



Welcome to the May e-bulletin for early years and childcare professionals

This month's e bulletin includes

- Working Parent entitlements – 9 month + babies
- Household Grant – May half Term
- Flyers – Makaton Level 1, Welfare Rights webinar & Childminder Network
- Islamophobia Free Training
- DFE updates - Consultations for experienced based route, EYFS Safeguarding Ofsted Big Listen
- Routes into EY sector
- Maths Champions
- Ofsted updates – Handbooks & Big Listen
- Equality & Equity Charter
- Health & Wellbeing – Practitioner Wellbeing, Children's Self-Regulation
- The Big Toddle
- Bitesize Webinars & Training Schedule
- Positive Parenting

Safeguarding focus includes

- Safeguarding bitesize webinars
- NSPCC updates
- RSPCA Keeping children safe around dogs
- Healthy Relationships framework
- (Un)comfortable conversations guide for Muslim parents with their children
- Handle with care for babies
- Useful safeguarding contacts



Missed a copy of the e-bulletin?

[Key information and resource links for early years and childcare providers](#) | [Early Years team information \(for providers\)](#) | [Royal Borough of Greenwich \(royalgreenwich.gov.uk\)](#)

Contacts

Parents 020 8921 6921 FIS@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
Providers 020 8921 3877 Childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

CHILDCARE APPLICATIONS FOR PARENTS OF 9 MONTH OLDS TO OPEN 12 MAY

Applications for 15 hours of government-funded childcare for working parents of 9-month-old plus open on from **12 May**.

Business planning - start building your 6 – 8 week contingency fund or ask for refundable deposits from working parents for the first 4 to 6 weeks of the Autumn term. Parents FAQs are attached for you to share and your advisor is available to support you.

GREENWICH EARLY YEARS HOUSEHOLD GRANT



Royal Greenwich are supporting some families with some extra money during the May half term. Parents/carers of eligible children under age 5 registered with a Children's Centre or attending an early years setting, will receive a cash payment of £15.

Eligible children under age 5 include those

- eligible for or in receipt of Healthy Start vouchers (birth to 4)
- eligible for or in a funded Together for Twos place
- in receipt of an Early Years pupil premium
- have an older sibling who is in receipt of free school meal

A code will be sent directly to mobile phones to be redeemed at the post office. So we need your help to collect up to date email and phone numbers or newly eligible children. Please use the form provided and return by

Thursday 23 May

GREENWICH EARLY YEARS HOUSEHOLD GRANT



Royal Greenwich are supporting some families with children under 5 with some extra money during the May half term

If you are on low income and your child is eligible for healthy start vouchers, a Together for Twos place (even if you haven't taken up the offer) or Early Years Pupil Premium, you may be eligible to receive a cash payment of £15 through the post office. Please share your up to date email and mobile phone number with your early years' setting or Children's Centre.

Please contact your local Children's Centre or setting NOW (before **Weds 22 May**) to find out more or call Families Information Service on 020 8921 6921

HEALTHY
START



Expansion of childcare entitlements : Working Parent Entitlements



<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

NEW APPLICATIONS: Eligible working parents of babies aged 9 – 23 months, 2-year-olds and 3 year olds can apply for their code to take up a place from 1 September 2024 from **12 May**. Let them know you need the codes before the end of term so you can verify the codes and plan your intake for the Autumn term. All codes must be verified before a child is offered or takes up a place. Parents who need to reconfirm their Tax Free Childcare before 12 May will receive a letter with a temporary code by 24 May.

When you receive a code, you can validate on Synergy here [Provider Portal](#). If you need to be set up, please childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk with your request

Home Forms **Funding** Sufficiency

Summary Estimates Actuals Adjustments **Eligibility Checker** Registered Interests

Eligibility Checker

Use this area to check if a child is eligible for Working Parents EY Entitlements. Please click the button below and provide the details as required.

Data Protection Notice - a record of the check is maintained for monitoring purposes. The information supplied is NOT stored by the system.

Working Parents EY Entitlements

Working Parents EY Entitlements

Please enter a valid Eligibility Code and Child Date of Birth, together with Parent/Carer Details. Partner Details are optional but if entered then all fields, except Forename, must be filled in.

Eligibility Code*	<input type="text"/>
Child Date of Birth*	<input type="text"/>
Parent/Carer Forename	<input type="text"/>
Parent/Carer Surname	<input type="text"/>
Parent/Carer NI Number*	<input type="text"/>
Consent must be given for this	<input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility Check
Partner Forename	<input type="text"/>
Partner Surname	<input type="text"/>
Partner NI Number	<input type="text"/>

*denotes mandatory fields

Submit **Cancel**

If you receive queries from parents regarding their eligibility, you direct them to <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> and they can call **HMRC on 0300 123 4097** in the first instance. This is the parent-facing website which helps parents understand what entitlements they may be able to receive.



free early learning
Royal Greenwich

Are you a working parent eligible for a funded place for your 9 month, 2, 3 or 4 year old from September 2024?

Apply for or renew your code before the end of the Summer term



Childcare
Choices

Bring the code to us in good time before term finishes in July 2024 to help us double check your code with the local authority and allocate a place for your child – you may need to pay a refundable deposit. Then we're all set for a September start!

fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or 020 8921 6921



free early learning
Royal Greenwich



free early learning

Royal Greenwich

Are you eligible* for a funded 30 hours place for your 3 and 4 year old or working parents funded 15 hours place for your 9 – 23 month old or 2 year old from September 2024?

*If you are a working parent (including working foster parents) and your child is aged 9 months plus, 2, 3 or 4 on or before 31st August 2024, you may be eligible depending on your income and if you have a valid code.

