



## EYQI Updates

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<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/EarlyYearsHub>

### Week beginning 26.01.2026



### Upcoming training announcements

For all training, click onto this Try Booking link to book your individual training sessions: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FDJU>

### **Understanding Ofsted's Early Years inspection toolkit (Group-based providers) Achievement – Workshop.**

In preparation, please read and reflect on the Curriculum and teaching section of the Early Years Inspection Toolkit, pages 26-28. High-Quality Education and Readiness What does it mean for a setting to provide a high-quality education that prepares children for the next stage, including school? How do we ensure that all children—especially disadvantaged children, those with SEND, and those facing barriers—gain the necessary knowledge and skills for future success? Progress Across the EYFS Areas How do we measure and support children's progress from their starting points across the 7 areas of learning and development? What strategies help children to "know more, remember more, and do more" in practice? Equity and Inclusion What approaches can we use to close gaps for children who are disadvantaged or have additional needs? How do we balance ambition with accessibility for every child?

Date Two sessions available on the day, (this is a repetition of the same session)  
5th February 2026

10:15 – 11:15am and 1:15 – 2:15pm  
Target Audience Early Years Leaders at the group based providers.  
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

## **EYHUB Network Meeting Dates**

EYHUB Network Meeting for Settings Target audience – Nursery Managers, Nursery senior leaders and School nursery teachers

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite

9:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Please click the link to book: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADM> EYHUB

Network Meeting for Schools Target Audience –

Reception Teachers and EY leads

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Please click the link to book: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADL> EYHUB

Network Meetings for Childminders

6:30pm – 8:00pm

via Microsoft Teams 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday 18th February 2026

Please click the link to book: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADN>

## **Baby Quality Inclusion Network**

These sessions are designed for early years practitioners working with babies who want to strengthen their practice and share ideas with colleagues across the sector.

What to expect: Three-Part Programme – Attendance at all sessions is essential to complete the training. Practical Resources – We will use an audit book throughout the sessions, and every setting that completes the programme will receive a copy to support ongoing quality improvement. Collaborative Learning – Gain fresh insights, exchange best practice, and build confidence in delivering exceptional care for babies.

Date Staff MUST attend all 3 sessions

Session 1: Friday 6th February 2026 Session 2: Friday 20th February Session 3: Friday 6th March 2026

9:30am – 12:00pm

Target Audience Baby room practitioners working with children aged 0-2 years

Venue Sutton Family Hub

Delivered by Gemma Oakes – Early Years Hub Team

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## **Product Safety Alert: Water Beads (PSA7)**

### **Product Safety Alert: Water Beads (PSA7) - GOV.UK**

This is a Product Safety Alert from the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) for a product commonly known as 'water beads'. Water beads can pose a serious risk of a) gastrointestinal blockage requiring surgery or b) asphyxiation (suffocation or choking). This Alert is for consumers (particularly parents and caregivers to young children), childcare and educational establishments, local authority trading standards and businesses to warn of the potential harm that water beads can pose.

#### Key safety messages

- Water beads should be kept away from young children, under 5 years of age.
- They should only be used by older children under close supervision of an adult.
- If you possess water beads, always store them out of sight and reach of children.

#### Advised Action

##### Consumers, Childcare and Education Settings:

- Water beads should be kept away from young children, under 5 years of age. If you possess water beads, always store them out of sight and reach of children.
- It is recommended that caregivers of young children, under 5 years of age, avoid having water beads in their household or classroom, even if intended for an older child or adult use. This is because young children have the highest propensity to put things in their mouths.
- When using water beads with older children, ensure they are used under close adult supervision. Ensure water beads are not swallowed, that the area is thoroughly checked to ensure no water beads have rolled away, which later could be found by a child. Only allow children supervised access to a limited number of water beads at any one time.
- Be aware of risks to older children and vulnerable adults, including people with special educational needs and disabilities which may make them more likely to mouth objects.
- Be aware of signs that could indicate accidental ingestion, like vomiting and stomach pain. Remember, a child may only show symptoms, hours or even a day or more after swallowing a bead. If you suspect water beads have been swallowed, seek immediate medical attention. If you can, bring a sample of the product.
- Be aware of signs that could indicate choking, such as difficulty breathing, speaking, crying or coughing or other signs of distress, such as pointing to their throat, grasping their neck or a face that turns pale and blue-tinted.

[OPSS issues Safety Alert to warn of the risks of water beads - GOV.UK](#)

[How to stop a child from choking - NHS](#)

## This weeks Education and Learning Newsletter

[Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter](#)

## FOUNDATION YEARS

### Share your views on delivering entitlements to parents

DfE are conducting research to gather feedback on early years professional's experiences of delivering the following entitlements:

- the working parent (9 month - 4 years)
- universal 15 hours (3 - 4-year-olds)
- the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement

We'd like to hear about your experiences and needs for delivering entitlements to understand how to improve the experience in the future. We are looking to speak to early years professional's involved in the process of childcare entitlements, those who

process finances relating to these entitlements and support parents with understanding entitlements.

We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on how you deliver entitlements in your setting(s) in a 60-minute session:

- When: 2nd - 18th February 2026
- Format: Online session, or potential options for in-person or a phone call
- Incentive: £40

Sessions will include a one-off discussion with a researcher about aspects such as what you do to deliver entitlements to parents, what that experience is like, who is involved, what systems you use etc. Your insights will play a key role in improving the experience of delivering entitlements across the country.

Questions? Contact us at [gabrielle.mitchem-evans@education.gov.uk](mailto:gabrielle.mitchem-evans@education.gov.uk)

**Blog post**

## Early years inspections: frequently asked questions



The image shows a man with dark hair and a pink polo shirt, smiling and interacting with a young child who is playing with a red toy truck on a wooden table. In the background, there are some educational materials and a whiteboard with the 'Ofsted' logo in the top right corner.

### 1. When will my setting be inspected?

Currently, we inspect early years settings at least once in a 6-year window. However, from the new financial year (April 2026) we will receive funding to move to a 4-year inspection window. This was announced in the Department for Education's '[Giving every child the best start in life](#)' strategy. As part of this, we'll move to inspect newly registered settings within 18 months, rather than 30 months.

We're still working out what this will look like in practice and will update this blog with more information as soon as we can.

To read full blog go to: [Early years inspections: frequently asked questions – Ofsted: early years](#)

**PVI MS Teams Forum for private nurseries and childminders: [Here](#)**

**Schools MS Teams Forum: [Here](#)**