

## **EARLY YEARS TIMELINE 1990 to mid 2008**

This covers the period from about 1990 to June 2008, and includes legislation, government policies and initiatives, and reports from government and other sources.

NOTE: This Timeline refers to England. For more details on issues elsewhere in the UK visit:

Scotland [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk) (0131 228 8484)

Wales [www.childreninwales.org.uk](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk) (029 2034 2434)

Northern Ireland <http://www.early-years.org/> (028 9066 2825)

### ACRONYMS and links to organisations etc named in this timeline:

CACHE: Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education [www.cache.org.uk](http://www.cache.org.uk)

CWDC: Children's Workforce Development Council [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk)

DFEE: Dept for Education and Employment [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

DH: Dept of Health [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

ECF: Early Childhood Forum [www.ncb.org.uk/ecf](http://www.ncb.org.uk/ecf)

EPPE: Effective Provision of Pre-school Education [www.ioe.ac.uk/schools/ecpe/eppe/index.htm](http://www.ioe.ac.uk/schools/ecpe/eppe/index.htm)

EYD(C)P: Early Years Development (and Childcare) Partnership

EYNTO: Early Years National Training Organisation

KS: Key Stage

LEA: Local Education Authority

NCB: National Children's Bureau [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

NESS: National Evaluation of Sure Start [www.ness.bbk.ac.uk/](http://www.ness.bbk.ac.uk/)

NQIN: National Quality Improvement Network [www.ncb.org.uk/nqin](http://www.ncb.org.uk/nqin)

OFSTED: Office for Standards in Education [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

QCA: Qualification and Curriculum Authority [www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)

SCAA : Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority

TSO: The Stationery Office [www.tsoshop.co.uk/bookstore.asp](http://www.tsoshop.co.uk/bookstore.asp)

CSR: Comprehensive Spending Review

DCSF: Dept for Children, Schools and Families [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

DFES: Dept for Education and Skills [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

DWP: Dept for Work and Pensions [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

ECU: Early Childhood Unit, NCB [www.ncb.org.uk/earlychildhood](http://www.ncb.org.uk/earlychildhood)

ESRC: Economic and Social research Council [www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk)

EYFS: Early Years Foundation Stage <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs/>

EYP: Early Years Professional [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/earlyyears.htm](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/earlyyears.htm)

LA: Local Authority

LAEYN: Local Authority Early Years Network [www.ncb.org.uk/earlychildhood](http://www.ncb.org.uk/earlychildhood)

NDNA: National Day Nurseries Association [www.ndna.org.uk](http://www.ndna.org.uk)

NNI: Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative

NVQ : National Vocational Qualification

PLA : Pre-school Learning Alliance [www.pre-school.org.uk](http://www.pre-school.org.uk)

RSA : Royal Society of Arts [www.rsa.org.uk](http://www.rsa.org.uk)

SSLP : Sure Start Local Programmes [www.surestart.gov.uk](http://www.surestart.gov.uk)

<u>LEGISLATION AND POLICY</u>	<u>PRACTICE: Reports, guidance, standards</u>	<u>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</u>
<p><b>1988</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Education Reform Act.</i> Introduces the National Curriculum for children of 5 and upwards</li> </ul> <p><b>1989</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Children Act.</i> Provides (in Part XA) new frameworks for regulation and inspection by local authorities of social services, private and voluntary sector services for children under 8 (i.e. day nurseries etc). Later amendments in <i>Care Standards Act 2000</i> and <i>Children Act 2004</i></li> </ul> <p><b>1992</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Education Act.</i> Established the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)</li> </ul> <p><b>1995</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).</i> To apply to all providers of early years services from Sept 2002.</li> </ul> <p><b>1996</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Education Act.</i> Defines statutory school starting age as the beginning of the term following a child's fifth birthday.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1990</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Starting with quality: report of a committee of enquiry into the educational experiences offered to 3 and 4 year olds</i> (Rumbold Report). DfEE.</li> </ul> <p><b>1993</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>First class: study of reception classes.</i> Ofsted.</li> </ul> <p><b>1994</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Start right. The importance of early learning.</i> RSA. Recommends a national strategy for improving early childhood education and care.</li> </ul> <p><b>1996</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Counting to five.</i> Audit Commission</li> <li>▪ <i>Desirable outcomes for children's learning on entering compulsory education.</i> SCAA. The basis for inspection of the full range of settings available to 4 year olds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1989-90</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Under 7s Project:</i> Mapping survey to develop national occupational standards. NCB</li> </ul> <p><b>1990-92</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National Occupational Standards in childcare and education</i> developed, with associated National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) at levels 2 and 3. Care Sector Consortium</li> </ul> <p><b>1992</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The future of training in the early years: a discussion paper.</i> NCB.</li> </ul> <p><b>1992-3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First degree level courses in early childhood studies available at Suffolk College and the University of Bristol</li> </ul> <p><b>1994</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Nursery Examination Board (founded 1945) merges with Council for Early Years Awards to form Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education: CACHE</li> </ul>

