

# Early Years Workforce Newsletter

## Summer 2021 – Part 2

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

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# EYFS Reforms

**From September 2021**, all early years providers must follow the new [early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) framework](#).

The **key aims** of the reforms are to:

- improve child outcomes at age 5, particularly in early language and literacy, especially for disadvantaged children; and
- reduce workload, such as unnecessary paperwork, so that practitioners can spend more time interacting with the children in their care.

To support the implementation of the revised EYFS, the Department for Education has developed a new **online service** for private, voluntary and independent early years settings and childminders. This service provides resources, advice and support to help practitioners to understand the requirements for each area of learning and development and what these requirements mean in practice. The new service is now live on gov.uk and can be accessed here – [Prepare for changes to the early years foundation stage framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**We encourage you to use this online service to support your planning and implementation of the EYFS reforms from September 2021.**

## Update to EYFS disaplications

[Early years foundation stage: coronavirus disaplications - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**To support early years providers during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government temporarily disapplied and modified certain elements of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework.**

Government has this week made minor updates to the [EYFS disaplications guidance](#). This update is to:

Link to the current version of [Ofsted's early years inspection handbook](#), published on **28 June 2021**, for inspections taking place from 1 September 2021.

Clarify that the period in which the EYFS disaplications can be used ends on **31 August 2021**.

Clarify that if government restrictions and requirements are lifted before **31 August 2021**, the disaplications can no longer be used as the necessary conditions for using them will no longer be met.

Early years providers should also continue to follow Government's [COVID-19 guidance for early years providers](#), which includes guidance on the existing flexibilities that exist within the EYFS with regard to staffing ratios.

If you would like to share your views on the disaplications and whether you have used them over the past eighteen months, for example with regard to Paediatric First Aid certificates or to respond to members of staff needing to self-isolate, please email us at [foundationyears@ncb.org.uk](mailto:foundationyears@ncb.org.uk)

# Early Years Inspection Handbook

The Early Years Inspection handbook 'summary of changes' document has been updated to include June 2021 major and minor changes for the September 2021 handbook. The documents can be accessed from the following link:

[Early years inspection handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The Inspection handbook also includes a new section (paragraphs 52 to 55) which provides clarification on Ofsted requirements for inspection:

## Clarification for providers

52. The information below confirms our requirements. This is to dispel myths about inspection that can result in unnecessary workload for providers. It is intended to highlight specific practices that we do not require. More detail on what evidence inspectors will gather can be found in paragraph 83.

53. Ofsted will:

- when making judgements, take a range of evidence into account, including: discussions with leaders, staff and children; the joint learning walk; observations; speaking to parents and so on (see paragraphs 81 to 83)
- judge fairly providers that take different approaches to meeting the requirements of the EYFS; inspectors will assess any provider's curriculum favourably when leaders have built or adopted a curriculum with appropriate coverage, content, structure and sequencing and implemented it effectively.

54. Ofsted will not:

- create unnecessary workload for staff through its recommendations
- advocate a particular method of planning, teaching or assessment; it is up to providers to determine their practices and it is up to leaders to justify these on their own merits rather than by referring to this handbook.

55. Ofsted does not require providers to:

- provide EYFS curriculum planning in any specific format for inspection
- prepare any performance and children-tracking information for Ofsted
- do additional work or to ask children to do work specifically for the inspection.

## Keeping the LA informed - Ofsted Inspections outcomes

Ofsted have resumed their inspection activities and although the LA is notified of the outcome of the inspection visit, we would encourage providers to keep the EED team informed by emailing [eedteam@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:eedteam@leicester.gov.uk) at the earliest opportunity.

In the event that a provider is inspected and fails to meet the minimum quality criteria for delivering 2, 3 and 4 year FEEE, as detailed in the Early Education and Childcare Statutory document and Provider Agreement, the provision will become non-compliant and

the FEEE compliance process will be initiated. If the LA has early notification of the inspection outcome, we can ensure that we can put in timely intervention and support for the provider.

