



BY EMAIL

**Our ref
Date**

Opening arrangements from 1st June
Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well in these difficult times. I know most of you have been working closely with your child's early years setting, during the last few weeks, to provide home learning activities and experiences for your children.

I am sure you will be aware that, following the government's updated guidance on education settings, there are provisional plans for early years settings to begin to expand the current offer and welcome back more children from 1st June. This will only go ahead if the government is confident that the five key tests it has set out suggest that this is appropriate.

Of course, every early years setting wants to welcome children back as soon as possible, but arrangements will vary from setting to setting, according to different circumstances. The priority, at all times, will be the safety of children, families and staff. The early years setting's risk assessment will be used to decide what they can and cannot provide for their children and families.

If your child has been attending their early years setting during the last few weeks, they should continue to do so.

In order to prepare, each early years setting will undertake a very thorough risk assessment. This will involve a careful consideration of the individual setting's circumstances, buildings and staffing levels to ensure they are able to keep children, families and staff safe.

These plans will involve a whole range of protective measures to reduce the risk of spreading infection including, for example, smaller teaching groups, staggered breaks and lunches, use of outdoor spaces, arrangements for drop-off and collection and frequent cleaning of surfaces.

Please be reassured that your child's early years setting will contact you before 1st June to let you know the arrangements they have made and whether your child can start re-attending.

Yours sincerely

Alison Hurley
Director, Education and Skills

People Directorate

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