- Check from 12 May if you are eligible and remember to reconfirm your code every 3 months to keep your funded place
- Set up or go to your Childcare Account www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
- If you already claim Tax Free Childcare and need to reconfirm, you will get a temporary code by letter
- Your code must be dated no later than 31st August 2024
- Take your eligibility code to your early years' setting or school as soon as you can before the end of term and **NO LATER** than end of the Summer term. The code must be checked by your nursery, school or childminder before your child can be offered or take up a place at the start of the Autumn term. Your setting must double check all codes with the local authority.
- Your child must also be age eligible ie they have had their 9 month old, 2nd or 3rd birthday by 31st August 2024.
- You may be asked to pay a refundable deposit to hold your place and until your provider receives funding from the local authority

fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or 020 8921 6921



Childcare Choices free early learning
Royal Greenwich

GREENWICH CHILDMINDER NETWORK

A termly opportunity to

- network with your colleagues & advisors
- discuss what's new & receive updates

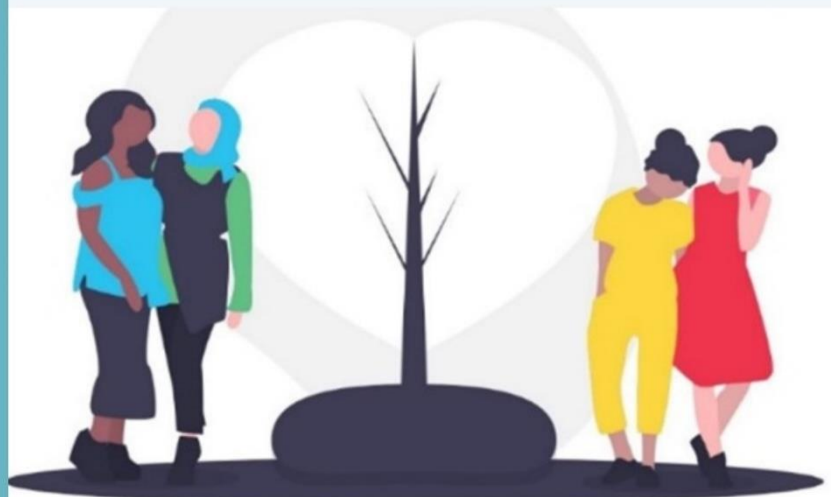
19:00 - 21:00

Thurs 4 July

The Woolwich Centre
SE18 6HQ

Light refreshments provided

To book
eyc.training@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
or via QR code



free  early learning
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Early Years & Childcare

Webinars, Forums & Training

eyc.training@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



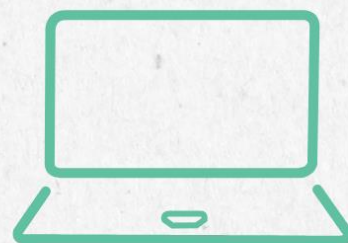
Welfare
Rights for Self
Employed
Childminders

Watch here
Welfare Rights



Childminder
Network

Book here
Childminder
Network



Funding Portal
User Guide

Watch here
Synergy Guide





MAKATON LEVEL 1

Sat 1 June 2024

10:00 – 15:00 &

Sat 8 June 2024

10:00 – 15:00

In person @ The Woolwich Centre

Level 1 provides an in-depth understanding of Makaton and how it can be used to support children needing help in developing their communication skills.

You will learn about 150 signs and symbols from the core vocabulary and some additional signs.

You will receive a manual with all the signs and symbols from the training and 8 hours of certified tuition over 2 days.

This course is heavily subsidised.

Total cost £55 for 8 hour training + Makaton manual

COMPLETE FORM TO APPLY

QUERIES TO EYC.TRAINING@ROYALGREENWICH.GOV.UK

Part of the Greenwich
Family Hubs Network

free early
learning ROYAL borough of
GREENWICH

Islamophobia Awareness and Prevention training, facilitated by the Muslim Council Britain

We have observed a rise in Islamophobic and Antisemitic hate crime in the last months in our borough and are therefore providing a series of training sessions to raise awareness of those offence types, how to report and prevent them.

Take part in a training session to address rising cases of Islamophobia. Facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain, the session will be led by speaker Zara Mohammed. The training will be on **Friday, 07/06/2024 from 10am to 11:30** over Microsoft Teams – be sure to have your manager's approval before attending. To register, please email community-safety@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

The Muslim Council of Britain is the UK's largest and most diverse national representative Muslim umbrella body with over 500 member organisations, including mosques, charities, schools and professional networks. The MCB is pledged to work for the common good of society as a whole; encouraging individual Muslims and Muslim organisations to play a full and participatory role in public life. Its vision statement is "Empowering Muslim communities to achieving a just, cohesive and successful British society."



Zara Mohammed is a Master's graduate in Human Rights Law and a Training and Development Consultant. She was elected the first female, first Scot and youngest Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain in February 2021. She is passionate about community change, empowering young people, and improving diversity and inclusion both within her communities and beyond. Since her election, Zara has spoken on key issues impacting British Muslims across mainstream media and publications, she was a keynote speaker at the G20 interfaith summit and was featured in Vogue's 25 most influential women in the UK.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 320 894 209 690

Passcode: s8zZ6h



Experience-Based Route for Early Years Practitioners

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-qualifications-unit/experience-based-route-for-early-years-practitioners/>

The DFE are seeking views on a technical consultation to test a proposed new model for the experience-based route, proposed eligibility criteria and process requirements. This change aims to recognise the valuable experience and skills of the sector, enabling early years providers to deploy their staff with greater flexibility and count additional staff in level 3 ratios.

Have your say via this link

[Online Survey](#)

Related document:

https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-qualifications-unit/experience-based-route-for-early-years-practitioners/supporting_documents/Experiencebased%20route%20for%20early%20years%20practitioners%20consultation.pdf

Closes 20 May 2024



Open consultation

Early years foundation stage (EYFS) safeguarding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safeguarding>

The DFE are consulting on proposals to strengthen the EYFS safeguarding requirements and make them more comprehensive for early years providers. This is to ensure that all children are kept as safe as possible in early years settings.

Watch a vodcast explaining the proposed changes to the EYFS safeguarding requirements.

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/2024/04/vodcast-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safeguarding-consultation-2/>

You can also view the slides here

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2024/04/EYFS-safeguarding-consultation-event-slidepack-.pdf>

Proposals within the consultation

The consultation proposals include:

- Amendments to ensure **safer recruitment** including new requirements to obtain references and requiring safeguarding policies to include procedures to follow to ensure recruitment of suitable individuals.
- Creation of new requirements for following up if a **child is absent** for a prolonged period of time and amendments to ensure providers hold additional emergency contact details.
- Creation of a **safeguarding training** criteria annex and a requirement for safeguarding policies to include details of how safeguarding training is delivered and how practitioners are supported to put it into place.
- Amendments to clarify that early years students and trainees are required to have **paediatric first aid (PFA) training**.
- Creation of new requirements to ensure **safer eating**.
- Amendments to ensure **children's privacy** when changing nappies and toileting is considered and balanced with safeguarding need.



4

Link to complete consultation survey:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-safeguarding-health-and-wellbeing/early-years-safeguarding-consultation/>

Closes 17 June 2024



Routes into the sector and qualification changes in the EYFS (DFE [BLOG](#))

The early years workforce makes a huge contribution to young children's lives, and supporting and growing this workforce is a priority.