Provider Agreement 2020 (terms and conditions for FEEE), compliance process - [Annex D\(i\) Compliance Process - Quality \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

## 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><b>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ('Furlough Scheme')</b></p> <p>The scheme has been extended until the end of Sep 2021.</p> <p>There will be changes to the level of the grant and employers' contributions w.e.f. 01 Jul 2021.</p> <p>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>	<p><a href="#">Check if your employees are eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</a></p> <p><a href="#">CJRS changes from 1 July 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Coronavirus: financial support for education, early years and children's social care</a></p> <p><i>(scroll down to Sector-specific guidance - Early years)</i></p>
<p><b>Statutory Sick Pay rebate</b></p> <p>You can reclaim Statutory Sick Pay you've paid for employees who are off sick or self-isolating because of coronavirus.</p> <p><i>(It previously included <a href="#">shielding</a> which is currently paused)</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to employees because of coronavirus</a></p>
<p><b>Support for nursery businesses that pay business rates</b></p>	<p>You do not need to do anything.</p> <p>If you are eligible, the local authority will apply the discount automatically.</p>

Support you may be entitled to	Links for further information
<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> <p>do not need to pay business rates for the first 3 months from 1 Apr 2021 to 30 Jun 2021.</p> <p>will get a 66% discount* for the last 9 months from 1 Jul 2021 to 31 Mar 2022. <i>*up to a total value of £105,000</i></p>	<p>Contact the council if you are eligible and have not received business rates relief.</p>
<p><b>Self-Employment Income Support Scheme</b></p> <p>For eligible businesses trading as self-employed:</p> <p>The fifth and final grant will cover the period May to Sep 2021.</p> <p>The online claims service for the fifth grant will be available from late July 2021.</p>	<p>Claims for the fourth grant closed on 01/06/21 and the <a href="#">full guidance</a> for the fifth round, will be updated by the end of June 2021.</p> <p>Meanwhile, you can click here to <a href="#">find out more about the fifth grant</a>.</p>
<p><b>Support for businesses paying tax: Time To Pay Service</b></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><a href="#">Find out what to do if you cannot pay your tax bill on time</a></p>
<p><b>Support to create job placements: Kickstart Scheme</b></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><a href="#">Check if you can apply for a Kickstart Grant</a></p>
<p><b>Recovery Loan Scheme</b></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><a href="#">Find out if your business is eligible for the Recovery Loan Scheme.</a></p>

Support you may be entitled to	Links for further information
The scheme is open until 31 December 2021.	
<p><b>Traineeships</b></p> <p>Financial support is available for employers who support a traineeship, which is a skills development programme that includes a work placement.</p>	<p><a href="#">Check if you want to support a traineeship</a></p>
<p><b>Apprenticeships</b></p> <p>Financial support is available for employers who support apprenticeships, which are jobs combining practical on-the-job skills with sustained off-the-job learning.</p>	<p><a href="#">Learn more about hiring an apprentice</a></p>
<p><b>T Levels</b></p> <p>T Levels offer businesses financial support and an opportunity to hire emerging talent by offering students an industry placement for 45 days (a minimum of 315 hours).</p>	<p><a href="#">Check what you need to do to offer T Level placements</a></p>

## Business Support request e-form

If you have concerns about the impact of Covid-19 on your business sustainability you can raise it with us by completing the e-form via [Family Information | Business support questionnaire \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Please complete the all the questions to the best of your knowledge.

**What happens next:** The information you provide will assist the EED team to determine the appropriate follow up support. We will be in touch by either telephone or email. As part of our follow-up support, you may be required you to share documents, e.g. such as business plans and cash flows and the breakdown of your income. However, the information provided for the purposes of this support will not be shared and remains confidential.

Providers can also refer to our [Business support - tools and tips \(COVID-19\)](#) for information and further links to a range of free business planning tools which providers can access for support with business planning.