<p><u>Legislation and policy</u> (1996 cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Nursery Education and Grant-maintained Schools Act.</i> Introduces Ofsted inspections for nursery schools, and enables government to put in place new system for funding an expansion of early years education: the Nursery Education Voucher scheme. Initially for four year olds. Pilots in 4 LAs and expanded in 1997</li> </ul> <p><b>1997</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Labour manifesto</i> for General Election of 1997, focusing on the reduction of poverty, particularly child poverty. Expansion of childcare and other family services seen to be advantageous to the parents and the labour market.</li> <li>▪ Following Labour election victory, Nursery Education Voucher scheme abolished. LAs instigate Early Years Development Partnerships and Plans.</li> <li>▪ In Budget speech Chancellor says that childcare will be integral to economic policy.</li> <li>▪ Treasury-led cross-departmental <i>Review of services for children under eight.</i> Leads to proposals for Sure Start initiative and Childcare Tax Credit (later Working Families Tax Credit).</li> <li>▪ Following the DfEE White Paper <i>Excellence in Schools</i>, pilot programme of Early Excellence Centres announced, to develop and promote models of high quality, integrated, early years services for young children and families.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance and standards</u></p> <p><b>1997</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Looking at children's learning.</i> SCAA. Illustrates the 'desirable outcomes' for children's learning on entering compulsory education.</li> <li>▪ <i>Effective Provision of Pre-school Education</i> (EPPE) project started at the Institute of Education, University of London, 1997-2003. EPPE (and EPPE 3-11 IN 2003) are longitudinal studies funded by DfES, focusing on the progress and development of 3,000 children from entering pre-school to the end of KS2 in primary school (from age 3 to 11 years old)</li> <li>▪ <i>Baseline assessment.</i> SCAA. From September 1998 maintained primary schools required to use an accredited baseline assessment scheme for reception class children.</li> </ul> <p><b>1998</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Early education and day care.</i> Better Regulation Task Force, Cabinet Office.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>1997</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Occupational Standards reviewed and redeveloped as <i>National Occupational Standards in Early Years Care and Education.</i> Care Sector Consortium.</li> <li>▪ Fifteen early childhood studies degree programmes available by Autumn 1997</li> </ul>
--	---	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy</u></p> <p><b>1998</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (March) Education Secretary announces free nursery education places for 650,000 4 year olds from September 1998 (5 x 2½ hour sessions a week for 33 weeks, for 3 terms before compulsory school age). Free places to be extended to 3 yr olds in due course.</li> <li>▪ (July) Education Secretary announces extra 190,000 nursery education places for 3 year olds by 2002, increasing free availability from 34% to 66%.</li> <li>▪ <i>School Standards and Framework Act</i>. Early Years Development Partnerships and LEAs have responsibility for local 3-year Early Years Development Plans. Places duty on LAs to secure sufficient nursery education provision in their area.</li> <li>▪ Following a consultation DfEE announce new proposals for the regulation of early education and childcare. Two current systems of regulation to be brought together as a new arm of Ofsted.</li> <li>▪ <i>Meeting the childcare challenge. Framework and consultation document</i>. DfEE/Sure Start. Sets out proposals for a National Childcare Strategy with the aim of bringing quality, affordable childcare within reach of all children age 0-14 and their families. Additional investment announced to increase number of childcare places.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance and standards</u></p> <p><b>1998/9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National Literacy Strategy and National Numeracy Strategy</i> launched. DfEE. Includes establishment of daily literacy and numeracy hours.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>1998</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early Years National Training Organisation (EYNTO) set up as workforce sector body. Will represent early years employers and occupational groups across the UK; identify the training needs of the early years sector; and coordinate the provision of high quality training.</li> <li>▪ <i>Draft Framework for qualifications and training in early years education, childcare and playwork</i>. QCA.</li> </ul>
--	--	---

