.f. 01 Jul 2021. ➤ It is your responsibility to follow the government guidance in relation to CJRS (furlough) claims in general AND the specific guidance for early years providers. 	<p>Check if your employees are eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>CJRS changes from 1 July 2021</p> <p>Coronavirus: financial support for education, early years and children's social care</p> <p>(scroll down to Sector-specific guidance - Early years)</p>
<p>Statutory Sick Pay rebate</p> <p>You can reclaim Statutory Sick Pay you've paid for employees who are off sick, self-isolating or shielding because of coronavirus.</p>	<p>Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to employees because of coronavirus</p>
<p>Support for nursery businesses that pay business rates</p> <p>Nurseries in England did not have to pay business rates for the 2020/21 tax year AND now for the 2021/22 tax year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ do not need to pay business rates for the first 3 months from 1 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 2021. ➤ will get a 66% discount* for the last 9 months from 1 Jul 2021 to 31 Mar 2022. *up to a total value of £105,000 	<p>You do not need to do anything.</p> <p>If you are eligible, the local authority will apply the discount automatically.</p> <p>Contact the council if you are eligible and have not received business rates relief.</p>
<p>Self-Employment Income Support Scheme</p> <p>For eligible businesses trading as self-employed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The fourth grant will cover the period Feb to Apr 2021 and claims must be made on or before 1 Jun 2021. ➤ The fifth and final grant will cover the period May to Sep 2021. 	<p>Check if you can claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme</p>

Support you may be entitled to	Links for further information
<p>Support for businesses paying tax: Time To Pay Service</p> <p>If you cannot pay your tax bill on time because of coronavirus, you may be able to delay it without penalty using HMRC's Time to Pay service.</p>	<p>Find out what to do if you cannot pay your tax bill on time</p>
<p>Support to create job placements: Kickstart Scheme</p> <p>The Kickstart Scheme gives you financial support to create new 6-month job placements for young people who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment.</p>	<p>Check if you can apply for a Kickstart Grant</p>
<p>Recovery Loan Scheme</p> <p>The Recovery Loan Scheme is to help businesses of any size access loans and other kinds of finance so they can recover after the pandemic and transition period.</p> <p>The scheme is open until 31 December 2021.</p>	<p>Find out if your business is eligible for the Recovery Loan Scheme.</p>

Assessing the impact of Covid-19 on your business - adapting and marketing your services

The Early Years sector is one of the Key Building Blocks for economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic. However, the sector, like most others, has experienced unprecedented changes in demand and how they deliver services.

As we gradually move towards lifting of restrictions, all providers in the sector will need to assess the impact of these changes and adapt their services in line with the changes.

The Early Education Development Team discussed this in our recent virtual KIT session with the sector and you can refer to the **EYFS Marketing workshop notes doc.** there you can access useful links to the Business Map and other tools via [Family Information | EYFS resources - March 2021 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

If you would like more information or would like to discuss your business sustainability or ideas for marketing then please request a support by completing the **Business support questionnaire** (E-form) via: <https://families.leicester.gov.uk/childcare-professionals/data-collections/business-support-questionnaire/>

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates

Providers will be aware that the hourly rate for the minimum wage change on 1 April every year. You can access information for the recent increases and the latest applicable rates via <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

Timescales and deadlines for 30-hours eligibility codes (applications and reconfirmations)

Parents are responsible to apply for their 30 hours eligibility code in good time to present it to their provider for validation AND to reconfirm their details every 3 months to check that they are still eligible.

However, it is good practice for providers to sign-post parents to the relevant information and to remind parents of the timescales each term.

The link below and scroll down to see the **Eligibility** and **When to Apply** information:

- [30 hours free childcare information for parents](#)

Leicester City Council – Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019

The Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance outlines the requirement for local authorities to produce a report on the childcare market with particular responsibility for assessing the sufficiency of early year's free entitlements for two, three and four year olds.

The statutory duty requires the local authority to secure sufficient childcare, as far as reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 years for disabled children).

