Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

Please see below this week’s Government updates for you and your staff.  There have been no updates for families this week.  There is also a reminder from the Department for Education regarding the reporting of COVID-related closures to Ofsted.  Could we also take this opportunity to remind you that alongside notifying Ofsted of any such closures please could you also notify your Childcare Sufficiency Officer or Childminding Adviser of a closure or where COVID infections are impacting on your ability to deliver your full offer.

[Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children’s social care](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=a764b77c-fc34-4f2b-9119-5b72d4b41880&utm_content=daily) 22 October 2021

Change made: We have updated this guidance to reflect the withdrawal of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self Employment Income Support Scheme on 30 September 2021.

[Recovery Loan Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recovery-loan-scheme?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=96ff3964-b7a5-48ec-8f94-a75fd1f8625c&utm_content=daily) 27 October 2021

Change made: Updated the guidance in refection of the Autumn Budget 2021.

At Autumn Budget 2021, the Chancellor announced that the Recovery Loan Scheme would be extended until 30 June 2022.

From 1 January 2022, the following changes will come into force:

* the scheme will only be open to small and medium sized enterprises
* the maximum amount of finance available will be £2 million per business
* the guarantee coverage that the Government will provide to lenders will be reduced to 70%.

These changes will apply to all offers made from 1 January 2022.

**Department for Education Reminder**

The Early Years Entitlements Team has been made aware by Ofsted that some early years settings have not been reporting COVID-related closures to them because they think this is no longer a requirement.

Please can we remind you that settings must notify Ofsted, or the childminder agency with which they are registered, of any confirmed cases in the setting, whether a child or a staff member. Settings should also tell Ofsted if they have to close the setting as a result. It is a legal requirement as set out in paragraph **3.52** of the [early years foundation stage statutory framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2). They should report as soon as they are able to, and in any case within 14 days. Settings can see ‘[tell Ofsted if you have a COVID-19 incident at your childcare business](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tell-ofsted-if-you-have-a-covid-19-incident-at-your-childcare-business)’ to ensure that all the required information is included in their notifications.