<p><u>Legislation and policy (1998 cont'd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Cross-departmental review of provision for young children.</i> For Treasury Comprehensive Spending Review..</li> <li>▪ Sure Start initiative established, in announcement of funding following Spending Review.</li> </ul> <p><b>1999</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sure Start Trailblazer areas set up, targeting 60 disadvantaged areas. 250 planned by 2002. Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) introduced</li> <li>▪ <i>Education: Nursery Education and Early Years Development (England) Regulations 1999.</i> LA duty to secure sufficient provision extended to apply to 3 &amp; 4 year olds from April 2004.</li> </ul> <p><b>2000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Care Standards Act 2000.</i> Updates provision for the registration, regulation and training of those providing child minding or day care. Introduces quality standards</li> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative (NNI) launched, to support families in disadvantaged areas. By 2005 1,400 NNIs were in place.</li> </ul> <p><b>2001</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Special Educational Needs and Disability Act.</i></li> <li>▪ Responsibility for regulation of under 8's childminding / daycare transferred from LAs to Ofsted, making one regulatory body across England (<i>Care Standards Act</i>). <i>National Standards</i> introduced.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance and standards</u></p> <p><b>1999</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Early Learning Goals.</i> QCA. To replace <i>Desirable Outcomes</i> in 2000.</li> </ul> <p><b>2000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage.</i> QCA. For children age 3-6.</li> </ul> <p><b>2001</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.</i> DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.</i> DfEE.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>1999</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Protection of Children Act</i> established list of people considered unsuitable to work with children, plus the Criminal Records Bureau and the Disclosure Service</li> <li>▪ <i>Early years education, childcare and playwork. A framework of nationally accredited qualifications.</i> QCA.</li> </ul> <p><b>1999/2000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National Occupational Standards</i> at Level 4 developed by the EYNTO. Levels 2, 3 and 4 accredited by QCA</li> </ul> <p><b>2000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Care Standards Act</i> Includes provision for the training of those providing child minding or day care</li> <li>▪ Learning and Skills Council set up following the <i>Learning and Skills Act</i>, as funding body for training and qualifications.</li> <li>▪ National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare merges with CACHE.</li> </ul>
---	--	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy</u></p> <p><b>2002</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children and Young People’s Unit set up within DfES to support cross-Government work.</li> <li>▪ <i>2002 Education Act:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ LEAs to carry out annual reviews of childcare provision in their area and establish a formal information service on childcare provision.</li> <li>□ Provisions of the Care Standards Act 2000 amended.</li> <li>□ Nursery education to be inspected by Ofsted.</li> <li>□ EYDPs renamed Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships.</li> <li>□ Governing bodies to have the power to provide extended services through schools, for example wraparound care.</li> <li>□ The (existing) Foundation Stage (age 3 till the end of Reception) to become new stage of National Curriculum, but not a Key Stage.</li> <li>□ Foundation Stage Profile (continuous process of assessment completed at the end of the Foundation Stage) to replace baseline assessments.</li> <li>□ Maintained and funded nursery schools are expected to adhere to the National Curriculum</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Disability Discrimination Act (1995)</i> applies to all early years settings</li> <li>• <i>Delivering for Children and Families interdepartmental childcare review.</i> (Cabinet Office Strategy Unit). Children’s Centres proposed, to integrate good quality childcare with early years education.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance and standards</u></p> <p><b>2002</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Birth to Three Matters.</i> A framework for supporting children in their earliest years. DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies.</i> Evaluation. Ofsted.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>2001</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early years sector-endorsed foundation degree. DfES.</li> </ul> <p><b>2002</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plans announced in Budget for recognition of new category of early years worker: the home childcarer.</li> </ul>