Growing the early years workforce to deliver the DFE transformative reforms to early education and childcare is a priority. This includes supporting providers to better utilise the skills of their existing workforce, attracting talented staff into the sector, and making early years careers as accessible and rewarding as possible.

In April 2023, the DFE published the new Level 3 Early Years Educator qualification criteria. The new criteria will provide higher-quality Level 3 qualifications, leading to higher-quality training for early years educators.

In January 2024, the DFE made changes to the EYFS to provide more flexibility and remove burdens for early years providers while maintaining quality and safety standards. The DFE also continues to develop a range of new workforce initiatives, such as the new [national, multi-channel broadcast recruitment campaign](#) entitled 'Do something BIG, work with small children'. The campaign aims to boost interest in the sector and support the recruitment of talented staff. It shows how rewarding life as an early years professional can be by highlighting their important contribution in preparing young children for school and beyond.

Pathways into Early Years training and employment

The DFE are committed to maximising the skills pipeline into early years and ensuring the provision of high-quality training.

Students can study a [T Level in Education and Early Years](#), the new gold standard of technical qualification, in Education and Childcare, which provides a route into either work or further study in early years.

There are also several other approved qualifications that allow staff to be counted as qualified members of staff in staff:child ratios. These can be found on gov.uk's 'Check early years qualifications' page.

The DFE has also worked with early years employers to develop [three high-quality apprenticeships](#): early years [educator](#), [practitioner](#) and [lead practitioner](#), spanning Levels 2 to 5.

Apprenticeships remain a great route for employers and apprentices:

- 83% of employers were satisfied with their apprenticeship programme with 62% very satisfied. 85% said apprenticeships developed skills relevant to their organisation and 78% reported improved productivity. [\[1\]](#)
- 84% of apprentices were satisfied with their apprenticeships and 85% felt their career prospects had improved since starting their apprenticeship. [\[2\]](#)

The DFE has also procured **Early Years Skills Bootcamps**, which include a pathway to an accelerated Level 3 Early Years Educator apprenticeship. Skills Bootcamps are free, flexible, employer-led courses of up to 16 weeks, that give adults the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and an offer of a job interview with an employer on completion.

The department also supports graduates into the early years sector through funding the **Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT)** programme, including providing bursaries and employer incentives. We are also considering how to introduce new degree apprenticeship routes into the EY sector. For those

who are already qualified or working in the Early Years sector, early years vacancies can be found via the government's 'Find a Job' service.

The government is also continuing to provide a package of training, qualifications, expert guidance, and targeted support for the early years sector, including additional funding for graduate level specialist training leading to early years teacher status and an accredited level 3 early years SENCO qualification. The Lifetime Skills Guarantee also provides a route for studying approved level 3 early years qualifications for free.

2024 EYFS changes

One key change to the frameworks was the removal of the requirement for Level 3 practitioners to hold a Level 2 maths qualification to count within staff:child ratios and instead place this requirement on managers. The DfE know that the previous requirement to hold a Level 2 Maths qualification, in addition to their approved early years level 3 qualification, could at times prevent settings from releasing the full potential of qualified and experienced staff to work in ratios. This change will enable all Level 3 practitioners to use their skills and experience to their full potential and give settings the necessary flexibility to deliver transformative childcare.

The DfE however recognises that it is vital for Maths to be taught to consistently high levels throughout a child's education, including in the Early Years. This is why the DfE has invested in Maths training for early years practitioners and childminders through phase 3 of the Professional Development Programme and Early Years child development training as well as support for quality provision via the Stronger Practice Hubs and the Experts and Mentors programme.

Instead, the DfE now requires that new managers of early years settings must hold a level 2 maths qualification. This is because they recognise that as the leaders of their settings, managers should have the skills and knowledge to ensure that learning is to a high standard. However, this change will not apply to managers in post prior to the changes coming into force on 4 January 2024 while they remain in that position. Managers will also have a grace period of two years to gain a level 2 maths qualification when they start in a new position.

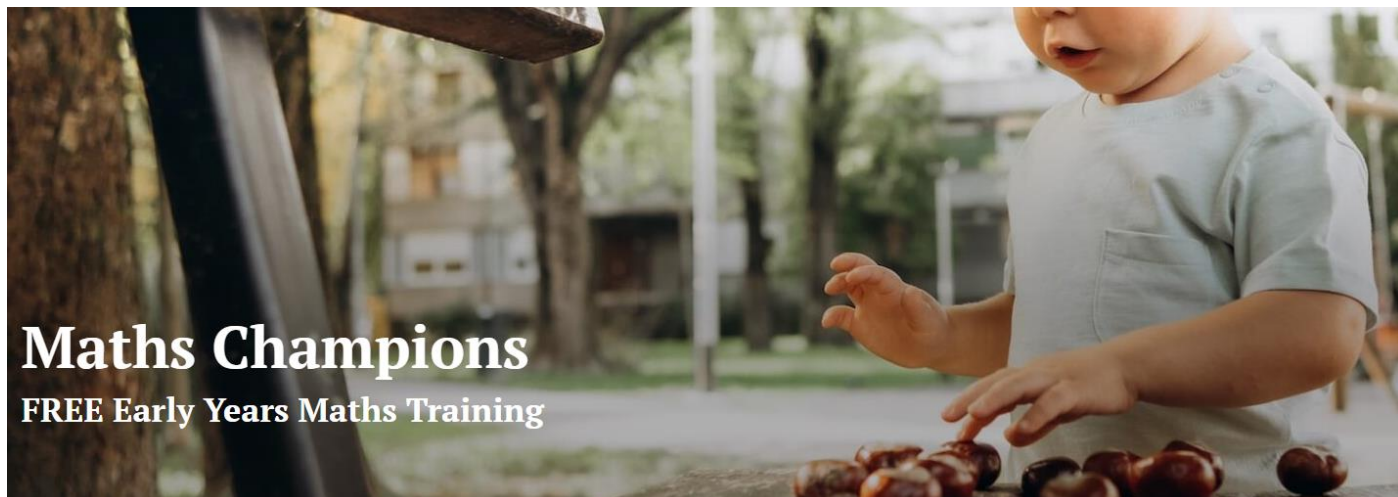
Adults who don't have a GCSE in maths at grade 4 (or equivalent) can study a range of qualifications for free through the Government's Skills for Life guarantee. Skills for Life offers free qualifications, from entry level up to level 2.

