

Early Years Network Led by Shropshire Council

22.09.2026

09:30-10:30 OR 19:00-20:00

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Early Years conference – November 5th
- GLD with Rosie Boardman
- EYPP
- Attendance
- EYFS Statutory Framework Updates 2026
- Early Years Funding

Early Years Conference

Thursday 5th November 2026

Shrewsbury Town Football Club (arrival from 08:30)

09:00-15:30

£25pp Early Bird Discount until 30th September 2026

KEYNOTE FROM
DR AARON BRADBURY



SCHEMA PLAY

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE PRACTICE WITH
KCA

DFE RISE ADVISOR FOR EARLY YEARS

*Booking and Payments links have been
sent*

*Places will be confirmed once payment
has been processed*

[Early Years Conference 2026 Booking Link](#)

Shropshire... our context 2024-2025

2024/25

68.0%

Overall GLD

-0.3% vs National



2027/28

77.0%

Target (Overall)

2024/25

43.7%

FSM GLD

-7.6% vs National (FSM)



2027/28

56.1%

Target (FSM)

By 2027/28

245

Additional children
achieving
GLD to meet target
(overall)

By 2027/28

38

Additional children
achieving
GLD to meet target
(FSM)

In 2024/25, **68.0% (1,865)** of all assessed children in Shropshire achieved a GLD in their reception year and **43.7% (135)** of children eligible for free school meals achieved a GLD.

To reach our overall GLD target of **77.0%** by 2028 and your 2023/24 population, an additional **245** children would need to reach GLD.

To reach our free school meals GLD target of **56%** by 2028, an additional **38** children eligible for free school meals would need to reach GLD.

Shropshire GLD 2025/2026

GOOD LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT (GLD)

— 2025/2026 —

ALL CHILDREN



72.4%
achieved GLD



INCREASE OF
4.4%
since last year

CHILDREN ACCESSING FSM



44.2%
of children accessing FSM
achieved GLD



INCREASE OF
1.0%
since last year



159
PUPILS

OUT OF
360
PUPILS



Continued progress. Bright futures.



How can we ensure earlier support?

ASQ-3 data

2024/25

78.4%

Communication

-9.2% vs England

2024/25

86.5%

Gross Motor

-7.0% vs England

2024/25

89.9%

Fine Motor

-3.8% vs England

2024/25

87.4%

Problem Solving

-5.5% vs England

2024/25

84.5%

Personal-Social

-7.3% vs England



Research using the **Connected Bradford** dataset examined the relationship between the **Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3)** completed at 24-30 months and **Good Level of Development (GLD)** at age 5.

Key findings:

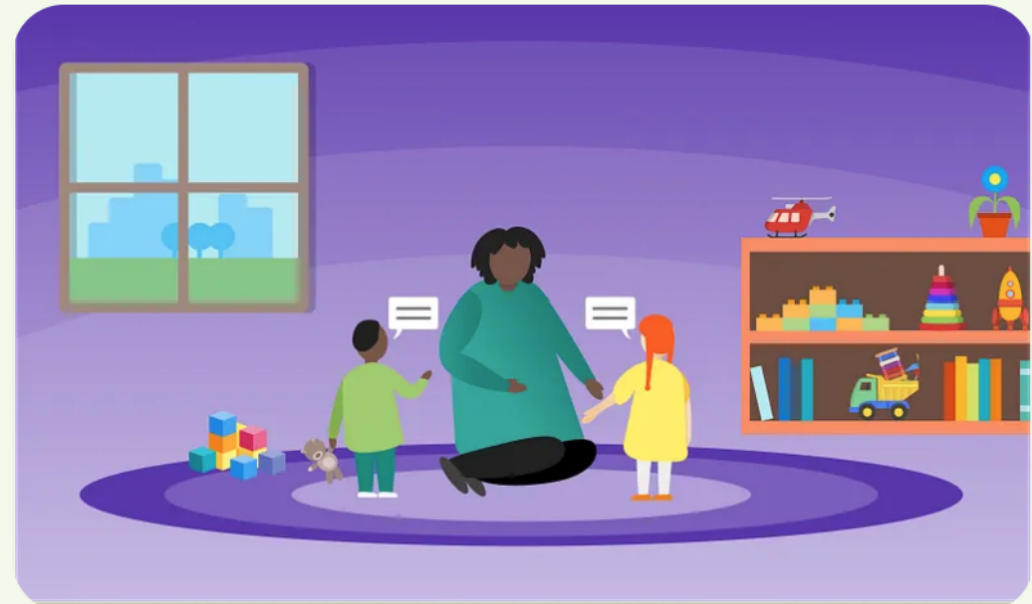
- Children who achieved a good level of development on the ASQ-3 at age 2 had **more than three times the odds of achieving GLD at age 5.**
- Boys and children living in the most deprived areas were less likely to achieve GLD on both measures.
- The findings show that developmental differences can already be identified by age 2, providing an opportunity for earlier support

EYPP – Why strategy is more important than resources when closing learning gaps

What is the Early Years Pupil Premium?