## LA UPDATES – 2, 3 and 4 year FEEE 2021/ 2022

**We will no longer be using the current method of set weeks in an Autumn term 14 weeks, Summer term 12 weeks and Spring term 12 weeks.**

**Please note** as from Autumn 21 we will be running funded weeks for term time children in parallel with the school terms which will be 38 weeks per academic year. Please see table below for term time children only.

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				

Autumn 2022 dates have not yet been confirmed and is currently out for consultation, once this has been confirmed you will be informed of the funded weeks for the term time children only.

This does not impact on when a child can start claiming as it remains the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

- There is no change to the children who are claiming Stretched entitlement.

### 30 hours Extended Early Education:

- For autumn 2021 the code must be valid either 31 August or before for new claims.
- If the code is due to expire by 31 August this must be revalidated before this date.
- If a child is making a new claim or moving settings in their grace period they must be revalidated before 31 August.

**Please Note:** new timeline detailing key dates for 2021/2022, please put these in your diary.

## Leicester City FEEE Timeline from Autumn 2021 to July 2022

Month	Activity	Actual Dates
July 2021	<b>Adjustment Summer 2021 Payments</b>	From w/c 5 July 2021
	Childminders can submit data for Autumn 2021 estimate payments	From 5 July 2021
August 2021	Deadline for childminders to submit Autumn 2021 data	Deadline 9 August 2021– 23:59hrs
	<b>Autumn 2021 Estimate Payments</b>	From w/c 23 August 2021
	<b>AUTUMN 2021 - For term time only children this term is 15 weeks of funding for a child who are attending the whole term</b>	<b>Start date for the term is 31 August 2021</b>
	Portal opens for Autumn 2021 data for 8 weeks	From 1 September 2021
October 2021	Providers deadline to submit autumn data. Children who start after this date cannot be included on your headcount.	25 October 2021 23:59hrs
November 2021	Childminders can submit data for Spring 2022 estimate payments	From 1 November 2021
December 2021	<b>Adjustment Autumn 2021 Payments</b>	From w/c 6 December 2021
	Deadline for childminders to submit data for Spring 2022	09 December 2021 23:59hrs
	Portal Opens for Spring data for 10 weeks	From 24 December 2021
January 2022	<b>Spring 2022 Estimate Payments</b>	From w/c 3 January 2022
	<b>SPRING 2022 – For term time only children this term is 13 weeks for children who are attending the whole term</b>	Start date for the term is 4 January 2022
	Actual Census Day (Estimated)	20 January 2022
	Census data to be submitted. This is a mandatory requirement for all FEEE providers	31 January 2022 23:59hrs
February 2022	Evidence for QTS & EYFS must be submitted to qualify for additional supplements as from Summer 2022	11 February 2022 23:59hrs

Month	Activity	Actual Dates
	Providers deadline to submit Spring 2022 data. Children who start after the submission date but attend before <b>25 February 2022</b> can be added to your headcount.	11 February 2022 23:59hrs
March 2022	Childminders to submit data for Summer 2022 estimate payment	From 7 March 2022
April 2022	Deadline for childminders to submit Summer 22 data	4 April 2022 23:59hrs
	<b>Spring 2022 Adjustment Payments</b>	From w/c 4 April 2022
	Portal Opens for Summer 2022	From w/c 25 April 2022
	<b>Summer 2022 – For Term Time only children this term is 10 weeks for children who are attending the whole term</b>	<b>Start date for the term is 25 April 2022</b>
	<b>Summer 22 Estimate Payments</b>	From w/c 25 April 2022
May 2022	Providers Deadline to submit Summer 2022 Data, Children who start after this date this date cannot be included on your headcount	27 May 2022 23:59hrs
July 2022	<b>Summer 2022 Adjustment Payment</b>	From w/c 4 July 2022

## Portal closing dates – Providers deadline to submit data for claiming FEEE

Providers must inform parents, who are making enquiries for FEEE places, of the Portal closing dates in each term.