Suitable level 2 qualifications in maths are:

- Functional skills qualification in maths at level 2
- GCSE or International GCSE qualification in maths to at least grade C (grade 4)
- Key skills qualification in application of number at level 2
- A level or AS level qualification in maths or pure maths and/or further maths to at least grade E
- O level qualification in maths to at least grade C
- CSE grade 1 maths
- Basic skills certificate level 2: certificate in adult numeracy

Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh equivalents are also recognised.

It is important to note that T-Level and Apprenticeship maths qualification requirements are set separately, and these have not been changed. The apprenticeship Maths and English requirements are set out in the Apprenticeship Funding Rules. DfE are keeping the maths requirements for apprenticeships under review to ensure they are striking the right balance in equipping apprentices with good maths skills without putting up unnecessary barriers to starting or completing an apprenticeship.



Maths Champions

FREE Early Years Maths Training

<https://ndna.org.uk/champions-programmes/maths-champions-early-years-maths-training/>

Improving outcomes for children by embedding maths into play and activities.

Maths Champions is an online professional development programme with 12 months access. The aim of this innovative programme is to improve children's maths outcomes by providing access to a range of bespoke online training, evaluative tools and resources which can all be used to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of practitioners working in your setting.

Access Maths Champions for FREE

Providers in many Boroughs of London can also access both Maths Champions and Language & Communication Champions at no cost, supported by the Mercers' Company as trustee of the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington.



STAFF ABILITY
Maths Champions Programme Research



Improved staff confidence
when supporting children
with maths skills

Source: Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)

ndna.org.uk/maths

+ **=** **÷** Maths Champions



An Inspector Calls



On 5 April 2024, Ofsted published updates to the following inspection handbooks and guidance:

- [Early years inspection handbook](#)
- [Carrying out Childcare Register compliance inspections](#)
- [Childminder agencies: inspection guidance](#)

The documents now include information about their new complaints process following the consultation over summer 2023. The handbooks also align with '[Ofsted inspections and visits: Deferring, pausing and gathering additional evidence policy](#)'.

The '[Big Listen](#)' is underway, and will run for 12 weeks, closing on the **31 May 2024**.

FAIRER SAFER ACCESSIBLE INCLUSIVE

Have you signed up yet to the Equality and Equity Charter? Over 171 PVI's and Childminders have now signed the Charter.

It's quick and easy ... **Sign up now on link below or scan QR code with your phone camera**

<https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/xfp/form/677>

Sign our Equality and Equity Charter →





Practitioner Wellbeing: useful information and resources

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/2024/05/practitioner-wellbeing-useful-information-and-resources/>

Working in early years has an immense impact on the lives of young children, and it can be a fulfilling and enjoyable career – but it can also be challenging. In November 2023, the Early Years Alliance published their [Minds Still Matter report](#) which found 81% of respondents said they were regularly stressed about a work-related issue.

A well-supported team of staff can improve effectiveness and job satisfaction, reduce absence, and strengthen employee retention. Positive practitioner wellbeing also supports positive personal, social, and emotional development in children.

So, what steps can we take to improve practitioner wellbeing?

As individuals

We all have mental health to take care of, just as we must all take care of our physical health. For a lot of us, this can sometimes be easier said than done, depending on the external factors at play. Most people will experience noteworthy events in their lives that may cause anxiety, sadness, and stress.

However *everyday* stressors can also impact our mental wellbeing, such as demanding workloads, financial worries, busy personal lives, or a lack of routine.

It is important to remember to be proactive about maintaining positive health and wellbeing habits, rather than only considering our mental health as a priority when it starts to decline, or a problem arises. Education Support has a guide for the [building blocks](#) of good mental wellbeing, with tips on how to achieve good sleep and the importance of exercise and eating well. For a more in-depth analysis of the importance of practitioner wellbeing, Anna Freud has developed a [free workbook](#) for early years individuals and workplaces which frames the social and environmental factors that influence wellbeing, from interpersonal relationships to public policy. The workbook introduces ways of thinking about wellbeing within the context of the early years sector and offers reflection activities, and signposts to further resources.

In 2022, [Foundation Years interviewed Sonia Mainstone-Cotton](#), an independent early years consultant who specialises in practitioner health and wellbeing. She suggested paying attention to your body as a signifier for how your mental health may be impacting you. How does it tell you when you are stressed? Tight shoulders? Headaches? Fast breathing? Take the time to tune into these warning signals to begin to release stress. Sonia advocates for having a pre-planned ‘menu of ideas’ suited to you, that you can choose from when you need to take some time for yourself.

Some examples for your menu include:

- Spending 10 minutes outside: this can reduce heart rate, improve mood, and reduce anxiety
- Doing something creative: cook something new, take up a new craft or listen to some of your favourite music
- Exercise: start with an easy 10 minutes and build up as your confidence increases

- Gratitude: notice and celebrate small victories and pleasures to reframe why you do what you do – keep a note in your phone to remind yourself when you need a boost!
- A simple cup of tea and some mindful breathing to calm down and tune into how you are feeling.

Having a strong network around you can provide support and connection. This may be especially true for childminders, who often work alone. Help for Early Years Providers provides [case studies](#) of real settings' approaches to practitioner wellbeing. In one, Karla Roberts, a childminder, said:

“Professional support is also necessary. As childminders we often work alone, so talking to others is the best thing we can do to prevent feeling isolated. Engaging via informal groups online creates a supportive environment within the sector and brings us together. This means we can discuss the stress of the role with someone who understands, as well as share best practice.”

Childminders can also contact their local authority to see what support they offer locally and can consider joining a childminder agency for additional support and networking opportunities.

*****Royal Greenwich are organising another mental health wellbeing session with in house multi systemic therapist for September 2024*****

[Early Years in Mind](#) is a free online learning network for early years practitioners. The network provides up-to-date advice and guidance on supporting the mental health of young children and their families and offers information on staff wellbeing in Early Years settings. Similarly, the [Hub of Hope](#) is a directory provided by Chasing the Stigma which signposts to local, regional, and national services offering support on a wide range of mental health-related topics.

Leaders and managers

In 2017, the [Thriving at Work](#) review of mental health and employers found that the human cost of poor mental health is coupled with a financial cost to employers – between £33 billion and £42 billion – due to lower productivity, sickness absences and staff turnover. Leaders and managers are therefore crucial to supporting the health and wellbeing of staff in their teams.

The first step is to assess how you are currently doing in this area. What are your current levels of stress? Are your setting leaders confident having difficult conversations? How is sickness absence managed and what support is in place for staff?