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) has one aim: to improve outcomes for children from lower-income families from 9 months upwards. As of April 2026, the Department for Education (DfE) has increased funding for the EYPP to £655 per eligible child per year, following uplifts in 2024 and 2025.

A child's family income shouldn't be a barrier to their achievement and wellbeing in the early years. Early years settings (including childminders, nurseries and schools) can use this increased funding to help every child to flourish.



Which children are entitled to EYPP?

Child must be accessing funded entitlement hours and one of the below

If parent or carer receives one or more of the following:

- Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, the guaranteed element of Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190), the Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit), or Universal Credit where household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax, not including any benefits.
- A child who is currently looked after by a local authority in England or Wales is eligible, as is a child who was formerly looked after through adoption, a special guardianship order or a child arrangements order. For a child who is currently looked after, the local authority pays EYPP across the full 570 hours, regardless of how many entitlement hours the child takes up.

EYPP Strategy

Start with self-evaluation, exploring questions with our teams such as:

Do all our educators know which children receive EYPP so they can provide tailored support?

Within our cohorts, what are the children's strengths and needs?

How do we know that children from lower-income backgrounds are making progress?

How to spend your EYPP

When you take a balanced approach to spending your Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), you can make sure that you are:

- Continuing to develop quality practice to deliver the greatest benefits for children from lower-income families.
- Considering the particular strengths and needs of each child.
- Making and embedding changes to practice, so that your EYPP funding continues to benefit children from lower-income families in the future.



How will you know it is working?

You do not need to write detailed and lengthy documents and gather lots of 'data' for your EYPP strategy. For example, you can check the impact of your strategy by observing changes to educators' practice 'on the ground'.

- **Are educators using the approaches you have discussed to improve the quality of their practice?**
- **Do you observe high-quality interactions throughout the day?**
- **Do you notice those interactions inside and outdoors, whilst children are learning and playing, and also during daily routines?**
- **Are educators consistently providing extra support and teaching for the children who need it?**
- **How are the children responding?**

Over time, you might consider using an evidence-informed screening tool for tracking children's progress as part of your strategy.

How to claim EYPP:

[Home](#) [Forms](#) [Funding](#) [Sufficiency](#) [Images](#) [My Details](#)

Summary Estimates **Actuals** Adjustments Eligibility Checker

[Child Details](#) [Parent / Carer Details](#) [Funding Details](#) [Documents](#)

Entering Parent/Carer details enables us to check whether the child is eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding, and whether the child is eligible for expanded hours.

Please ensure you input details for all records that have given their permission to do so, as this ensures you receive the additional funding. Please also ensure that the correct consent boxes are selected as per the usage of the details.

Parent / Carer Details		Partner Details	
Forename		Forename	
Surname		Surname	
DOB		DOB	
Email		Email	
Contact Number		Contact Number	
☐ NI or ☐ NASS Number		☐ NI or ☐ NASS Number	
Tick to give consent to Eligibility Checking for	☐ EYPP ☐ Working Family Eligibility	Tick to give consent to Eligibility Checking for	☐ EYPP ☐ Working Family Eligibility

⇌ Switch

Consent for Eligibility Checking:
EYPP: The Surname, DOB and NI or NASS Number will also be required for this data to be used for an Eligibility Check.
Working Family: The Surname and NI Number will also be required for this data to be used for an Eligibility Check.

Further information

Look for evidence-based approaches (such as interactive reading) - [Early Years Toolkit | EEF](#)

Shropshire Learning Gateway - [Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\) | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)

EEF Guide to EYPP - [Early Years Pupil Premium | EEF](#)

EYPP Myth-busting [Early Years Pupil Premium myth-busting | EEF](#)

Rosie's Slides on GLD

Attendance

Child absences

3.11 Providers must follow up on absences in a timely manner. If a child is absent for a prolonged period of time, or if a child is absent without notification from the parent and/or carer, attempts must be made to contact the child's parents and/or carers and alternative emergency contacts. Providers must consider patterns and trends in a child's absences and their personal circumstances and use their professional judgement when deciding if the child's absence should be considered as prolonged. Consideration must be given to the child's vulnerability, parent's and/or carer's vulnerability and their home life. Any concerns must be referred to local children's social care services and/or a police welfare check requested.

3.12 Providers must have an attendance policy that they share with parents and/or carers. This must include expectations for reporting child absences and the actions providers will take if a child is absent without notification or for a prolonged period of time, for example: implementing the setting's safeguarding procedures, following up with the parents and/or carers and contacting emergency contacts if parents and/or carers are not contactable.

[Childminders Attendance and Non Attendance Policy Template](#)

[Early Years Settings Attendance and Non Attendance Policy Template](#)

Greater Focus on Quality of Care, Ofsted have strengthened their wording around if safeguarding is met or not met, where it is felt that the quality of care is such that children have or may have or are at risk of harm, this will be considered not met

Safer Sleep , Weaning and Safer Eating ,Inspectors must check that staff understand safer sleeping, weaning and safer eating arrangements and that it is implemented by ALL

Safer Recruitment , Inspectors must review DBS records and discuss the safer recruitment processes, including references, checks, qualifications (including Paediatric First Aid training) and verifying these.