It must be made clear that, for any given term, this date is effectively the cut-off date for new children to start accessing a funded place in that term.

Any child who has not started accessing their place on or before the cut-off date for the term must wait until the following term which will then be the next intake date for FEEE places.

The Portal closing date is also referred to as the Headcount date or the Headcount deadline date.

# Safeguarding update

## Training

The LSCBP (Leicester's Safeguarding Children Board Partnership) continue to offer a multi-agency safeguarding training programme each term. A suite of safeguarding themed training sessions is shaped each term, determined by the priorities, and needs of the city. These sessions are available for all early year's practitioners to book a place.

Whilst face to face learning is not yet scheduled, online training opportunities are ongoing. Interactive training sessions can be booked via the link below;

[LLR Safeguarding Children Partnerships Events | Eventbrite](#)

Be sure to explore the independent online opportunities including e learning and professional learning videos and news.

[LSCBP | Safeguarding E-learning \(lcitylscb.org\)](#)

[LLR Safeguarding Children Partnerships - YouTube](#)

It would be advantageous to review your safeguarding competency logs to identify any areas for development that could be targeted by the training opportunities available. Safeguarding practice should continue to be monitored through professional discussion and observation. Your supervision process should allow for dialogue about how best to target support.

## Charging

Please note that the LSCBP are currently reviewing the charging policy for safeguarding training. This is to reflect the impact of non-attendance on bookings over previous terms. Whilst the Multi Agency Training Group are eager to keep the cost of crucial training to a minimum, this is a necessary step to ensure that the offer of training in the city is sustainable. Please be sure to keep abreast of any changes to charges via the following link;

[LSCBP | LSCBP Learning & Development \(lcitylscb.org\)](#)

## Safeguarding Competency Framework

Leicester's Safeguarding Competency Framework continues to be a useful tool adopted by the sector to engage practitioners in embedding best safeguarding practice. To ensure that the framework continues to be effective, a review is scheduled for the summer of 2021. The working group tasked with the review are keen to make the updates required to ensure that the framework appropriately reflects the children's workforce, and that it aligns with the adults safeguarding framework effectively.

Practitioners should continue to use the existing Safeguarding Competency Framework at this time.

[LSCBP | Competency Framework & Training Strategy \(lcitylscb.org\)](#)

## General Coronavirus Advice

- The Delta variant is far more easily transmitted and this has contributed to extremely high number of cases in the UK. Symptoms are headache, followed by sore throat, a runny nose, and fever.
- Encourage everyone including staff to get vaccinated – some centres do not require an appointment but they may have to wait.
- Carry out Covid risk assessment and advise to your staff. For more information see Health & Safety Executive (HSE) website at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/assets/docs/risk-assessment.pdf>
- Things to consider employees who work in close contact, should wear a **clear visor/goggles and a Type II face mask** (medical mask made of a protective 3-ply).
- Implement a programme and log are cleaning and disinfecting all touch points and equipment.
- Have good ventilation to remove any air that may have been contaminated with COVID-19 and replace with fresh air. e.g. keeping door, windows are kept open
- Display NHS QR code for visitors link: <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster>. Or record their name and contact details and keep the information for a minimum of 21 days.
- Ensure all staff carry out 'Rapid Covid Test' at least twice a week. These 'test at home' kits can be collected by employees one of the test centres or their local chemist. They can also be ordered online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- Review your arrangements after next planned Government announcement around 19/7/21
- Keep up-to-date on changes by visiting regularly: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

## Sourcing Paediatric First Aid (PFA) Training

Early Education Development team will no longer be facilitating PFA training courses, as we unfortunately do not have the administration capacity.

Leicester City Council's Health and Safety team however continue to offer Paediatric First aid training as a part of the programme they offer to businesses, therefore for details and enquiries please see [Leicester City Council Business Training courses](#) .

Other training providers also offer PFA training, who you are also free to go to but be sure you are signing up for a full PFA course that meets the requirements set out in 3.25 of the EYFS Statutory framework (footnote 30).