The Anna Freud Centre and Child Outcomes Research Consortium have created a [wellbeing measurement tool for early years settings](#). This survey – created with input from over 1000 early years practitioners, a number of local authorities and the National Day Nurseries Association – identifies four key areas to look at when supporting staff, along with practical tips. It includes a survey that you can use to better understand your workplace and staff needs, and how to offer support. Debbie Garvey, author of *Little Brains Matter*, talked to the NCB and Foundation Years for a series of [Learn – Explore – Debate](#) events focused on putting wellbeing at the heart of our early years practice. She suggests we can use what we already know about managing emotions, change, challenges, and stress with children, and use those soft skills in a transferable way. “We get this, we do this with children,” Debbie says, “Our brains react in very, very similar ways.”

Next, consider creating a wellbeing strategy for your team. Each workplace has its own circumstances and challenges, so each will understandably need a tailored approach. To get you started, Education Support has a template for a [wellbeing plan](#) and the National Day Nurseries Association has created a [staff wellbeing policy template](#), which is available to download for free.

For some inspiration, Lucy Pottinger from Grass Roots Day Nursery explores how they support the emotional health and wellbeing of staff in [this vodcast](#) – including an appearance from nursery empathy dog, Frank!

Here are some key points for consideration when developing your wellbeing strategy:

- Support staff as individuals
- Focus on team relationships and encourage staff to reach out and connect with colleagues to promote a culture of support. Ensure staff feel they have protected time for this.
- Recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication of staff
- Prioritise opportunities for progression and personal development
- Build trust by modelling being open and honest, and help staff to incorporate more wellbeing activities into their working week
- Gather staff views on what needs improving and nurture a culture of honest dialogue
- Support reflective practice

Supporting the early years sector is a priority, and early years practitioners deliver invaluable, high-quality provision to millions of children each day. They play a crucial role in enriching the lives of the children they care for and enable parents and carers to access the labour market. It is hoped that the resources and information listed in this blog will help you to prioritise your own wellbeing, and the wellbeing of those around you.

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/get-help-to-improve-your-practice/early-years-practitioner-wellbeing-support>



Teaching children self-awareness of their feelings and actions supports early development

New support for educators to put evidence into practice in the early years

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has developed a resource to help support self-regulation and executive function in early childhood. The resource sets out five approaches for early educators to help children with their thoughts, actions, and emotional responses. The approaches include: creating and navigating challenge; teaching self-monitoring and self-awareness; and creating a community of collaborative learners.

[Teaching children self-awareness of their feelings and actions supports early development](#)

Self-Regulation and Executive Function

Approaches and practices to support self-regulation and executive function in the early years.



<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years-evidence-store/self-regulation-and-executive-function>



The Big Toddle 2024



Join in from 10 – 16 June for a safari-themed sponsored stroll, tailored for little explorers. Whether you want to take part with your playgroup or nursery, or you're a parent, carer or childminder join in to create an adventurous half-mile walk to change childhoods.

Explorers of all ages can join the adventure. It's a chance for children to be as brave as a lion, put their best foot forward, and simply have buffa-loads of fun with class mates, family and friends!

Register on Barnados website to receive your turtle-y amazing online fundraising pack.

<https://www.barnados.org.uk/events/big-toddle-2024>

They've got everything you need including FREE activities, games and resources which link to the Early Years foundation Stage framework.

- **[Toddle Together](#)**

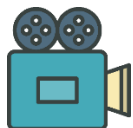
This one's for all the nurseries, playgroups and childminders out there.

 Gather your group for a Toddle Together, indoors or out, and make a turtle-y amazing impact.

- **[Home Safari](#)**

If you're a parent, guardian or carer, signing up for a Home Safari is the perfect way to get your little ones involved.

 Host your Home Safari by transforming your home or garden into a lively jungle for your little lions.



Bitesize Webinars and Online Trainings



A series of free webinars with Early Years & Childcare Advisors to share key messages about important themes. You may use these for your staff training and inductions. You will need to register each individual person so we can track take up.



Book your place here by scanning QR code or clicking on link
<http://tinyurl.com/EYC-Training-Portal>



To receive link and watch, email eyc.training@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
Pls do not share the link with anyone else and remember to complete evaluation to receive certificates and handouts.

Please complete evaluation to receive a copy of the presentation/certificate.

State name of training



- Ofsted Trends
- Staff Wellbeing
- Child Safety
- Having Difficult Conversations with Parents
- Mental Health Awareness
- Female Genital Mutilation
- LADO Managing Allegations
- Emergency Planning
- Child Exploitation
- Fabricated Illness
- Child Abuse Linked to Faith & Belief
- Provider Forum – CSA & Expansion
- Welfare Rights for the Self Employed – openly available
- Childcare Sufficiency Briefing
- Synergy – Funding Portal User Guide – openly available

Area	Training Courses/Webinars	Day	Date	Start	End
Safeguarding & Welfare	Intermediate Safeguarding	Saturday	18 May 2024	09:30	13:00
Learning & Development	Makaton Training- Level 1 Session 1	Saturday	01 June 2024	10:00	15:00
Learning & Development	Curriculum & Teaching	Thursday	06 June 2024	09:30	13:00
Learning & Development	Makaton Training- Level 1 Session 2	Saturday	08 June 2024	10:00	15:00
Safeguarding & Welfare	Safer Recruitment	Tuesday	11 June 2024	09:30	13:00
Learning & Development	Webinar series - Equality Diversity & Inclusion	TBC	TBC	09:30	12:00
Learning & Development	Childminding Network	TBC	TBC	19:00	21:00
Safeguarding & Welfare	HAF Intermediate Training	Saturday	15 June 2024	09:30	16:30
Forum	Childminder Network	Thursday	4 July 2024	19:00	21:00

Cancellation Policy Must be made in writing by e-mail at least 14 working days before the course eyc.training@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Where cancellation is not received, and you do not attend the training you will be charged the full amount – where courses are free, you will be charged an admin fee of £10.



🔖 Book via Direct Services to Schools below or the attached QR code

<https://servicestoschools.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/courses/list?category=pvi>

<http://tinyurl.com/EYC-Training-Portal>

Paediatric First Aid Training Dates

Day	Dates	Start	Finish
Saturday	18 May 2024	08:45	16:30
Monday	20 May 2024	08:45	16:30
Saturday	08 June 2024	08:45	16:30
Wednesday	19 June 2024	08:45	16:30
Wednesday	03 July 2024	08:45	16:30
Saturday	13 July 2024	08:45	16:30



IMPORTANT NOTICE

You must complete the online part of PFA before you attend the in-person date. You will be sent a link in advance of the in-person date.

You **must arrive on time** so leave good time for your journey. If you are late, you will not be permitted entry and will still be charged. This is to ensure you complete the hours required for certification.

