

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries

Sent: 17 January 2021 19:08

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 17 January 2021 FEEE funding

Dear All

Following on from the FEEE funding update we shared with you last week, we have been receiving a lot of enquiries and so have put together the attached FEEE Funding FAQ document for your information.

Please note: we have decided to implement a short extension for all early years settings, including school run early years settings, to allow for them to plan to be fully open to all registered children by the 25 January 2021 at the latest to claim be able to fully claim funding for the term.

Any early years settings that is able to be fully open by Monday 25 January 2021 will be able to make a full claim on the early years headcount and census for all children confirmed as registered for a funded place (irrespective of attendance) .

Please note this will be a one off exception only for the Spring 2021 early years headcount and census in recognition of the fact that local authorities did not receive the amended census guidance from the DfE until Thursday of last week, and will allow some additional time for early years settings to arrange to be fully open, where required

Also included in this email: -

- FEEE funding FAQs
- Covid Testing for Early Years settings
- Updated Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Information
- Ofsted Inspections update
- Ofsted Mandating online notifications for early years
- Funding Opportunity for Early Years settings to access Health and Wellbeing support for staff working in registered Early Years and Childcare provision

FEEE funding FAQs – please see the attached document summarising the main themes of queries we are currently receiving

Covid Testing for Early Years settings – ECC are currently looking into the options available to increase the availability of testing for the early years sector. In the meantime, the DfE have said that early years settings should be accessing the local community testing facilities. To support this, please find attached a document that lists the website for each of the local council Covid websites and information on how to access a community Covid test.

For anyone showing symptoms, they should follow the guidance at the following link [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-nhs-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)

Updated Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Information – please find attached an information sheet on the latest information on the CJRS

Ofsted Inspections update – please see the attached document with an update from Ofsted on how they will be carrying out inspections this term

Ofsted Mandating online notifications for early years from 28 January, all childcare providers must use the [online notification form](#) to notify Ofsted of significant events. Providers must no longer notify them by phone or email after this date.

Ofsted want to make sure they can act on the information that is shared with them as quickly as possible, without any undue delay. The form is accessible and can be used on mobile and tablets, so that you are able to submit information swiftly and at ease.

Funding Opportunity – Early Years to access Health and Wellbeing support for staff working in registered Early Years and Childcare provision

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Essex County Council is reaching out to registered Early Years and Childcare providers with an opportunity for grant funding. A one-off small grant is available which can be used to access Health and Wellbeing support for staff working in registered Early Years and Childcare provision. Please see the detail of the grant below: -

Small Grants to Support the Early Years Workforce

Small grants of up to £2,000 will be available to enable registered Early Years and Childcare providers within the community to access interventions to support the wellbeing of their own staff where they are feeling the impact of COVID-19. The funding is for small registered Early Years and Childcare providers, who do not have their own dedicated HR function and can demonstrate a need for funding to access targeted support, for example group coaching, counselling, or other well-being resources.

To register interest, please contact kate.fabricant@essex.gov.uk by **midday** on **Monday 25th January 2021**.

Providers expressing interest, will be sent an application form, to be returned by **midday** on **Tuesday 2nd February 2021** and will be notified as to whether or not they have been successful by **Friday 12th February 2021**.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

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