## **‘Inclusive provision for children with SEND in the early years’**

This document has been updated and is now available on the website. There are also some easy read versions of each section and an early years SEND resources area. Please follow the links below.

[Inclusive Provision for children with SEND in the Early Years document](#)  
[Resources](#)  
[Easy Read](#)

The document describes the LA’s expectations of provision ordinarily available for SEND children receiving FEEE, therefore all providers will need to adhere to this document.

The document supports:

- good inclusive practice
- a person-centred approach
- consistent standards of good practice across all settings
- an effective partnership with parent/carers
- early intervention and the graduated approach to meeting children’s SEND
- management teams, SENCos and practitioners in developing and implementing good practice
- decision making to ensure effective support including, where appropriate, additional inclusion funding

## **Don’t miss out! You may be eligible for funding to help with children with SEND in your care.**

All early year’s providers who deliver Funded Early Education (FEEE) places for 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a one off payment of £615 per year for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

Providers are responsible for identifying eligible children through a discussion with parents.

This payment is there to support providers to make reasonable adjustments in order to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and could be spent on training and /or resources.

For further details follow the link below;

<https://families.leicester.gov.uk/childcare-professionals/send-for-professionals/disability-access-fund/>

# Leicester Adult Skills and Learning Service L3 Early Years Educator

## Are you looking to build a career within Early Years Education and Care?

The Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce prepares learners to become Early Years Educators, enabling them to work with and care for children from birth to 5 years and gain knowledge of children aged 5 to 7 years.

This course is suitable for learners already working as early years practitioners who want to develop their skills to become an advanced practitioner.

**Starting on Wednesday 15 September 2021 9.30am-12.30pm**

### **Career Opportunities from achieving L3 EYE qualification:**

- Practitioner in day nurseries
- Practitioner in nursery schools
- Practitioner in reception classes in primary schools
- Pre-school worker
- Home based child carer

The course is taught over 4 terms. You will need a placement in an Early Year's setting to achieve the course.

Enrolments are being taken from July 2021. Be the first to secure your place on this excellent course.

Due to funding changes in 2021, this course is now fully funded as part of the National Skills Fund – level 3 adult offer.

**For more information and to enrol call:** 0116 454 1900 or email [Clare.Luvaqlia-Gori@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Clare.Luvaqlia-Gori@leicester.gov.uk) or visit [www.leicesterlearns.ac.uk](http://www.leicesterlearns.ac.uk)

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or email [Clare.Luvaglia-Gori@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Clare.Luvaglia-Gori@leicester.gov.uk)

or visit [www.leicesterlearns.ac.uk](http://www.leicesterlearns.ac.uk)

Learning for: **Work | Life | Leisure | Family**



## The Healthy Start scheme will be extended to include more families

The UK government will extend the Healthy Start voucher scheme to thousands of disadvantaged children under four years of age who were previously denied the support because of their families' immigration status.

The scheme provides vouchers worth £4.25 per child per week to low-income families for milk and healthy food, but – as with other UK benefits – locks out families who do not have final settled status in the UK.

The no recourse to public funds policy means thousands of households across the UK are refused basic welfare support because of their immigration status, affecting an estimated 1.4 million people according to the Joint of Welfare for Immigrants. Now, the scheme will change to include all British children aged under four whose families would qualify for state support if it were not for their immigration status.

To find out more about this change and to read the full article, please visit <https://www.bigissue.com/latest/healthy-start-hancock-agrees-to-open-healthy-food-scheme-to-children-from-migrant-families/>



The banner features a blue background with the NHS logo in the top right corner. The text 'Healthy Start' is written in large white font. Below it, a green box contains the text 'Check if you're eligible at *healthystart.nhs.uk*'. At the bottom, there is a row of five icons representing healthy food items: an apple, a variety of vegetables, a carton of milk, a can of peas, and a packet of lentils.