

Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

There are a number of data requests within the Bulletin, including completion of forms on the Online Provider Portal and separate online surveys. We know that time is precious at the moment but the better the data we hold about your provision, the more accurate the information we provide to parents/carers and the more informed our planning is. If you can make the time to respond the requests, we'd be very grateful.

We're looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Early Years Update Meetings, which are taking place next week. If you haven't yet booked a place, we'd urge you to have a look at the Training section below as we have several **free** briefings/meetings coming up that you will find useful; Early Years Update Meetings, the NEF Briefings, the SENCo Cluster Meeting and the Early Years DSL Forum, which are all in place to ensure that you have up to date information.

If you need any advice or support, please email the team on EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or submit a request via the [website](#).

Best regards,

The Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Nursery Education Funding

Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund

As previously communicated, Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is now available for eligible two-year-old children. To claim for EYPP, you must enter the parents details and tick the 'consent for EYPP' box. For children who have previously accessed Two Year Old Funding, you may need to obtain an updated Parent Declaration Form to request the appropriate details and consent to complete the check.

The same applies for two-year-old children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance; Disability Access Funding is now available for eligible children and needs to be included on the Provider Portal.

Applications for Children Under Two

[Childcare Choices](#) is now accepting applications from Working Families with children who will have turned 9 months by 31st August 2024. Please ensure that you check Codes as soon as you receive them to confirm eligibility; families who apply straightaway are likely to need to refresh their Code before the end of August so it is important that you check the End Date and ensure they will be valid on 1st September 2024.

Update Your Details

The available forms on the Online Provider Portal have been updated; they should be easier to complete and include suggestions about on how often they should be reviewed/refreshed.

To ensure that the information we hold about your setting is accurate, it is important that you access the forms and review the details we hold about your setting. The details are used to inform local authority planning and for the assessment of early years sufficiency, as well as to inform parents and carers via the [Worcestershire Childcare Search](#).

Please access the [Online Provider Portal](#), click on **Forms** and complete the following forms:

- Additional Information (opening hours, vacancy information, costs etc)
- Consent for advertising (to be included on the Childcare Search)
- Contact details (contact details to be included on the Childcare Search, emergency contact details, SENCo details)

Whilst accessing the Online Provider Portal, we would also appreciate you clicking on **Sufficiency** and completing the sufficiency table for Summer 2023/24. This information is incredibly useful when trying to plan for the expansion in Nursery Education Funding.

Recruitment Reminder

Please don't forget that we can include any staff vacancies you are currently advertising via the WCF Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Please email comms@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with the following information if you wish to make use of this service:

- Job title
- Location
- Hours
- Brief description of role
- Link to your setting for more information and/or details of how to apply
- Closing date

Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

International Day of Play – Tuesday 11th June



The [International Day of Play campaign](#) is coordinated by a network of organisations, initiated by LEGO Group and the LEGO Foundation, who are driving a global play movement for children everywhere, for generations to come.

They have got together and successfully called on the United Nations General Assembly to adopt an annual **International Day of Play on the 11th June!**

Play opens up a whole world of possibilities. It is a fundamental right; it builds resilience, instils confidence, and helps children develop. Play is healing and supports children's wellbeing.

[So how will you celebrate International Play Day in your setting?](#)

Perhaps you will have a day playing in nature, or get the children engaged in some active play games, maybe messy play is your thing or loose parts, even better a mixture of them all!

[Play Scotland](#)

[Play Scotland](#) have some fabulous resources on the [Play Ideas](#) section of their website, they will not fail to give you lots of ideas to support children's play, you can even share these with parents so they can continue the fun at home!

- [Active play games](#)
- [Nature play](#)
- [Indoor play](#)
- [Messy play](#)
- [Experimental play](#)

Early Years Foundation Stage – Safeguarding Consultation

The DfE are currently consulting on proposed changes to safeguarding requirements in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, which aim to strengthen safeguarding requirements based on the lessons learned from past safeguarding cases along with feedback from the sector.

The consultation covers a range of proposals including recruitment, child absences, training requirements and safeguarding policies, along with increase practice requirements for when childcare are eating and sleeping.

