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EYFS Leader Network

Autumn 2025



Agenda



- Updates and Training Opportunities
- What's Going Well ?
- Applying for school places and considerations around delaying school start
- Attendance/inclusion/belonging
- Identifying vulnerability – using the resources we have to support inclusion

Updates



- Changing Language – “early education” and “educator”
- New EYFS in place - [EYFS statutory framework - for group and school-based providers.pdf](#)
- New Ofsted Framework from November - [Early years inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK](#)
- A new Best Start in Life website ([beststartinlife.gov.uk](#) or ‘The Best Start in Life parent hub’) will replace the existing NHS Start for Life and UK Government Childcare Choices websites. Parents will now be able to access that same information and support in one place with content on topics that will take them from pregnancy, through their child's journey to starting school and beyond.
- Save the date – Conference – Saturday 14th March 2026 in Horsham

Review and revitalise your business model!

Funded course to support your childcare business



'Strengthen, Grow and Future-Proof: Building Your Sustainable Childcare Business'



Take a day away from 'business-as-usual' to explore how your business currently works and what could work better.

If you have any questions regarding this training, please email early.years.training@westsussex.gov.uk.

This course has 2 parts, a short online session followed by a full day face to face session.

[Strengthen, Grow and Future-Proof: Building your sustainable childcare business \(North\)](#)

- Part 1 - 17 October 2025 – 9.30am to 10.30am (Online)
- Part 2 - 18 November 2025 – 9.00am to 3.30pm (County Hall North, Horsham)

[Strengthen, Grown and Future-Proof: Building your sustainable childcare business \(South\)](#)

- Part 1 - 17 October 2025 – 9.30am to 10.30am (Online)
- Part 2 - 19 November 2025 – 09.00am to 3.30pm (Field Place, Worthing)

National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)



This year, there is only one cohort for the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL). It is due to start in November and the deadline for settings to secure a funded place is 10th October. If you are not eligible for a funded place, the fee is £1148.

More information can be found on the GLF website - [NPQEYL - GLF West Sussex Teaching School Hub](#).



Joy in Early Years



Why children need joy – YouTube

If you would like to hear more from Ben Kingston-Hughes, please contact your local setting support inbox for access to our video which you can use for training for groups of practitioners.



Workforce Support

- We are working on developing access to a range of courses to support new early years educators and those developing in their role. Please watch out for more information in the weekly newsletter that will be coming soon
- You asked, we did, so please use this resource to advertise vacancies free of charge - [Advertise early years and childcare jobs - West Sussex County Council](#)



Transition Events 2026



Localities	Venue	Date of Event	Time of Event
Lancing and Shoreham	The Glebe School	Friday 8 May	8.45-11.45 am
Worthing and Durrington	Vale School	Wednesday 6 May	1.30-5pm
Worthing	Springfield Infant School	Tuesday 28 April	1.30-4.30pm
Angmering and Littlehampton	Wickbourne Centre	Friday 1 May	1-4pm
Bognor Regis and Felpham	Phoenix Centre	Friday 8 May	11.30am-4.30pm
Chichester	Chichester Free School	Tuesday 5 May	9.30am-1pm
Midhurst and Petworth	Midhurst CE Primary	Tuesday 28 April	3.30-6pm
Southbourne	Bosham Primary	Thursday 7 May	9am-12.30pm
Crawley SE and SW	Broadfield Family Hub	Friday 1 May	9am-12.30pm
Crawley NE and NW	Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School	Friday 8 May	1-4.30pm
Billingshurst	Billingshurst Primary School	Thursday 30 April	8-11.30 am
Horsham West	Arunside School	Thursday 7 May	4-5.30pm
Horsham East	Bohunt School	Wednesday 6 May	9am-12.30pm
Steyning/ Storrington	TBC	TBC	TBC
Burgess Hill and Hassocks	London Meed Community Primary	Friday 1 May	8.30am-12pm
East Grinstead	Blackwell Primary School	Wednesday 6 May	3.30-5.30pm
Haywards Heath and Cuckfield	Warden Park	Wednesday 29 April	2.30-5.30pm