--	---	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy</u></p> <p><b>2003</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Every Child Matters</i>. Consultation, Treasury. Sets out government's plans to reform children's services in response to report into Victoria Climbié's death.</li> <li>▪ <i>New Children, Young People and Families Directorate</i> at DfES.</li> <li>▪ Children's services (except health &amp; youth justice) brought together under the direction of <i>Minister for Children</i> within DfES, whose responsibilities include Sure Start, early years and childcare.</li> <li>▪ Following <i>Education Act 2002</i>, Extended Schools programme announced, to provide a full range of community services.</li> <li>▪ Children's Centres programme launched, building on Early Excellence Centres and NNIs. From 2006 SSLPs and NNIs to be integrated into Children's Centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>2004</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Every Child Matters. Change for children</i>. HM Government. Five central outcomes for children: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; achieve economic well-being</li> <li>▪ <i>Choice for parents the best start for children: a ten-year strategy for childcare</i>. HM Treasury. Main objectives for strategy are "choice, availability, quality and affordability"</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance and standards</u></p> <p><b>2003</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Together from the start</i>. DfEE and DH. Practical guidance for professionals working with disabled children (birth to 2) and families.</li> <li>▪ <i>Early Support</i> established. DfEE/DH. A programme for families with children under 2 with additional support needs.</li> <li>▪ <i>Excellence and enjoyment: a Primary National Strategy for schools</i>. DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Day Care &amp; Childminding: Guidance to the National Standards: Revisions to certain criteria</i>. Ofsted.</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare for working parents</i>. House of Commons Select Committee report.</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare review</i> announced, feeding into 2004 Spending Review. Treasury.</li> <li>▪ <i>Foundation Stage Profile</i>. QCA. Replaces baseline assessment.</li> <li>▪ <i>Effective Pre-school and Primary Education 3-11</i> (EPPE 3-11). (See 1997) Project: Institute of Education, University of London, 2003-2008.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>2003</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Review of National Occupational Standards for early years and childcare</i>. NDNA.</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare and Early Years workforce survey 2002/2003</i>. Sure Start.</li> </ul>
---	--	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy (2004 cont'd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Children Act</i>. Takes forward proposals in <i>Every Child Matters</i>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Establishment of Children's Commissioner.</li> <li>□ Enabling better joint working and clear accountability for children's Services.</li> <li>□ Setting up Directors of Children's Services, Lead Council Members and Children's Trusts within LAs.</li> <li>□ Setting up Local Safeguarding Boards.</li> <li>□ Giving children the right to have due consideration given to their wishes before decisions are made on the provision of services to them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Ofsted announces changes in inspections to early years settings, following <i>The future of early years inspection</i> consultation</li> <li>▪ <i>Removing barriers to achievement: the Government's strategy for Special Educational Needs</i>. DfES.</li> <li>▪ Free nursery education for all 3 year olds available nationally</li> <li>▪ Treasury <i>Spending Review</i> includes pilot (in 500 areas) to extend free nursery education to two-year-olds, starting April 06.</li> </ul> <p><b>2005</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Childcare Bill</i> consultation, to take forward ten-year strategy.</li> <li>▪ <i>Education Act</i>. Aligns early years inspections with school inspections.</li> <li>▪ Package of regulations and amendments to legislation changing the way Ofsted regulates childcare providers: new 'no notice' inspections for early years settings.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance &amp; standards (2003)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sure Start launch <i>Investors in Children</i>, an initiative to help providers and parents find the best quality assurance schemes.</li> </ul> <p><b>2004</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Early Years: progress in developing high quality childcare and early education accessible to all</i>. National Audit Office.</li> <li>▪ <i>Code of practice on the provision of free nursery education places for 3 and 4 year olds</i>. Sure Start</li> <li>▪ <i>EPPE Final Report</i> published. DfES.</li> </ul> <p><b>2005</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Early years foundation stage: Direction of travel</i>. DfES.</li> <li>▪ Series of reports on Sure Start Local Programmes. NESS.</li> <li>▪ Reports on Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative. DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start Children's Centres practice guidance</i>. DfES.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>2004</b></p> <p><i>Bichard Inquiry Report</i>. Examines vetting of staff working with children. TSO.</p> <p><b>2005</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Children's workforce strategy consultation</i>. DfES. Includes the proposal for an Early Years Professional, and graduate-level leadership of early years settings.</li> <li>▪ EYNTO closed (Sept), replaced by:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children, Young People and Families Workforce Development Council (CWDC)</li> <li>▪ <i>Skills for Care and Development Sector Skills Council</i> set up, to include CWDC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare Approval Scheme</i> set up, allowing families to apply for Working Tax Credit support for care in own homes is using approved childcarer.</li> <li>▪ <i>National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership</i>. National College of School Leadership.</li> </ul>
