**Early Years settings**

The Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (‘Statutory framework’, DfE, 2021) states that the Lead Practitioner for safeguarding must attend a child protection training course that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect, taking account of any advice from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (in Essex, this is the Essex Safeguarding Children Board) or local authority on appropriate training courses.

The Statutory framework also states that:

* *A practitioner must be designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in every setting. Childminders must take the lead responsibility themselves*

* *The lead practitioner is responsible for liaison with local statutory children's services agencies, and with the LSCB. They must provide support, advice, and guidance to any other staff on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issue as required. The lead practitioner must attend a child protection training course that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect*
* *Providers must train all staff to understand their safeguarding policy and procedures and ensure that all staff have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues. Training made available by the provider must enable staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, and to respond in a timely and appropriate way.*

From September 2021, the safeguarding training requirements for Early Years settings in Essex are aligned to Essex schools. These requirements are as follows:

* all staff in early years settings should access [**Level 1 training**](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fesca.essexacl.ac.uk%2Flogin%2Findex.php&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca63e85eebea842fda57b08d9713748a2%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637665304514037085%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yakI3PsP2BmU67r1eeNOC9wB%2BiZF%2FeP5wpK5GMHG6cM%3D&reserved=0) *(this should be part of the induction process for all new staff);*
* all staff within a setting must have **Level 2 training**, at least annually. For those settings who wish staff to access this from an external source, the Essex preferred provider is [Anster](https://www.escb.co.uk/learning-and-development/safeguarding-children-level-2/). Alternatively, Lead Practitioners may wish to deliver Level 2 training to all staff within their setting themselves. *(To support Lead Practitioners in doing this, we have provided presentations for them to deliver to staff, which include all the necessary material. It is also possible to do a combination of these two options, depending on the needs of individual settings)*
* all Lead Practitioners for safeguarding (including sole childminders) must access **Level 3** training. In Essex, the preferred provider is [Juniper Education](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjunipereducation.org%2Fcpd%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca63e85eebea842fda57b08d9713748a2%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637665304514047077%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2F3SZQE5ITNk%2BdgwtVREO3JC7ZpBPxhEUL9L8WpUAfT4%3D&reserved=0), although settings are free to access a different provider if preferred. This should be undertaken every two years.