Sharing: What's going well



Attendance/Inclusion/Belonging – supporting families

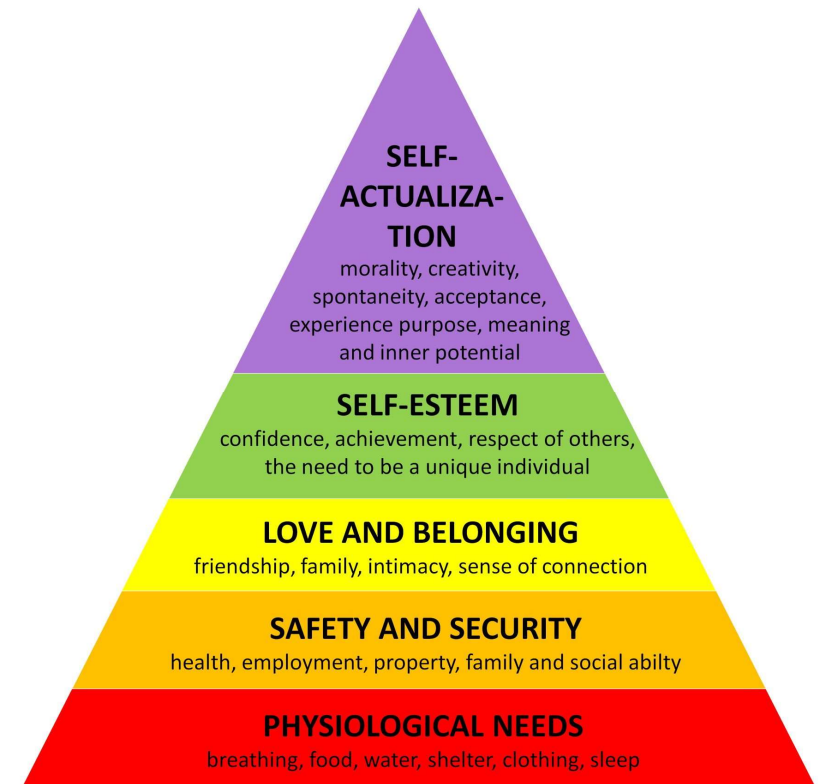
- Why does this matter?
- What does this look like?

[Attendance matters \(England\) – PACEY](#)

[Attendance guidance for early years foundation stage](#)

[Early years attendance | School attendance | Swindon](#)

[Borough Council](#)



Statutory School Age



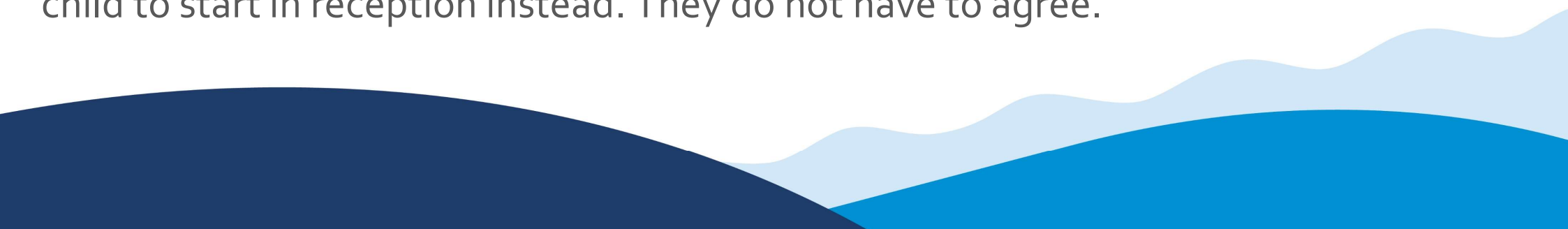
Compulsory school age

Your child must start full-time education once they reach compulsory school age. This is on 31 December, 31 March or 31 August following their fifth birthday - whichever comes first. If your child's fifth birthday is on one of those dates then they reach compulsory school age on that date.

For example, if your child reaches compulsory school age on 31 March, they must start full-time education at the beginning of the next term (summer term that year).

If your child starts in the September after they turn 5

Your child will go into [year 1](#). Contact the local council or school if you want your child to start in reception instead. They do not have to agree.



Starting School



- [Summer born children: advice for parents - GOV.UK](#)
- [Admission of children outside their normal year group - West Sussex County Council](#)
- What are the rules around accessing childcare while being home educated?
[Elective home education: guide for parents](#)

Activity/Discussion: What are the benefits and risks of delaying school start – for the child, their family and the EY setting



Activity



	Child	Child's Family	Setting
Risks			
Benefits			

Supporting Transition to School



What can you do as an EY Educator to support:

- A child to be ready for school?
- A parent to apply for a school place?
- A parent who is anxious about their child starting school?

[Home - Starting Reception](#)

[School Readiness Questionnaire](#)

Do you get any feedback from schools?



Points to consider and share with parents



Funding for the setting – needs to be agreed before a place is offered – via EYFE and/or SENAT

There may not be a place in the EY setting

Parents need to apply for a place and then apply to defer/delay start

Every time a child changes school, they will need to reapply for admission outside their school age group

EYFE stops in the term after a child turns 5

What is the impact for staff and other children in the setting?

Impact of the child not starting school with their peers

EYFE stops in the term after a child turns 5

School transport may not be funded after the end of Year 10



Thank you for joining us..

Safe journey home.

