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Childminder Network

Summer 2026



Agenda



- Updates
- Starting Reception/leaflets/working with parents
- Safer sleep Guidance
- [Best Start Plan 2026 to 2029 - West Sussex County Council](#)
- [Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies: guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK](#)
- PEEP and Parent Partnership

Updates



- Ofsted: explore an area
- Inclusive early years fund for 2026 to 2027: conditions of grant and operational guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK



The Potty Training Guide



Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home.



startingreception.co.uk

The Children's Toothbrushing Guide



Safer Sleep



- [Help for early years providers : Safer sleep](#)
- [Baby safer sleep advice - Best Start in Life – NHS](#)
- [Home | The Lullaby Trust](#)
- [Safer Sleeping Practices for Early Years Educators - Foundation Years](#)
- [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\): Safer sleep requirements – Frequently Asked Question - Foundation Years](#)
- [Safe sleep in nurseries](#)



Now published ...

[Best Start Plan 2026 to 2029 -
West Sussex County Council](#)

[Best Start Family Hubs and
Healthy Babies: guidance for local
authorities - GOV.UK](#)

Why the Early Years Matter



The first 1,001 days are key to children's development. Babies' brains grow quickly, and early relationships help children feel safe.

Our Vision



Every child in West Sussex gets the Best Start in Life. Is safe, healthy, happy, and ready to learn.

Our Three Priorities

1. Better support for families



2. More accessible early education and childcare



3. Better quality in early years and Reception



We want



More children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception year in school.



Children developing well and staying safe.



Parents to feel confident as a parent.

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More two year olds taking up their funded entitlement.



More children ready to start school.

How we will deliver the plan

We have five areas of work:



Supporting home learning environments



Improvement for early years settings and schools



Increase number of families using their funded entitlement



Improve Inclusion and SEND support



Improve maternal and early years help

PEEP Learning Together



[How Peep Programmes can support your work with families](#) - video link

[About | www.peeple.org.uk](http://www.peeple.org.uk)

Strand Map - Peep Learning Together Programme

Strands

PSED
Personal, Social and Emotional
Development

CL
Communication and
Language

EL
Early Literacy

EM
Early Maths

HPD
Health and Physical
Development

Sub-strands and topics

• Personal and social development

- Knowing me, knowing you
- Helping babies feel good about themselves
- Helping children feel good about themselves
- Becoming 'me'
- The importance of names
- The importance of relationships

• Learning

- An introduction to ORIM
- The importance of support and encouragement

• Play

- Treasure baskets: babies making choices
- How children play
- Lots of ways to play and learn
- Schemas: making the most of play patterns

• Behaviour

- Making the most of routines
- Helping children to understand and manage their feelings
- Understanding and managing behaviour

• Early communication

- The very first language
- Early conversations
- Finding a voice
- Musical moments

• Speaking and listening

- Making sense of sounds
- Becoming a good listener
- Becoming a talker
- Talking and listening with children
- Thinking and talking

• Communication and language anywhere

- Play and language
- Imaginative play with puppets
- Things to do and talk about together
- Musical interactions
- Making the most of technology
- Talking maths

• Books and beyond

- Sharing books with babies
- Sharing books with toddlers and young children
- Making the most of favourite books and stories
- Our world in books
- Storytelling
- Exploring stories through play
- Home-made books

• Reading

- Environmental print
- Wonderful ways with words
- Becoming a reader

• Writing

- Mark making
- Exploring writing through play
- Becoming a writer

• Early literacy everywhere

- Lots to read and write about
- Literacy and technology

• Fun with maths

- Mathematical babies
- Exploring early maths
- Maths in everyday routines
- Maths in books, toys and games
- Maths in songs and rhymes
- Mathematical adventures

• Numbers & counting

- Exploring numbers
- Number names
- Toddler numbers
- Let's count
- Numbers, numbers everywhere

• Maths everywhere

- A sense of order
- Shapes and patterns everywhere
- Sorting and matching
- Exploring measures

• Healthy living

- Food for life
- Exploring food
- Making the most of food and mealtimes
- Looking after 'me'
- Exploring nature

• Physical development

- Babies on the move
- Exploring movement
- Musical movements
- Movement and language
- Building a brain

• Sensory development

- Early sensory experiences
- Making sense of the world
- Understanding our place in space
- Developing balance and co-ordination

Working with Early Years Education Settings



- Sessions will be delivered in the BSiL Family Hubs- childminders play a key role in delivering this information to families.
- How can childminders help?
 - Promote and signpost families?
 - Use materials as part of their parent partnership work?
 - Any other suggestions?

Parent Partnership



What does parent partnership look like in my setting?

How do I ensure that working with parents is a genuine partnership?

Parents are a child's first and most influential educators, laying the foundation for development, learning, and well-being from birth.

Core Principles of Parents as First Educators

- The First Years are Critical:

Early life is vital for development; parents are the primary influence during this time.

- Learning Through Interaction:

Parents build a child's character and development through everyday interaction, play, and emotional bonding.

- Partnership, Not Just Teaching

Effective, evidence-based practices emphasise that parents and practitioners should work together to support a child's learning.

Partnership with other EYC providers

[Help for early years providers : Working in partnership with parents and carers](#)

How do I engage with parents that are "hard to engage"?

How can I improve and develop my parent partnership?

Involvement vs Engagement



Network meetings next year



To support networking moving forward, we will be moving to offering all of our networks as face-to-face events next year.





SERVICES FOR
EDUCATION

Networking time...

Thank you for joining us..

Safe journey home.