---	---	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy</u></p> <p><b>2006</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Childcare Act</i>. Four themes: Choice and flexibility; availability; quality; affordability. Places duties on local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ To improve the outcomes for young children and to reduce the gaps between them.</li> <li>□ To secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to work.</li> <li>□ To provide information to parents about childcare and a wide range of services that may be of benefit to them in bringing up their children.</li> <li>□ The Act provides for the establishment of a single high quality care, development and learning framework for children from birth to five: the Early Years Foundation Stage. This brings together <i>Birth to Three Matters</i>, <i>Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage</i>, and <i>the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding</i>.</li> <li>□ The Act includes provisions to reform the regulation and inspection regime for childcare in England, including the establishment of two childcare registers (up to age 5 and over 5).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Education and Inspections Act</i>. Gives legal force to the <i>Higher standards, better schools for all</i> White Paper. Inter alia the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Gives local authorities a new strategic role including duties to promote choice, diversity, high standards and the fulfilment of potential for every child.</li> <li>□ Tightens the admissions framework to ensure fair access for all.</li> <li>□ Merges several existing inspectorates into a single inspectorate to cover the full range of services for children and young people.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance &amp; standards (2005)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Quality Assurance Network</i> project set up by ECU with 1-year grant from Sure Start Unit. Becomes <i>National Quality Improvement Network</i> (NQIN) in January 2007.</li> <li>▪ <i>Parental Community Support Project</i> starts. Joint project: NCB, Coram Family, L.B.Camden. In 2006 becomes <i>Parents, Early Years and Learning (PEAL)</i> project, a national approach to training in parental support for early learning.</li> </ul> <p><b>2006</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Early Years Foundation Stage</i>. DfES. Consultation on a single quality framework for providers working with children from birth to the end of the Foundation Stage (See: <i>Childcare Act 2006</i>)</li> <li>▪ <i>Code of practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four year olds</i>, (revised). Sure Start. Came into force on 1 April 2006, until 2008-9 when it will be replaced by new statutory guidance reflecting provisions of the <i>Childcare Act 2006</i>.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>2006</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National qualifications framework</i>. QCA.</li> <li>▪ Government response to consultation on <i>Children's workforce strategy</i>. The work to develop the Early Years Professional status to be supported by a Transformation Fund (2006-2008). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National occupational standards in children's care, learning and development</i>. Levels 2, 3 and 4. NDNA. Replaces the National Occupational Standards (1997).</li> <li>▪ <i>Early years professional: national standards</i>. CWDC.</li> <li>▪ <i>Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children</i>. Sure Start.</li> <li>▪ <i>Early years professional prospectus</i>. CWDC.</li> <li>▪ <i>Clear progression: towards an integrated qualifications framework</i> setting out next steps for implementation of the IQF. CWDC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	--	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy (2006 cont'd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Choice for parents. The best start for children. Making it happen. Action plan for the ten-year strategy.</i> Sure Start Children's Centres, extended schools and childcare. DfES &amp; DWP. Includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Free nursery entitlement (12.5 hours a week) extended from 33 to 38 weeks a year. Commitment to extending entitlement to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks by 2010, and eventually to 20 hours a week for 38 weeks.</li> <li>□ Pilots of free nursery entitlement for 2 year olds starts April 2006 in 15 LAs, with 17 more to follow. Targets 12,000 disadvantaged children.</li> <li>□ Consultation on Early Years Foundation Stage.</li> <li>□ Testing of ways for parents to use the 15 hours free entitlement more flexibly.