

Leadership and Management

Under 2's – Who can help?



It is so important for all early year's practitioners to be aware of the services available that can support children and their families. By having a sound knowledge and understanding of what support is out there enables practitioners to guide families to the relevant agencies which can play a key role in supporting children's behaviour, well-being, and development. In addition to this, it contributes to positive working relationships with parents, promoting a nurturing environment where children can thrive both at nursery and at home.

TASK 1

Within your team reflect on how you stay informed about the support services that are available for children and their families. Consider the following questions:

- What resources or agencies do you currently use and in some cases refer families to for additional support?
- How do you stay updated on local services, funding opportunities, or specialist support available?
- How do you share and communicate external support and help to parents/carers ensuring they feel informed and adequately supported?
- Are there any gaps in your knowledge about what help is out there and how do you plan to address this?

TASK 2

Leicester City is a wide range of services that early years practitioners can access in supporting children and their families. Within your team, spend some time exploring the links below. Consider how you could use each of them to support your own practice and to signpost to parents.

- [About this site | Health for Under 5s](#)
- <https://www.nhs.uk/start-for-life/>
- [1553-West Leicester CCI:6521-Cornwall](#)
- [Live Well Little Ones \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/live-well-little-ones)
- [Home Page - ChatHealth](#)
- [Leicester Mamas support pregnant and new mothers and their families.](#)
- [Home \(headsupleicester.org.uk\)](http://headsupleicester.org.uk)
- [Family Information | EasyPeasy App \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/easy-peasy-app)
- [School's Extranet \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/schools-extranet)
- [Healthy Together 0-19 \(Health Visiting and School Nursing\) - Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust \(leicspart.nhs.uk\)](http://leicspart.nhs.uk/healthy-together-0-19)
- [Family information | Children's Centers \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/childrens-centers)
- [Early Help \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/early-help)
- [Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send)

TASK 3

Family hubs are a great source of help for early years practitioners. They provide a wide range of access of services and support, such as health advice, Infant feeding support, home learning environment, early childhood development resources and lots more! Let's take a deeper dive into the help and support that family hubs offer. Consider how The Family Hubs can support you, children, and parents. Click on: [Family Information | Family Hub - Early adopters \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#) and [Leicester City Council](#)

TASK 4

Having explored the links in task 2 and 3, consider the two case studies below. Discuss who you can reach out to for further support and help:

1. Finley aged 1 years old attends nursery 3 mornings a week. Finley is struggling to sit up independently, falling behind his peers in physical development. His key worker Zainab has noticed this and raised her concerns with the setting's SENCO and Finley's parents. Zainab has been implanting lots of physical activities for Finley to engage in such as Tummy time and singing games whilst she holds his hands supporting him to sit but still has concerns.
2. Zelda ages 9 months old has been attending nursery for 2 months. Her parents reported challenges in feeding her at home, particularly during bottle feeds. Zelda will turn her head away from the bottle and becomes very distressed and will refuse food altogether. Practitioners are noticing the same challenges in nursery as Zelda is very reluctant to drink milk from her bottle and demonstrates very little interest in solid foods. Zelda's key worker has shared her concerns with parents who have shared that they are really concerned about Zelda's' weight gain and that the lack of food and drink is affecting her mood and sleep at home.