Further information about the consultation can be found [here](#). **The deadline for responding is Monday 17th June.**

Ofsted Big Listen

The [Ofsted Big Listen](#) seeks views from all areas that they work within, including Early Years and schools. It is an opportunity for professionals, parents and children to feedback on Ofsted and to inform their thinking going forward.

Further information about the Ofsted Big Listen can be found [here](#). **The consultation closes on Friday 31st May 2024.**

Ofsted: Early Years Blog

Ofsted have published new articles on the Early Years Blog. To subscribe to the service and receive updates via email, please visit: [Subscribe – Ofsted: early years](#).

May 2024: Maintaining quality early years provision in the face of workforce challenges

In this blog, Ofsted highlight some of the ways that workforce challenges are evident during inspection, some ways in which providers are mitigating the impact of the challenges and also the importance of good leadership and management: [Maintaining quality early years provision in the face of workforce challenges](#).

April 2024: Why we might suspend a childcare provider's registration and what happens next

This blog highlights why and how Ofsted might suspend a provider's registration: [Why we might suspend a childcare provider's registration and what happens next](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision

Wraparound Survey

We are asking every registered Early Years setting to complete a survey regarding any wraparound provision you may, or may not, offer. Even if you don't offer anything, we would like you to respond to the survey to ensure that our records are up to date. The survey shouldn't take long to complete, particularly if you don't offer any form of wraparound provision, but the data will support us to plan for the Wraparound Programme as well as to inform parents via the Worcestershire Childcare Search.

[Group Settings Wraparound Survey](#)

[Childminder Survey](#)

If you are a school with provision for children between Reception and Year 6 and have **not yet submitted** a response to the Wraparound Survey for schools, please complete the survey using the following link.

[School Wraparound Survey](#)

NEW! Wraparound dedicated email address

We now have a dedicated email address for any questions or queries relating to wraparound provision, from schools or PVI settings, please email wraparound@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Qualifications and Upskilling the Out of School Workforce

In light of the government's intention to invest in wraparound provision through the national wraparound programme and the fact that some schools and providers are considering expanding or creating out of school provision, **now is a good opportunity for leaders to reflect on the staffing of their provision.**

Not only is it essential to meet legal requirements in relation to staffing but to consider the importance of ensuring staff have the **right skills to provide child-led, choice-based activity and play.**

Out of school clubs are not homework clubs, they should be fun, challenging, fuelled by the ideas of the children and be based on play principles.

Playwork trained staff are well placed to support high quality play-based experiences, currently there are opportunities for PVI providers and Schools to access funded playwork apprenticeships. The apprenticeship training directory is a great way for schools and PVI providers to search for all apprenticeship standards, you can search for key words such as playwork or early years to see apprenticeships that fit your sector and put in your postcode to filter all the approved training providers who can deliver this.

[Training providers for Playworker \(level 2\)](#)

The DfE have guidance on [Apprenticeships for the School Workforce](#) that you may find useful.

Update from the Out of School Alliance (OOSA)

Tanya Petherick of Club Central and Rebekah Jackson Reece, OOSA CEO, are “in conversation” around the DfE’s national wraparound childcare programme, available to watch via YouTube: [What now for wraparound childcare programme](#)

The OOSA have also produced an information sheet on the national wraparound childcare programme, which you may find useful: [National Wraparound Childcare Programme Info Sheet](#).

DfE Guidance reminder:

The [Wraparound childcare: guidance for schools and trusts in England](#), February 2024, is available to download, as well as guidance on [responding to requests for wraparound childcare](#), which was updated in February 2024.

The importance of play in an Out of School setting

Mount Carmel Wraparound Care

At Mount Carmel Wraparound Care we believe that good quality play is a vital element within our provision. This particular article is focused on outdoor play as when children leave school to arrive at After School Club they can often have massive amounts of energy that they need to dispel! Any opportunity to get outside is welcomed by both children and staff!

Not only is wraparound provision crucial in supporting working parents but it also gives the children the opportunity for a massive play date! Years ago, children would be allowed to play outside, close to their homes or maybe even at their local park or woods but in recent years there is a greater awareness of potential dangers and therefore it is a sad fact that children don’t always get the opportunity to “play out” when they get home from school.