The key purpose of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report: -

- map the supply of childcare available at a sub-locality level (Cluster and ward)
- consult with providers, school, professionals, parents, and carers to determine the what are their childcare needs (demand).
- to evaluate if the LA has sufficient childcare for those eligible and for parents and carer who require childcare.
- to identify any gaps in the childcare market, with particular focus on 2, 3 and 4 year Funded Early Education Entitlement, which will be illustrated in the Market Position Statement and mapping of the city.

Leicester City Council – Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019 has been published, this can be viewed via [Early years childcare \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#) This is a tool that can be used by new or existing providers who are exploring expanding or developing a childcare business.

As part of your planning tool, research and review areas that have been identified as areas where we believe there are gaps in provision for children.

LA UPDATES – FEEE and SENIF FUNDING

The information below outlines some key changes which will commence from autumn 2021/ 2022 for both Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) payments and Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF).

There will be an opportunity to ask questions or highlight any queries at the upcoming [Early Years KIT meeting](#), which takes place on **Thursday 29 April 2021 at 13:30 to 14:30** via MS Teams the joining details are below OR alternatively email queries to earlyeducation@leicester.gov.uk

To join on your computer or mobile app please use link [Early Years KIT meeting](#)

FEEE

FEEE Funded Weeks for Term-time payments academic year 2021/2022 will be as per the table below (this replaces the former 14, 12, 12 split):

Academic Year 2021/22 Term	Part Term	Days	Total Days per term	Days Divided by 5 to give accurate weeks	Rounded Weeks for funding purposes	Weeks per Academic Year
Autumn 2021	1	37	77	15.4	15	38
Autumn 2021	2	40				
Spring 2022	3	29	64	12.8	13	
Spring 2022	4	35				
Summer 2022	5	24	49	9.8	10	
Summer 2022	6	25				

Increases in the funding rates for FEEE places from the Summer Term 2021

The increased hourly funding rates are as follows:

FEEE delivery	New Rate	Notes
2 year olds	£5.04 Per Hour	This is the new Flat Rate.
3 & 4 year olds	£4.12 Per Hour	This is the new Base Rate. The rates for Supplements and/or Early Years Pupil Premium (if applicable) remain unchanged

SENIF (Formerly Element 3)

- 1) Payments to schools and nurseries for SENIF funding from the academic year 2021/2022 will be calculated based on the number of days per term rather than equal 3^{rds} that are currently used. See below:

Term	Days	%
Autumn 21	77	41%
Spring 22	64	34%
Summer 22	49	26%
Total	190	100%

- 2) In the Autumn term an initial payment of 70% of the total funding will be made based on the most up to date census information with the remainder paid when portal / headcount data has been verified
- 3) A revised SENIF application form will be available during the Summer term 2021
- 4) We are looking to expand the scope of what SENIF funding can be spent on. Further details to follow.
- 5) Future payments will be referenced as SENIF (SEN Inclusion Fund) and not E3

Government Support – Workforce Development Opportunities

The Level 3 Early Years Educator course is one of 400 free qualifications on offer, in the Government's attempt to boost skills and jobs, as the country recovers from the pandemic.

For further refer to the links below which outlines the Government guidance and eligibility criteria:

National Skills Fund:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

Qualifications in new funded offers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-in-new-funded-offers>

List of colleges and training providers able to offer free places for level 3 qualifications:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-a-free-level-3-qualification/list-of-colleges-and-training-providers-able-to-offer-free-places-for-level-3-qualifications>

Free courses for jobs (includes information on Eligibility and How to Apply etc):

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/free-courses-for-jobs>

Early Years inspection handbook

Ofsted guidance on inspecting registered early years and childcare providers under the education inspection framework.

[Early years inspection handbook](#)

The EYFS Reforms

The new EYFS statutory framework has been published and legislation laid in Parliament. This is the revised and final EYFS framework that all registered nurseries, childminders, schools and pre-schools in England will follow from **1 September 2021**.

The foundation years website has launched a vodcast which is aimed at Private, Voluntary and Independent settings (PVI's) and childminders and includes presentations from DfE, Dr Julian Grenier and Ofsted as well as an interview with Vicky Dewar, Nursery Teacher at the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust, about her experiences of the early adopter year. This is a really useful professional development opportunity for early years providers to support you in your practice and preparing for the implementation of the EYFS revisions.