Inclusion, Inspectors will speak with SENCo and leaders about inclusion, they want to see it embedded and clear in children's experiences

There is a greater alignment between the inspection framework and the EYFS, the inspectors want to see you have embedded the EYFS across your whole setting and that you can demonstrate staff knowledge of what they are doing and why they are doing it.



Key EYFS Safeguarding Changes

EYFS changes from September 2026 – what do they mean for settings? - Foundation Years

Concerns about children's safety and welfare

Ofsted Reporting Threshold:

3.10 - Settings / 3.11 - Childminders

Registered providers must inform Ofsted, or the CMA with which a provider of CoDP is registered, **of any allegations of harm or abuse** by anyone living, working, or looking after children at the premises.

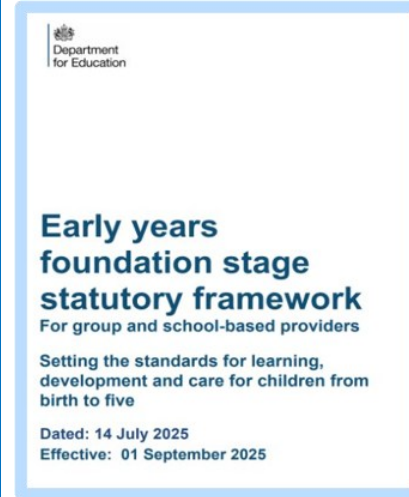
Suitable People

DBS:

3.15 - Settings / 3.16 - Childminders

Registered group and school-based providers, except CoDP providers, must obtain an enhanced criminal records check and barred list check for **every person aged 16 and over including all volunteers** who:

- Works directly with children.
- Lives on the premises on which the childcare is provided (unless there is no access to the part of the premises when and where children are cared for) and/or
- Works on the premises on which the childcare is provided (unless they do not work on the part of the premises where the childcare takes place, or do not work there at times when children are present).



Suitable People

Suitability Disclosure:

3.17 - Settings / 3.18 - Childminders

Providers must tell staff and prospective staff that they must disclose any information which may affect their suitability to work with children including, but not limited to, **arrests, charges, convictions**, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings (whether received before or during their employment at the setting). **Providers must not allow individuals to begin working or volunteering at the setting until they have received the applicant's enhanced criminal records and barred list check. Providers must not allow anyone whose suitability has not been checked, including through a criminal records and barred list check, to have unsupervised contact with children being cared for.**

References

Volunteers and Students:

3.20- Settings / 3.21 - Childminders

Providers must obtain at least one written reference for any member of staff **(including students and volunteers)** before they are recruited.

Staff : Child Ratios

Ratios:

3.47 - Settings / 3.49 - Childminders

The ratio requirements apply to the total number of staff available to work directly with children, **across the whole provision, not just each room.**

Banned Dog breeds - [Controlling your dog in public: Banned dogs - GOV.UK](#)

3.82- settings / 3.81 - Childminders

Banned dog breeds (meaning dogs to which section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 applies including the XL Bully type), must not be kept or present on the premises at any time.

Sleeping arrangements - [Safer Sleep in Early Years Settings Q&A - Foundation Years](#)

3.86 - Settings and Childminders

Key requirements include:

- Children under 2 must be placed on their back to sleep.
- Children must have their own separate sleep space.
- Sleep spaces must be on a firm, flat surface.
- Babies aged 12 months and under must sleep in a cot.
- Sleeping children must be checked regularly and remain within sight and hearing of staff.
- Providers must read and follow safer sleep guidance and consider [Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\)- NHS](#)

Children's Screen use

3.94 - Settings / 3.93 - Childminders

Providers must have regard to the following guidance on children's screen use in early years settings: [Help for early years providers : Screen Use](#)

SSCP Learning Events – Online – Free to attend – Multiagency – Everyone Welcome

September 2026:

- Tuesday 22nd September 19:00 – 20:00
- Thursday 24th September 12:00 – 13:00
- Monday 28th September 12:00 – 13:00

October 2026:

- Thursday 1st October 10:00 - 11:00
- Tuesday 6th October 16:00 - 17:00
- Thursday October 8th 15:30 – 16:30
- Saturday October 10th 10:00 – 11:00
- Monday 12th October 12:00 – 13:00
- Wednesday 14th October 10:00 - 11:00
- Monday 19th October 16:00 - 17:00
- Thursday 22nd October 13:00 - 14:00

November 2026:

- Thursday 5th November 10:00 – 11:00
- Tuesday 10th November 16:00 – 17:00
- Tuesday 17th November 11:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday 24th November 12:00 – 13:00



Early Years Funding

- Autumn Actual headcount deadline is the **Sunday 4th October**
- Beth & Brydie mat leave, Karina & Jules in place
- NEF Inbox- We aim to respond within 5 working days
- Please direct any queries to NEF@shropshire.gov.uk
- We are going to be producing some 'How to' videos.
Suggestions welcome!