



Hello and welcome to the EY Circle, PACEY's monthly newsletter, bringing the early years sector closer together.

As we approach the spring, we are reminded that it has been nearly one year since the 2023 Spring Budget which saw the Chancellor announce a series of bold childcare measures designed to get more parents back to work. Never before has our sector been at the forefront of the news so often, never before has the response from the sector been so united in opposition. We know the chaotic rollout of the expansion of the funded scheme in England has so far caused confusion amongst parents and uncertainty for providers, but will we have to wait until April to see the true scale of the issues we all face? What measures will be included in this year's budget to save our sector? We wait and see.

Children come first and are still at the heart of everything we do so, in this issue of The EY Circle, Gemma Goldenberg delves into 'neuroplasticity' and the importance of building children's persistence and resilience. We look at outdated misconceptions of caring for children with Down syndrome and how providers can support them to flourish as well as provide some useful safeguarding reminders while acknowledging the vulnerability positions providers are put in when facing allegations themselves.

As always, PACEY is keen to work with organisations and individuals from across the sector to bring those passionate about childcare and early years with the latest news, policy updates, research, training, resources and so much more.

The biggest news from our sector



Recruitment campaign for early years



Wraparound childcare guidance released



A third of eligible parents may leave jobs



24% of early years providers expect to close due to financial pressures

Because children are at the heart of everything we do

This month, psychologist and education expert Gemma Goldenberg explores neuroplasticity and how children have the capacity to grow and change their brain, to improve and become stronger in their learning, building persistence and resilience.

'Characteristics like resilience and persistence are increasingly being considered alongside curriculum coverage. What use is a great set of exam results if you leave school unable to cope with failure or stick with a tricky problem? Learning characteristics matter for academic success but also for wellbeing and the earlier they are introduced; the more opportunities children have to develop them.'



[Read more](#)

Altering assumptions

There are an estimated 41,700 people living with Down syndrome in England and Wales, and two babies are born with the condition – caused by an extra chromosome in the body's cells – every day. Under the Equality Act 2010, which prohibits discrimination against people with a disability, service providers must treat those with Down syndrome fairly. But is this happening in early years settings? And are some childcare providers shying away from registering children with Down syndrome because of misconceptions?

'Practitioners need to understand each child individually and plan learning that helps that child reach their potential.'



[Read more](#)

Support and keep safe

For anyone working within an early years setting, protecting the child from harm is always top priority. At its simplest level this includes policies and procedures you follow within your own setting. But it also extends to managing broader concerns about the child's welfare both in the setting and at home. What do you do and who do you contact if you feel that something isn't right?

In short, whilst safeguarding has a straightforward goal-keeping the child safe from abuse, accidents

and mistreatment- it shapes up to be a large and complex topic. It can also be a real source of anxiety for providers, whether you're concerned about a child within your care or are facing allegations from others yourself.



[Read more](#)

Making waves in the sector

Laura Moore-Williams is an Early Years Consultant who started Laura Loves Learning in November last year. As well as a rich background in early education, Laura's parent friendly, relatable approach to early years learning and fun social pages give a refreshing take on your usual early years consultant. Laura is able to inspire parents without being condescending and support early years professionals with her experience and passion. Laura will be speaking at the Early Education and Childcare EXPO on Saturday 2 March.



[Instagram profile](#)

[LinkedIn profile](#)

Resource and guidance highlights

1

[Ofsted research survey.](#)

2

[Childminder mentor programme.](#)

3

[Early years inspection handbook update.](#)

4

[Child poverty strategy for Wales.](#)

01.03

[Childcare and Education EXPO \(London\)](#)

09.03

[Stronger Practice Hubs Childminder conference](#)

12.03

[DfE provider roadshow](#)

16.03

[PACEY Regional Networking Morning - Leeds](#)

19.03

[PACEY x DfE forum | 6pm: How wraparound care can meet the needs of children with SEND - register your interest](#)

PACEY is here to support

PACEY memberships

We have extended our no joining fee offer, so you can still save £26 when you purchase a PACEY membership this month!



Whether you work alone or in a group setting, we have tailored memberships to support everyone with training, insurance, advice, products, policy and updates.

For the month of March, we will continue to waive the joining fee for all PACEY memberships. To take advantage of this offer, please call our membership services team on 0300 003 0005 Mon- Fri 10am- 3.30pm.

[Explore PACEY memberships](#)

PACEY Connect is a package of services designed to help local authorities, boroughs and other key partners support childcare and early years professionals in their area.

PACEY Connect offers support that is:

- ★ Flexible
- ★ Tailored to your local need
- ★ Excellent value for money
- ★ Delivered by Early Years and Childcare experts
- ★ Available virtually

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[Find out more](#)



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