For the children that attend our setting the benefits of playing outside (but in a safe outdoor space) within small and large groups greatly enhances their social and emotional skills. The children often have to work in partnership with their peers which encourages teamwork and cooperation and, by engaging with children who are a variety of ages, this broadens their social skills immensely. Older children are encouraged to nurture the younger attendees and often the children in Early Years and Year 1 look upon the older children as role models. Even on a crowded playground a child at school can be lonely and feel isolated. Our staff work vigilantly to ensure that no child is ever alone (unless they want to be of course!) as a setting we believe that deploying a high number of staff in all areas makes it a safe environment for the children and enables them to provide more focused support towards children who need it.

We operate a buddy system and whilst groups of children will break away to develop their own outside game the staff provide creative activities that children can access outdoors as well as inside. Parachute games and playing with hula hoops are also very popular.

We are very fortunate to have access to the school playground and surrounding areas and with a running track painted on to the playground the children love nothing more than racing individually

and in teams. With access to a 'purpose built' activity playground the children are able to develop their gross motor skills and persevere through challenges. With the more popular apparatus the children also learn patience and build positive relationships with their peers.

It is of course important to allow the children to play freely without too many constraints. As a setting we support independent play as this encourages children to build on their 'problem solving' skills which is beneficial in later life. Any opportunity to get children outdoors and away from screens is a positive. We just have to get more used to playing out in any weather! As the saying goes though "there is no inappropriate weather, just inappropriate clothing!"

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

Starting Well Partnership: South Worcestershire Parenting and Community Teams

Please see the attached flyer for a range of resources to support families including parenting courses and support groups.

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

Keep me safe...when I am crying

Part of the [Keep Me Safe strategy](#), which already includes [Keep Me Safe...When I'm Sleeping](#), Keep Me Safe...When I'm Crying has now been launched.

Babies cry for many reasons. They are hardwired to cry whenever they need a parent or carer to help them out because their brains have yet to develop the circuits that allow for self-control or understanding.

Any practitioner who has contact with a family with a new- or very young- baby needs to understand why babies cry and how to support families to keep babies safe.

Keep Me Safe...When I'm Crying guidance is available to download, along with other useful resources here: [Keep Me Safe... When I'm Crying](#)

The guidance also includes the local implementation of ICON –



Infant crying
is normal



Comforting
methods can
help



It's OK to walk
away



Never, ever
shake a baby

Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion: Alert for Education Settings

The [Get Safe](#) Team want to raise awareness of the increase of online sexual exploitation of children and young people, using their sexual images to extort money from children using fear as a tactic.

Please find attached information from the National Crime Agency regarding financially motivated sexual extortion.

Low level concerns in the Early Years

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023 places a requirement on schools and colleges to have policies and processes in place to deal with any concerns or allegations regarding adults working or volunteering with children, which do not meet the harm threshold, referred to as 'low-level' concerns. Although this requirement is specifically applicable to schools and colleges in England, KCSIE clearly states, as a matter of best practice, it could be applied to any organisation working with children.

This 40-minute **free** webcast explores safeguarding responsibilities and the importance of building a positive culture around safeguarding and how adopting low-level concerns into safeguarding practice can strengthen this. The webcast addresses the confusion that sometimes arises between the definition of concerns, complaints and allegations and how to deal with these effectively. It also considers past serious case reviews and investigations with a focus on Vanessa George and Jimmy Saville to help understand the importance of addressing 'niggles or concerns'.

By the end of the 40 minutes, you will have the knowledge, confidence and passion to adopt low level concerns into your current practices to help build an effective safeguarding culture to be proud.

The webcast is available for **free** via the [Early Years website safeguarding pages](#), or directly from the WCF YouTube page: [Low-Level Concerns in the Early Years](#)

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

Early Years Inclusion Process Evaluation

We are seeking anonymous feedback from providers on the Early Years Inclusion Process. Here is the [link to the Early Years Inclusion Process questionnaire.](#)

Inclusion Surgeries with the Area SENCoS

The Area SENCo Team will be offering surgery support sessions every half term. These are dedicated afternoon surgeries for Early Years SENCoS, giving the opportunity for a 30-minute meeting (currently delivered via the telephone).