Speech, Language and Communication Pathway

Everyone can help young children develop their speech, language and communication (SLC) for play and learning.

By answering a few simple questions in the SLC Pathway you can find the right information and advice for SLC <https://families.leicester.gov.uk/slc-pathway>

This includes information for bilingual and multilingual families, and the online information can be translated.

The Leicester SLC Pathway is part of the national Balanced System® Pathway available for families and staff across the UK.

Please share this information widely with families and staff, and help them to access the right support for communication skills, for the best start in life.

Early Years Inclusive Practice

In the Early Years, we have the privilege of working with children while they're learning how the world works. We need to make the most of this opportunity to introduce them to other lives and perspectives, to help them to develop openness, empathy, and curiosity, and grow up to become inclusive, anti-racist adults. Tiney have produced a free downloadable guide for everyone in the early years sector. It's a reflective tool covering the following areas:

- Starting with ourselves
- Knowing the children we work with
- Creating an inclusive, anti-racist learning environment
- Talking about diversity, inclusion and anti-racism with young children
- Celebrating difference (working with babies and toddlers)
- Building empathy (working with 3-5 year olds)
- Working with families
- Resources and further reading

[tiney - Our guide to becoming an inclusive, anti-racist early educator](#)

Healthy Start update

As of 1 April 2021, the value of the Healthy Start food vouchers has increased from £3.10 to £4.25. If you have a £3.10 voucher(s) you're still able to use both vouchers together if they are within the expiry date.

Find the criteria and details of how to apply at www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply

Take a look at the new and improved [Healthy Start website](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk).

The image is a promotional banner for the NHS Healthy Start program. At the top right is the NHS logo. The main title 'Healthy Start' is in large white font on a blue background. Below this is a green bar with the text 'Free fruit, veg, milk, pulses and vitamins' and icons for an apple, vegetables, milk, pulses, and Lennie's. The central part of the banner is a photograph of a young girl in a white sweater reaching into a shopping basket to pick up a head of broccoli. The basket also contains red tomatoes. At the bottom left, a blue box contains text about the voucher value increase. At the bottom, a green bar contains the website URL.

NHS

Healthy Start

Free fruit, veg, milk, pulses and vitamins

From April 2021, if you're pregnant or have a child under 4, you could get **£4.25** per week to help buy healthy foods.

www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Invitation: Leicester/shire Early Years Music Network - Championing Learning Through Music

A series of 4 network events for all practitioners and musicians with an interest in music with and for Early Years children

Each event will provide you with a unique opportunity to focus on music in practice across a diverse range of settings with practitioners and musicians whose practice has been inspired, challenged and extended by the dynamic of an early year's practitioner and musician working in partnership to ensure children flourish.

The 'Music Champions' will share the outcomes of their work co-delivering a programme of musical activity.

Join in the conversation and share your experiences in this area of music and early learning.

We hope you can join one or more of these network events.

St Winefride's Catholic Primary School & Leicester/shire Early Years Music Hub Thursday 20 May 2.30pm-4.30pm (online)

Early Years Practitioner: Ann-Marie Donaldson
Musician: Laura Moore

DMU Big Local & The Spark Arts for Children Wednesday 9 June 2.30pm-3.30pm (online)

Early Years Practitioner: Joss McAuley
Musician: Inês Sampaio Figueiredo

Leicester City Libraries & The Spark Arts for Children Monday 21 June 1.30pm-3.30pm

Pork Pie Library and Community Centre, Southfields Drive, Leicester LE2 6QS
Early Years Practitioner: Kelly Hearn
Musician: Dave "Stickman" Higgins

Leicester's Children, Young people and Families Centres & The Philharmonia Orchestra

Thursday 8 July 3pm-5pm

Highfields Children, Young People & Family Centre, 20 Barnard Close, Leicester LE2 0UZ
Practitioner: Emma Henson
Musician: Stuart Beard

Spaces are limited, to book your FREE place at each event please contact

liza@thesparkarts.co.uk

Find out more about Music Champions and the Leicester/shire Early Years Music Network at thesparkarts.co.uk/musicchampions



Leicester/shire Early Years Music Network Event

Championing Learning through Music

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Philharmonia