There is an exam which you must pass before receiving your certificate on the day.

If you do not pass, you will need to do the course again to safely embed your knowledge and practice. You will have to re-book and pay for the course again.

Training support available from DFE

Help for early years providers

Guidance for people who work in early years, from the Department for Education.

The [Help for early years providers](#) has a wealth of information that can help. For example, there's useful advice on [reducing paperwork](#) so you have more time to focus on areas such as [sensory food education](#).

Early years child development training



This training:

- is free for childminders and nurseries
- combines theory with practical tips and ideas to use in your setting
- includes opportunities to reflect on your practice
- reinforces your understanding through learning check questions and tests
- links to additional resources
- offers the opportunity to download certificates of completion
- has been developed by expert practitioners
- 5 modules can be completed in any order and at any time

[Early years child development training : Home page \(education.gov.uk\)](#)



Department
for Education

New online Early years child development training

Developed by early years experts

- Build your child development knowledge.
- Get practical advice for supporting children in your setting.
- Test your knowledge and reflect on your practice.
- Watch practical training videos.



Pause and restart the training at any time



Make notes as you learn



Download certificates after each module

Find out more by visiting:
child-development-training.education.gov.uk

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

Online Offer

This is free online for any parent or professional in Greenwich.

- **Parent carers** can also access courses via registration at

www.inourplace.co.uk

Using the code **RBGFAMILY** and entering a Greenwich postcode.

- **Professionals/Family Hub Staff** working in Greenwich can access them by going to:

<https://solihullapproachparenting.com/online-courses-prf-greenwich/>

Entering the access code **RBGFAMILY_PRF** and a Greenwich postcode (work or home) when registering

The content includes all courses for Parents online plus

- Understanding Brain Development
- Understanding Attachment
- Understanding Trauma

NSPCC Positive parenting

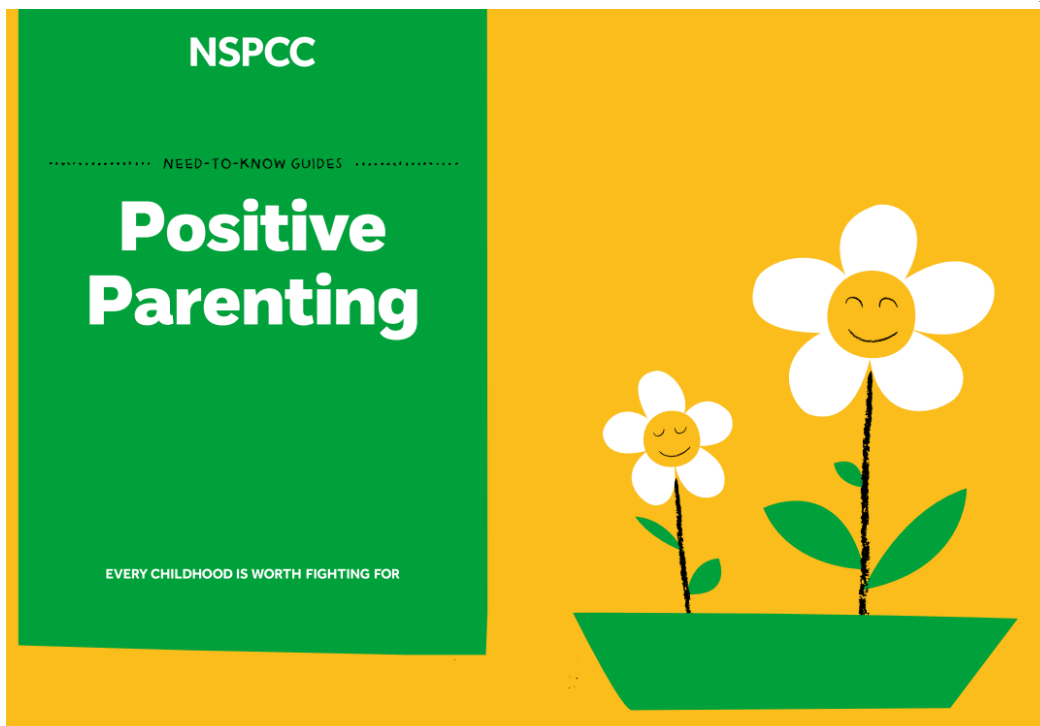
Need-to-know: how to set boundaries and build positive relationships

Balancing the various demands parents have to cope with isn't easy and all parents can come under pressure or stress from time to time.

This guide shares practical advice and tips for positive parenting techniques that work well for children - from babies to teenagers. These techniques encourage better behaviour and help parents find out what works for them and their child.

The guide is also a valuable resource for services and professionals offering parenting advice to new parents and those caring for young children or teenagers.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1195/positive-parenting.pdf>



Understanding your child's needs

Children's needs and behaviours change as they get older, and understanding these needs will help you better understand your child. A lot has been written about the needs of children and advice for parents, and we cover some of the key areas here. If you'd like more detailed advice you can talk to the NSPCC helpline.





HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



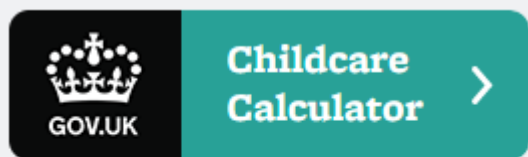
An online application is quick and easy

You get an immediate response on whether you
are eligible for a place



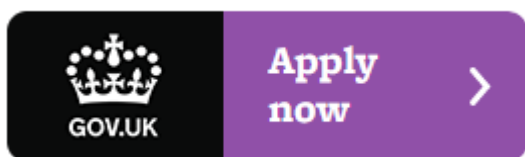
Access the online portal

<https://tinyurl.com/Together-for-Twos>



Get an **estimate** of how much help you can get with Tax-Free Childcare and other offers.

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>



<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>

Childcare Choices

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Here is the link to some videos from Childcare Choices which you can share on your social media

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/providers/guidance-and-resources/social-media/short-films-2022/>

HOW MANY HOURS OF CHILDCARE CAN YOU GET PER WEEK?

Age
3-4
years

Age
2
years

Age
9-23
months

ALL PARENTS

15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

FAMILIES RECEIVING SOME ADDITIONAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

WORKING FAMILIES

15 HOURS	30 HOURS
SEP 2024	SEP 2025

WORKING FAMILIES

30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

WORKING FAMILIES

15 HOURS	15 HOURS	30 HOURS
APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

Over 38 weeks a year

Providers may apply additional charges.

