



Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

It was lovely to see so many people at the recent Early Years Update Meetings. As promised, a summary of the slides are available for you to download from [Google Drive](#) for reference. If you have any suggestions for content for the Autumn Term meetings, please contact the Early Years Team to discuss; we would value your input.

A reminder that we have the NEF Briefings taking place next week on the 20th and 21st June, where we will be discussing:

- Changes to the Worcestershire Provider Agreement
- Lessons from the first phase of the Childcare Expansion in April
- Phase 2 of the Childcare Expansion from September

There will be the opportunity for questions but if you have anything specific that you would like information on, please email NEF@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk so that we can ensure it's included. If you haven't yet booked a place, please see the Training section in this bulletin for course details.

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

Summer Term Adjustment Claims

The [Online Provider Portal](#) is now open for Summer Term Adjustment Claims. Claims that are received by the end of June will be included on your Actual Payment at the beginning of July. Any claims received after this date will be paid in August.

Eligibility Codes for September 2024

Please ensure that as you receive Eligibility Codes for September, you use the Eligibility Checker on the Provider Portal to confirm the Codes are valid and will still be valid in September. If their End Date is on or before 31st August, the Code must be renewed before September.

The DfE will again be monitoring the number of Codes applied for and the number of Codes checked, so please prioritise this process.

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

Come and join our growing network of early years leaders, childminders, and practitioners at our next Early Years Community Hub meeting, taking place on **Thursday 20th June 6:30 -8:30pm** at the University of Worcester, St Johns Campus.

This is a fantastic opportunity for settings to come to together, share good practice, learn from each other, and talk about the issues that matter to you.

Our agenda for the evening will include:

- Positive behaviour in early years, with a focus on **emotional coaching** and its benefits to children and their behaviour- **a discussion lead by colleagues at Little Hands Daycare.**
- A brief introduction to the Education Endowment Foundation (EFF) Early Years Toolkit and how this could be used within early years settings to improve practice.
- Plus, lots of opportunity for you to chat with other settings over a nice cup of tea, in a relaxed and welcoming environment!

If you would like to attend the meeting, please email Sharon Jones via the early years email address eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk , include name of attendees and setting.

Booking is essential for this event due to venue capacity and refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Consent to Advertise

Did you know that we need your consent to advertise your provision on the [Worcestershire Childcare Search?](#) There are currently over 100 NEF providers and over 130 out of school providers who we don't have permission to advertise and are therefore excluded from the Childcare Search.

If you have any vacancies in your settings, we recommend providing consent so that parents and carers can find you when searching for childcare in their local area. To do this, please access the [Online Provider Portal](#), click on **Forms** and complete the 'Consent for advertising' form.

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

Brain-building through play: Activities for infants, toddlers and children

The Centre on the Developing Child part of Harvard University have teamed up with the LEGO Foundation to produce a series of handouts providing suggestions for games and play-based activities based on a child's age.

From infancy on, play is an important part of a child's life. For babies and toddlers simple, playful interactions with adults help develop study **brain architecture**, the **foundations of lifelong health**, and the building blocks of resilience.

This is a great resource to share with parents and carers, to access the handouts visit [Brain-Building Through Play: Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Children - Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University](#)

Early Language Identification Measure and Intervention (ELIM-I)

A new website and resources have been launched to support early years practitioners to use ELIM-I during the [Integrated 2 Year Check](#). Developed by Newcastle University and BBC Tiny Happy People, there are nine tips to becoming a Super Communicator, along with training videos, guidance handbooks and intervention resources.

[Early Language Identification Measure and Intervention
Tiny Happy People – ELIM-I
How to be a Super Communicator booklet](#)

Reminder: 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.**

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

Starting Well Professionals Hub

Led by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, the Starting Well Partnership brings together Barnado's, Action for Children and Redditch Borough Council to provide a range of professionals who support parents and their children during the early years.

The Starting Well [Professionals Hub](#) is a useful tool to find resources and contacts within your local community.

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](#)

Wraparound Childcare - new IT solution for accessing Tax Free Childcare

HMRC is developing a new IT solution to help parents with primary school-aged children access [Tax Free Childcare](#) (TFC). This solution will facilitate a smoother customer journey for parents to pay for [wraparound care](#) via cashless payment systems, if schools use them. This is due to be delivered in September 2024.