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Government launches <i>Policy review of children and young people</i>, to inform the 2007 Spending review, including a sub-review on services for disabled children and their families. Treasury.</li> <li>▪ Plans announced for the <i>National Academy for Parenting Practitioners</i> (to launch in Oct 2007), and a network of dedicated parenting experts</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance &amp; standards (2006)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Independent review of the teaching of reading</i> (Rose report). DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings.</i> DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare register.</i> Consultation. Ofsted.</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare and early years providers survey.</i> DfES &amp; BMRB (5 reports).</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare today: progress report, on the 10-year National Childcare Strategy.</i> Daycare Trust</li> <li>▪ <i>Amendment to Framework for the regulation of childminding and day care.</i> Ofsted.</li> <li>▪ <i>Planning and funding extended schools guide.</i> DfES</li> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start Local Programmes report.</i> NESS.</li> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start Children's Centres Practice Guidance (Revised).</i> Sure Start.</li> <li>▪ <i>Extended services in primary schools.</i> DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Investors in Children</i> initiative discontinued in the <i>Childcare Act 2006.</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development (2006 cont'd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Qualifications and Credit Framework.</i> QCA. Unit-based qualification framework underpinned by system of credit accumulation and transfer. Designed to recognise a wider range of learner achievements than the NQF. Test and trial phase from Oct 2006.</li> </ul>
--	--	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy</u></p> <p><b>2007</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Policy review of children and young people</i>: discussion paper. Treasury.</li> <li>▪ <i>Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity – options for the future of welfare to work</i>. DWP.</li> <li>▪ <i>Families-at-risk review</i>. Cabinet Office.</li> <li>▪ <i>Every parent matters strategy</i>. DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Aiming high for children: supporting families</i>. Treasury.</li> <li>▪ Government announces <i>Nurse Family Partnership</i> scheme, aimed at breaking the cycle of deprivation and exclusion.</li> <li>▪ Government Education departments become Dept for Children, Schools &amp; Families and Dept for Innovation, Universities &amp; Skills.</li> <li>▪ <i>Reaching out: think family, analysis of themes from the Families at Risk review</i>. Cabinet Office.</li> <li>▪ <i>Staying safe</i> consultation. Will lead, among other things, to a <i>Children's Plan</i>. DCSF.</li> <li>▪ <i>In work – better off</i>. Consultation. DWP. Proposes that by 2010 lone parents must seek work when youngest child reaches 7.</li> <li>▪ <i>Best Start</i> inquiry into Government's policy on child poverty. Commons Work and Pensions Committee</li> <li>▪ <i>Working for children</i>. DWP. Strategy document aimed a greater support for families.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance &amp; standards.</u></p> <p><b>2007</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early Learning Partnership Programme announced (<i>Every Parent Matters</i> strategy). Funding for demonstration projects and workforce development in parental support for their children's learning, including the national roll-out of PEAL (see 2005)</li> <li>▪ <i>Early Years Foundation Stage pack</i>. DfES. Includes statutory framework, practice guidance, principles into practice cards, poster and CDROM. All registered EY providers and schools will be required to use the EYFS from September 2008.</li> <li>▪ <i>Letters and sounds</i>. Pack to aid the teaching of phonics. Primary National Strategy.</li> <li>▪ <i>The Foundation Stage: a survey of 144 settings</i>. Ofsted.</li> <li>▪ <i>Early years funding including nursery education grant</i>. Consultation. DfES</li> <li>▪ <i>Securing sufficient childcare: guidance for local authorities: Childcare Act 2006</i>. DCSF</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>2007</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National standards for leaders of Sure Start Children's Centres</i>. DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>How do they manage? An investigation of early childhood leadership</i>. ESRC.</li> <li>▪ <i>Children's workforce strategy update</i>. Consultation. DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Facing the future: a review of the health visitor role</i>. DH.</li> <li>▪ Transformation Fund to be replaced by Graduate Leader Fund, as part of the new Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant.</li> <li>▪ Early Learning Partnership Programme (<i>Every Parent Matters</i> strategy). Includes funding for workforce development in parental support for their children's learning.</li> <li>▪ By 2007 about 40 universities and higher education institutions are offering early years Degrees.</li> <li>▪ <i>New Level 3 Certificate in Early Years Foundation Stage Practice</i>. CACHE.</li> </ul>
---	---	---