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss more complex Inclusion issues with an Area SENCo.

Date:

- 26th June 2024 - 13:30-14:00, 14:15-14:45, 15:00-15:30

Booking is essential as places are limited. To book your place you will need to add your name and number onto this [Inclusion Surgeries document](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

If you encounter any issues when booking courses via CPD, please contact the Training Team directly via 01905 844420 or workforcesupport@worcechildrenfirst.org.uk.

NEF Expansion – What do we know so far?

Specifically for providers offering Nursery Education Funding (NEF) in Worcestershire, this is an update session to highlight any changes for September, including the 2024/25 Worcestershire Provider Agreement and the expanded Early years entitlements from September 2024.

Suitable for all early years settings and childminders who offer NEF.

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 20 June 2024, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code EY 10407 / 84512
- 21 June 2024, 10am – 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code EY 10407 / 84513

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10407.

Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Early Years Update Meetings

An opportunity to head the latest Early Years news on policy, Ofsted and best practice within the sector. The Spring Term agenda includes a session on Supporting Behaviour.

The childminder sessions also include the SENCo Cluster meeting.

Cost: Free

Dates:

Childminders

- 22 May 2024, 7pm – 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10273 / 84071

Group Settings

- 23 May 2024, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84074
- 24 May 2024, 10am – 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84075

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and the course code 10272.

Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

SENCo forum / clusters

SENCo Forum / Clusters are now county wide to support the sharing of information and are free to attend.

Broad aims:

1. To bring together EYs SENCo's from Worcestershire Early Years Settings to share good practice and discuss common issues in order to continue to improve outcomes for children.
2. To update staff on National and Local Early Years and SEND initiatives to inform further CPD needs.
3. To raise awareness and expectations re Special Needs Education in the Early Years including issues and developments around planning, transition support, assessment and tracking tools, and current developments.
4. To develop a continuing working and supportive partnership between the Early Years SENCo's and Early Years Inclusion personnel.

Cost: Free

Date: 11 June 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, course code: 10160 / 81547

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10160.

Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Early Years DSL Forums: Summer 2024

The Early Year's DSL Network Meetings have been developed to support you!

We have run and developed these meetings over the previous 4 years, providing an opportunity to share good practice and to keep DSL's up to date with national and local statutory requirements.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other DSL's and Deputy DSL's from across the County.
Audience: Early Years Childminders / Nurseries / Pre-Schools and Out of school Club providers across the county

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 12 June 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83723
- 13 June 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83724

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10400.

Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

What is the SCERTS Approach?

SCERTS: Social Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional and Support

SCERTS is an evidence-based framework for assessing children who need support with their social communication and emotional regulation skills, including autistic children. Transactional support is the support given to children to reach their goals and achieve their potential.

The SCERTS approach is not a prescriptive curriculum, and it works alongside practice in settings and home. Designed to be collaborative and to value the contributions made by settings and families to a child's development, setting goals to reflect what the child can do with the right support. A strengths-based approach, so it starts with what a child can do instead of what they can't do.

To find out more about SCERTS, access Stage 1 of the programme: **a free webcast**. Once your setting / school has watched Stage 1 you can progress onto Stage 2.

We are soft launching "What is the SCERTS Approach" therefore from 15 April 2024 until 12 May 2025. Those who are working with EYFS children in Settings / Reception / School run nurseries can access this webcast.

When booking via [CPD](#) search course code: 10462. Only one member of staff needs to be booked to get all the Stage 1 information, as once you have the webcast it can be shared amongst your EYFS team.

From Stage 1 schools / settings can access Drop-In Sessions if they have questions and then if they wish to progress onto Stage 2 and access the full training then simply contact the training team by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Communication Champion Training

Worcestershire NHS Speech and Language Therapy Team are offering free Communication Champion training for early years settings. The focus for the training this term is 'Supporting Social Communication and Transition to School. **For further information, please see the attached flyer.**

Date: Tuesday 4th June, 4:00pm to 5:30pm, virtual delivery

To book: Email WHCNHS.SLTBromsgrove@nhs.net