Sign up on Childcare Choices for updates [Upcoming changes to childcare support | Childcare choices](#)

Keeping Children Safe

Contact Children's Services

Emergency Duty Team (out of office hours only): 020 8854 8888

Referral team: 020 8921 3172

Email: mash-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

You don't need to be sure that a child or young person has been abused - it's OK to report a suspicion.

Early Years & Childcare



020 8921 3877



childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



GREENWICH
**Safeguarding
Children**
PARTNERSHIP



020 8921 4477



safeguardingchildren@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

LADO



020 8921 3930



childrens-LADO@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Ofsted: 0300 123 4666 / enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

DBS Regional Office: 0300 105 3081 / Kiranpreet.rehal@dbs.gov.uk

DBSRegionaloutreach@dbs.gov.uk



Prevent Team 020 8921 8340



prevent@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

This is the Greenwich Domestic Violence and Abuse Service.



Telephone: 020 8317 8273



Email: info_gdva@h4w.co.uk

All children in Royal Greenwich, regardless of their background and circumstances, should have a happy and fulfilled childhood where they enjoy school and family life, learn, belong, grow and achieve so that they enter adulthood ready, willing and able to achieve their highest potential.



Free Safeguarding Bitesize Webinars



If you missed the free webinars, email eyc.training@royalgreenwich.gov.uk for your link. You cannot share this link with anyone else except people who have registered.

You will have 21 days to watch the video and complete the evaluation for your certificate and any handouts.

The QR code will be in the video and in the YouTube notes

Please complete evaluation to receive a copy of the presentation/certificate.

State name of training



<https://tinyurl.com/EYC-Evaluation>

- Female Genital Mutilation
- LADO Managing Allegations
- Emergency Planning
- Child Exploitation
- Fabricated Illness
- Child Abuse Linked to Faith & Belief



Physical punishment

The NSPCC has published a news story on physical punishment which calls for equal protection from physical abuse for children. Findings from a YouGov poll of 3,559 adults in England show: 60% think physical punishment has a negative impact on a child's mental health; and 55% think physical punishment weakens the relationship between parent and child. Childline data also shows that in 2023/24, Childline delivered 717 counselling sessions to children with concerns about physical punishment.

[Give children equal protection from physical abuse](#)

Child sexual extortion

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has issued an alert to schools across the UK about financially motivated sexual extortion or 'sextortion'. This type of blackmail involves a person being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand, following a threat to release nude or semi-nude photos of them. The alert explains how to spot signs of this type of abuse and support affected children. Guidance is also included to share with parents and carers.

[NCA issues urgent warning about 'sextortion'](#)

[Financially motivated sexual extortion: an alert for education settings](#)

Strip searches

The Home Office has opened a consultation on strip searches making proposals to strengthen protections in place to safeguard children and young people. Views are sought from law enforcement and child protection professionals on amendments to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Codes of Practice A and C. Proposed changes include: informing parents and guardians when their child is strip searched by the police; the requirement of a senior officer to authorise any search of a child; and greater clarity around existing safeguards.

[Greater protections for child strip search](#)

[Proposed amendments to PACE Codes of Practice A and C: strip searches](#)

School absence

The Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition and Centre for Mental Health have published a report on school absence. The report reviews Government data and examines the evidence base which finds a link between increases in school absence and the rise of mental health difficulties. The report discusses groups of children facing barriers to attendance such as care experienced children, children experiencing bullying, and children living in poverty. Recommendations call for the Department for Education to introduce a mental health and wellbeing absence code.

[Not in school: the mental health barriers to school attendance](#)

Online safety

The UK Safer Internet Centre has developed an online safety resource alongside the Childnet Youth Advisory Board. The interactive resource "Reliability Online" helps to teach children about what they can trust when they are online and covers risks such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated imagery, scams, and body image. It is aimed at young people aged 13 to 16-years-old, but can be adapted for use with older or younger learners.

[New interactive learning resource from Childnet looking at reliability online](#)

RSPCA. Keeping children safe around dogs

RSPCA Guidance Concerns for animals in the home can be an indicator of child safeguarding issues. As such, there is an ongoing need for professionals from animal and child welfare agencies to work together. The RSPCA have had a successful partnership agreement in place with the NSPCC since 2013.

In 2023, the NSPCC received 120 child welfare referrals from the RSPCA. In over half of these referrals, local authority children's services were already involved or felt it necessary to become directly involved in order to provide support or protection for children at risk from harm.

RSPCA guidance on keeping children safe around dogs, along with a link to download a poster

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/company/children/safe>

Information on best practice on how to best care for a dog (including a guide on the legislation)

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs>

1. Stay with your children around dogs

Never leave your child alone in the same room as a dog, even your own.

2. Interact with dogs at the right times

Teach your child not to approach dogs when they're:

- Eating or having a treat
- Have a toy or something else they really like
- Sleeping
- Unwell, injured or tired
- Blind or deaf

3. Be gentle

Teach your child to be [kind and polite to dogs](#). Don't let your child climb on dogs, pull their ears or do anything you wouldn't allow them to do to another child.

4. Play nicely and teach tricks

Teach your child how to play nicely with your dog. For example, your child can [teach your dog some really fun tricks](#) like shake a paw, play dead or roll-over.

5. Give your dog space if they need it

Supervise your child when they're with your dog - if your dog looks unhappy, let them go somewhere they feel safe and happy.

6. Don't let your children approach dogs they don't know

Don't allow your child to [approach a dog they don't know](#), such as when you're out in the park.

Dogs like a break sometimes!

Give your dog a cosy spot in a quiet room where they can have their own space. Teach your child to leave your dog alone when they're in a private spot.



The 6 Golden Rules

for keeping your child safe and your dog happy

1

Never leave your child alone in the same room as a dog, even your own.



2

Teach your child never to approach dogs when they:

- are eating or have a treat
- have a toy or something else they really like
- are sleeping
- are unwell, injured or tired
- are blind or deaf.

3

Teach your child to be kind and polite to dogs. Don't let your child climb on dogs, pull their ears or do anything you wouldn't allow them to do to another child.



4

Teach your child how to play nicely with your dog. For example, your child can teach your dog some really fun tricks like shake a paw, play dead, or roll-over.



5

Supervise your child when they're with your dog – if your dog looks unhappy, let him/her go somewhere they feel safe and happy.



6

Never allow your child to approach a dog they don't know, for example when out in the park.