<p><u>Legislation and policy (2007 cont'd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Time to Talk</i> consultation on children's services. DCSF.</li> <li>▪ New fund announced by DcSF to help disabled children and their families, following the report <i>Aiming high for disabled children</i>.</li> <li>▪ <i>Comprehensive Spending Review</i> includes £220m school building fund, and £250m for funding outcomes of the forthcoming Children's Plan. Treasury.</li> <li>▪ <i>Children and young people today</i>. Evidence to support the development of the Children's Plan. DCSF.</li> <li>▪ Plans to extend free early education entitlement to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks for all 3 &amp; 4 year olds announced in Commons by Children's Minister. To be phased in over the 3 years of CSR.</li> <li>▪ DCSF launch <i>The Children's Plan</i>, a 10-year vision to improve schools and bring about a step-change in the way parents and families are supported. The Plan is underpinned by five principles:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ government does not bring up children – parents do – so government needs to do more to back parents and families;</li> <li>□ all children have the potential to succeed and should go as far as their talents can take them;</li> <li>□ children and young people need to enjoy their childhood as well as grow up prepared for adult life;</li> <li>□ services need to be shaped by and responsive to children, young people and families, not designed around professional boundaries;</li> <li>□ it is always better to prevent failure than tackle a crisis later.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance &amp; standards (2007)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Quality Improvement Principles: a framework for LAs and national organisations to improve quality outcomes for children and young people</i>. NQIN.</li> <li>▪ <i>Early years funding reform</i>. Analysing the costs of delivering the free entitlement to nursery education in the PVI sector. DCSF/NDNA/PLA.</li> <li>▪ <i>Children's Centres report</i>. National Audit Office.</li> <li>▪ <i>Together for children</i>. Toolkit to support reaching priority and excluded families. DfES</li> <li>▪ <i>Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative</i>. Reports and evaluations. DfES.</li> <li>▪ <i>Governance of Sure Start Children's Centres and extended schools</i>. DfES</li> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start Children's Centres</i>. House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.</li> <li>▪ <i>Children's Centres business planning kit</i>. Sure Start.</li> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start, Early Years &amp; Childcare Grant</i>, replacing the general Sure Start Grant. DCSF.</li> </ul>	
---	---	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy (2007 cont'd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Child poverty</i>. Commons Treasury Select Committee. Analyzes government policy in relation to child poverty.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance &amp; standards (2007)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Every child a reader; Every child a writer</i> and <i>Every child counts</i> (maths) support programmes announced. DCSF.</li> <li>▪ <i>Getting on well: enjoying achieving and contributing</i>. Survey of providers. Ofsted.</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare and early years providers surveys 2006</i>. DCSF.</li> <li>▪ <i>Childcare nation? Progress on the childcare strategy and priorities for the future</i>. NatCen.</li> <li>▪ <i>~ Impact &amp; cost of implication of extending the free early education entitlement</i>. DCSF.</li> <li>▪ <i>Confident, capable and creative. Supporting boys' achievements</i>. Guide for EYFS practitioners. DCSF.</li> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start Children's Centres: Phase 3 planning and delivery</i>. DCSF. Delivering centres outside the most disadvantaged areas.</li> <li>▪ <i>Raising standards- improving outcomes</i>. Statutory guidance: Early Years Outcomes Duty (Childcare Act 2006). Sure Start.</li> <li>▪ <i>Inspections of early years provision from Sept 2008</i>. Consultation. Ofsted</li> </ul>	
--	---	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy</u></p> <p><b>2008</b> (Jan-June)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Think family</i>. Social Exclusion Task Force. Cabinet Office. Jan.</li> <li>▪ <i>Staying Safe</i>. Cross-Government strategy on improving children’s safety. Feb.</li> <li>▪ <i>Budget</i>. Gov’t remains committed to halving child poverty by 2010 - announces changes to child benefit arrangements. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Ending child poverty: everybody’s business</i>. Budget paper, Treasury etc. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Parent Know-How</i>. Government programme launched to give parents extra help with issues such as bullying. DCSF. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Tackling inequalities: programme for action</i>. 3rd report on national health inequalities strategy. DH March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework. National Indicator Set</i>. DCSF. April.</li> <li>▪ Measures to support schools announced, including <i>Family Pathfinder</i> projects – intensive support for vulnerable families, and <i>0-7 partnerships</i> - Coalitions between primary schools and other agencies. DCSF. May.</li> <li>▪ <i>Reducing health inequalities: Progress and next steps</i>. DH. June.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance &amp; standards</u></p> <p><b>2008</b> (Jan-June)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Qualifications and assessment</i>. Future of QCA. Consultation. Jan.</li> <li>▪ <i>Nursery education grant. Pilot scheme for 2 year olds. Evaluation of outreach approaches</i>. DCSF. Jan.</li> <li>▪ <i>How well are they doing?</i> Children’s Centres. Ofsted report. Jan.</li> <li>▪ <i>Duty to provide information advice and assistance</i>, Guidance for LAs. DCSF. Feb.</li> <li>▪ <i>Narrowing the gap: providing for all children</i>. Sure Start. Feb.</li> <li>▪ <i>EYFS and out of school provision</i>. 4Children. Feb.</li> <li>▪ <i>Impact of SSLPs on 3 year olds and their families</i>. DCSF. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Best start in life? Alleviating deprivation, improving social mobility and eradicating child poverty. Commons Work+Pensions Ctte</i>. March</li> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start Journey</i>. Summary of evidence. DCSF. March.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p><b>2008</b> (Jan-June)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Integrated practice</i>. Programme of learning for early years and childcare practitioners. Modules, aimed at Level 3 practitioners. 4Children. Jan.</li> <li>▪ <i>Qualifications and assessment</i>. Future of QCA. Consultation. Jan.</li> <li>▪ <i>Clear progression. Progress made with Integrated Qualifications Framework</i>. Children’s Workforce Network. Feb.</li> <li>▪ Levels 2 and 3 NVQs in supporting teaching and learning in schools announced. CACHE. Feb.</li> <li>▪ <i>Graduate Leader Fund guidelines</i>. ECM. (supersedes Transformation Fund). March.</li> <li>▪ National Network of Children’s Centre Leaders announced. Together for Children. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Ensuring equality – black and minority ethnic childcare workforce</i>. Daycare Trust. March</li> </ul>
--	---	--

