

Early Years Coronavirus Guidance issued 1.4.2020

Yesterday evening (01.04.2020) the Department for Education released a guidance note titled 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): Early Years and Childcare Closures' this covers lots of frequently asked questions, on the following areas:

- The Roles and Responsibilities of the Early Years and Childcare Sector
- Settings staying open for Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable children
- The EYFS – including ratios, the EYFS Profile, DBS and First Aid requirements during this period
- Funding and Business support available
- Food
- Ofsted
- Childminders
- Holidays – both holiday care and annual leave of staff

The guidance clarified that settings would be able to access funding to furlough staff as well as claiming their Free Entitlement funding via local authorities “The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme means that for employees who are not working but kept on payroll, the government will contribute 80% of each worker’s wages of up to £2,500, backdated to 1 March 2020. Settings can access this scheme while continuing to be paid the early entitlements funding via local authorities.”

The document can be accessed here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Early Years and Childcare Closures](#)

The Government have also recently produced further guidance regarding furloughed staff, clarifying that staff can be placed on furlough more than once, and one period can follow straight after an existing furlough period, whilst the scheme remains open. Each furlough needs to be for a minimum of 3 weeks. [Updated Job Retention scheme guidance.](#)