TOP TIP

We all need a break sometimes – give your dog a cosy spot in a quiet room where they can have their own space. Teach your child to leave your dog alone when they're in their private spot.

www.rspca.org.uk/safeandhappy

NSPCC New resources to embed healthy relationships across the whole school



NSPCC have launched a Whole-School Approach Framework for sex and relationships education as part of Talk Relationships service

Sex and relationships education plays a vital role in preventing abuse, but it's not just about what is taught in the classroom. Promoting healthy relationships is most effective when set within the wider context of a whole-school approach.

In partnership with [Life Lessons](#), they've created a framework that will support school leaders to implement a comprehensive whole-school approach to sex and relationships.

Schools can download the resources for free by completing a short form.

[> Access the resources](#)

The new suite of resources consists of:

- the evidence base for a whole-school approach
- an implementation guide with step-by-step advice
- the framework setting out eight components to a whole-school approach, each with benchmarks and examples
- a snapshot tool for self-assessing sex and relationships provision
- an editable action plan template.

Here's a video to watch about the framework

<https://youtu.be/oKMJhNgndXE>

(un)comfortable conversations

A guide to help Muslim parents have important discussions with their children

There are some topics that parents can feel uncomfortable talking to their child about - whether its puberty, relationships, boundaries or something completely different.

NSPCC guide, developed with Approachable Parenting, aims to support Muslim families talk to children about difficult topics in a way that's age-appropriate, culturally sensitive and supportive.

NSPCC share tips, advice and resources to help keep children safe by making uncomfortable conversations feel comfortable.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/zujp3bx2/uncomfortable-conversations-english-leaflet.pdf>



Watch video here <https://youtu.be/l4hhQfppn64>

Handle with care

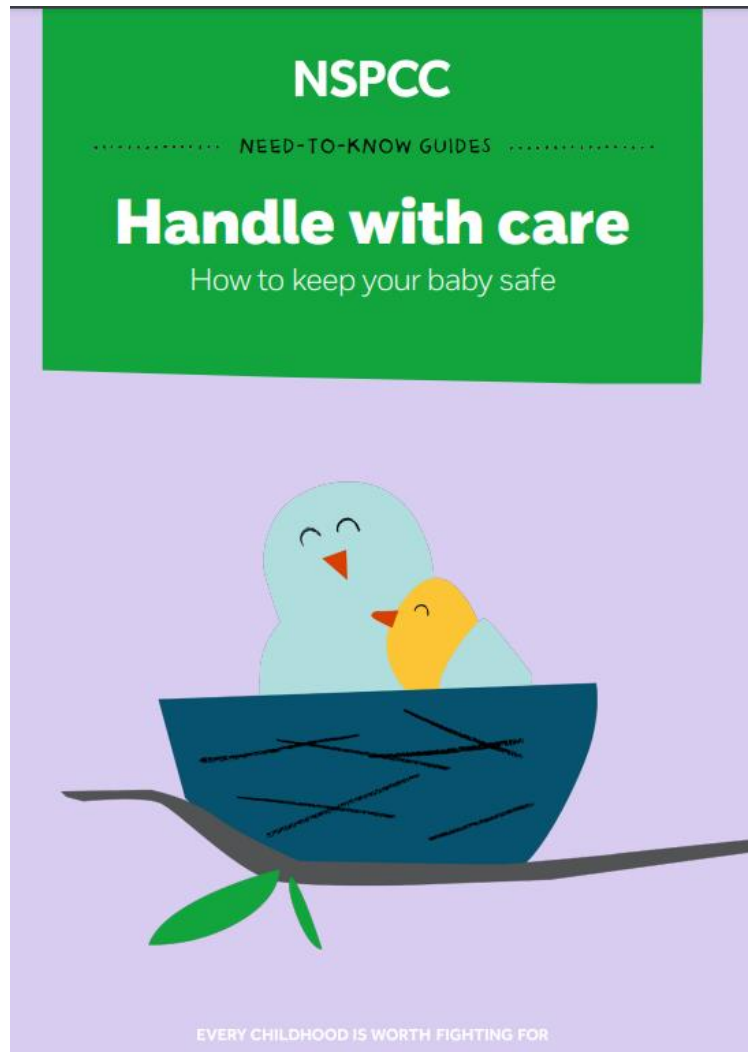
Need-to-know: a guide to keeping baby safe

Rough handling of babies can cause serious injuries. Handle with care: a guide to keeping your baby safe explains the dangers and gives advice on safe ways of holding and caring for a baby.

This simple guide explains why parents should never shake their baby and suggests ways they can soothe them when they cry. There are tips on how to cope when the crying doesn't stop or seems too much to handle.

The guide is also a valuable resource for services and professionals working with new parents or in antenatal care.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1112/handle-with-care-guide-keeping-baby-safe.pdf>



Royal Greenwich Children's Services Useful Safeguarding Contacts and Telephone Numbers

Children's Services Front Door (Safeguarding, Social Care & FaASS previously Early Help)	
'Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub' (MASH) MASH-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk	020 8921 3172
Safeguarding Consultation Line	020 8921 2267
Social Care and Safeguarding Emergency Duty Team Childrens-Out-Of-Hours@royalgreenwich.gov.uk	020 8854 8888
Local Authority Designated Officer - Winsome Collins Service Leader	
childrens-LADO@royalgreenwich.gov.uk	020 8921 3930
Winsome Collins – DO PVLs/ CMs Laura Lhumbis –DO Schools	020 8921 3930
Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership	
Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership website http://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk	020 8921 4477
Prevent	
Adam Browne – Prevent Co-ordinator	020 8921 8321/ 8340
Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline	0800 789 321
Police 999	
CAIT - Child Abuse Investigation Team	0207 230 3705
Ofsted	
Ofsted enquiries, complaints, investigation, and enforcement	0300 123 1231
Royal Greenwich Early Years	
Early Years & Childcare	020 8921 3877
Families Information Service	020 8921 6921
Support, Advice & Signposting	
NSPCC	0808 800 5000/ 0800 136 663
Childline	0800 1111
Samaritans	08457 909090
Family Lives - Parentline	0808 800 2222
Young Minds – Parent Helpline	0808 802 5544
CAMHS	0203 260 5211
Greenwich 0 to 4 Health Visiting Service bromh.greenwich0to4@nhs.net	0300 330 5777
Greenwich Local Labour & Business (GLLaB) apprenticeships@royalgreenwich.gov.uk gllab-jobs@royalgreenwich.gov.uk	0208 921 2440
Children with Disabilities	
Disabled Children's Social Work & Occupational Therapy	020 8921 2599
Disabled Children's Keyworker Team	020 8921 4939
SEND Assessment & Review Service	020 8921 8029
SEND Outreach Support Services	020 8921 3311