<p><u>Legislation and policy. 2008 Jan-June, cont'd</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Package of measures as part of drive to increase social mobility and end child poverty announced, including <i>Child Development Grant</i> (c£200) from 2009 for low-income parents of under 5s in 10 LAs who work with children's centres staff and take agreed actions; and more funding for Children's Centres to help parents seeking work. June.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance, standards (2008)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Sure Start Children's Centres- building brighter futures.</i> Guidance for partners. March.</li> <li>▪ New developments for Children's Centres – outreach workers, more funding for training, review of outreach work. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Child health promotion programme.</i> Pregnancy &amp; first five years. DCSF/DH. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>Extending inclusion, access for disabled children.</i> Council for Disabled Children. April.</li> <li>▪ <i>Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework. National Indicator Set.</i> DCSF April.</li> <li>▪ <i>Guide to EYFS in Montessori settings.</i> DCSF. April.</li> <li>▪ <i>Children's Trusts: Statutory guidance on duty to cooperate.</i> Consultation. April.</li> <li>▪ <i>Fair Play.</i> Play strategy consultation. April.</li> <li>▪ <i>EYFS Statutory framework and practice guidance.</i> Reprint with amendments. May.</li> <li>▪ EYFS: experts' evidence the House of Commons Children's Committee. May.</li> <li>▪ <i>Reviewing childcare sufficiency assessments.</i> DCSF. May.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Workforce development (2008)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Delivering the big deal.</i> CWDC. Progress on Sector Skills Agreement stage 3. March.</li> <li>▪ <i>For love or money? Pay progression and professionalism in the early years workforce.</i> Institute for Public Policy Research. April.</li> <li>▪ <i>Building brighter futures: next steps for the children's workforce.</i> DCSF. April.</li> <li>▪ <i>Leading and managing children's services in England.</i> National professional development framework. DCSF. April.</li> <li>▪ Expert Group on Children's Workforce announced. DCSF. April.</li> <li>▪ Primary Review: 3 reports on school workforce. April.</li> <li>▪ <i>Little book of CACHE qualifications.</i> CACHE. June.</li> </ul>
---	--	---

	<p><u>Practice: Reports, guidance, standards (2008)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>EYFS. It's child's play. Guide for practitioners.</i> ECM. June.</li> <li>▪ <i>Evaluating early impact of integrated children's services.</i> LARC/NFER. June.</li> <li>▪ New settings' registration fees announced – to be introduced gradually. DCSF. June.</li> <li>▪ <i>Children's centre work with registered childminders.</i> NCMA. June.</li> <li>▪ School admissions consultation. DCSF. June.</li> <li>▪ <i>Tax credits – improving delivery and choice.</i> Consultation. HMRC. June.</li> </ul>	
--	---	--