

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

**From:** Free Entitlement Funding Queries

**Sent:** 01 June 2021 17:41

**Subject:** FW: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 1st June 2021

Dear All

Hope you all have managed to enjoy the sunshine over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Please see updates on the following points in this email

- DfE Updates
- Changes to childminder testing process
- Essex Early Years Website
- Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 – Message from Early Years Entitlements
- DfE Attendance Survey – New link

### DfE Updates

[Making a childcare bubble with another household](#) Updated to reflect changes in taking step 3 of the roadmap.

[Check early years qualifications](#) Updated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Page summary: Find out if a person's qualifications allow them to work in an early years setting, and if you can include them in staff:child ratios.

Change made: Updated 'Overseas qualifications' with additional information on how to request recognition of overseas qualifications.

### Changes to childminder testing process

Following feedback on the registration and uploading process since March, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS Test and Trace have been working to identify ways to make it easier for childminders to identify their profession when recording results on the NHS Covid-19 test results [portal](#).

The changes are due to come into effect from 2 June and are designed to allow us to monitor more clearly the effectiveness of our testing programme and identify any areas or groups within the early years childcare system that are not engaging in testing, so we can identify potential barriers.

Instructions on how childminders can access testing kits remains unchanged and can be found on the gov.uk webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asymptomatic-testing-early-years-staff-in-different-settings/rapid-asymptomatic-coronavirus-covid-19-testing-in-early-years-settings#childminders-and-wraparound-childcare-providers>

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Department for Education Coronavirus Helpdesk. Information on how to contact them can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

### **Essex Early Years Website**

This is to give advanced notice that the EYCP website is due to be migrated to Azure cloud on Tuesday 8th June. The website will be offline from around 2pm for around 2 hours. This does not affect direct access to the Provider Portal, but the link via the website will be unavailable.

### **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 – Message from Early Years Entitlements**

Last week, several of you contacted us with questions about a telephone survey that some of your local providers have been invited to complete by the Department for Education. We would like to confirm that this contact is part of the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 and is a legitimate request that has been issued on behalf of the Department for Education. We commission an independent research contractor (NatCen) to carry out the survey fieldwork. This research is very important to the Department and providers' participation would be extremely valuable, but is entirely voluntary.

When contacting school-based and group-based providers we do aim to limit calls to business hours unless an appointment outside of those times has been agreed, but we appreciate that this hasn't always been the experience of some settings. If interviewers do call at a time that is not convenient for your providers, they are happy to call back at a time that suits respondents.

### **DfE Attendance Survey**

Thank you to all of you who have continued to submit the attendance data for the DfE each week. Just an advanced warning that the link to the survey will be changing after half term.

The link to use for submissions for week commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June through to the end of the summer term will be: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforce-development-1/65db2cd7>

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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