Further information about the IT solution will follow shortly, but in the interim, please make sure that you are:

- [Register to offer Tax Free Childcare](#)
- Informing [eligible parents](#) that they can use Tax Free Childcare to pay for wraparound childcare

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

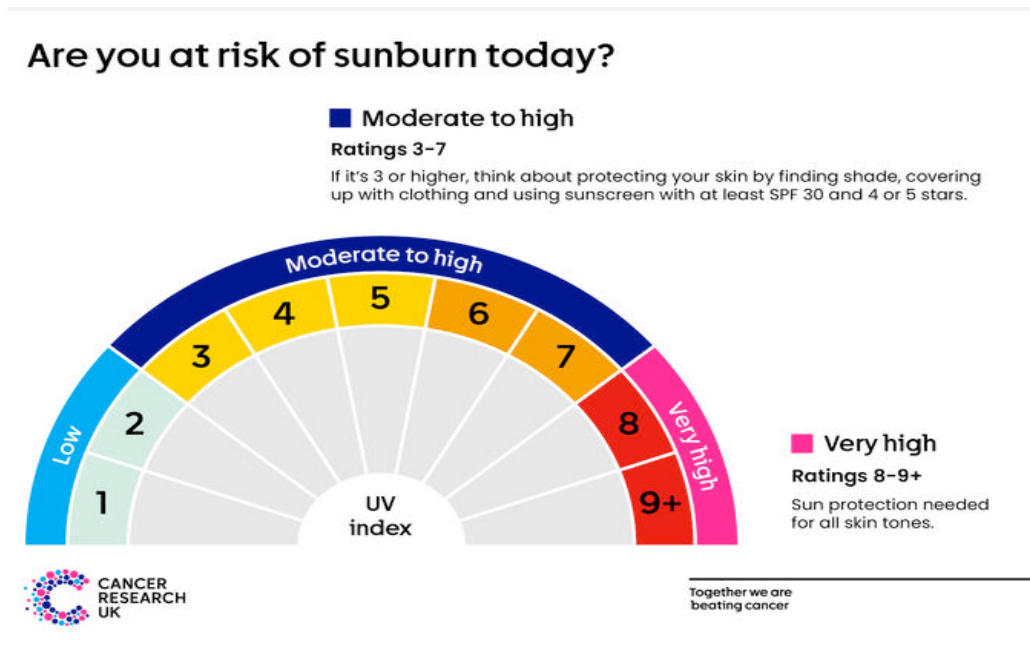
Sun safety for children

Early years practitioners have a duty of care to keep children safe and healthy. Children are cared for throughout the year and every season presents its own challenges: during the summer practitioners must consider sun safety.

The Government recently updated the guidance for schools/early years settings regarding hot weather: [Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals](#)

Good practice is to ask parents for a labelled bottle of sun cream early in the year along with a cap or sunhat which can be stored in the provision ready for the warmer weather. Parents must also sign a permission form to give practitioners permission to apply sun cream through the day – this can simply state ‘I give permission for my setting/childminder to apply sun cream to my child’s skin throughout the day’. You would then note when the cream has been applied, for parents to sign on collection.

It is good practice to consider the times in the day and length of time children are outdoors during warmer days. It is also important to note the UV index alongside the temperature as this tells you how strong the sun is. The Met office forecast will show the UV index.



UV 1-2 Low levels. No sun protection needed.

UV 3-7 Moderate to high levels. Be sun safe and consider protecting your skin.

UV 8-9+ Very high levels. Everyone should protect their skin.

More information about the UV index and sunburn risk is available from [Cancer Research](#).

Leadership and Management

Much of the leadership and management requirements of the EYFS relate to building a strong safeguarding culture within our organisations. This of course refers to our safer recruitment processes but also recognises that safer recruitment does not stop as soon as a candidate is successful in securing a position. Safer recruitment principles should follow the employee throughout their career and be used to ensure employees continue to meet the requirements of the role whilst maintaining the professional standards we come to expect.

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.

With this in mind we have created a free 40-minute [webcast](#) exploring our safeguarding responsibilities and the importance of building a positive culture around safeguarding and consider how adopting low level concerns into our safeguarding practice can strengthen this. We address the confusion that sometimes arises between the definition of concerns, complaints and allegations and how to deal with these effectively.

Our hope is that the webcast will give you the knowledge, confidence and passion to adopt low level concerns into your current practices to help build an effective safeguarding culture to be proud of: [Low Level Concerns in the Early Years \(youtube.com\)](#)

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

WCF Early Years Inclusion Team Provider Website Feedback

We are updating our website and any feedback about the current [Early Years Inclusion website](#) is welcome so that we can use this to help us build our new one.

Have your say at: <https://forms.office.com/e/AqRCrhKnQH>

Early Years Educator with SEND Qualification

[BeReady](#) are offering a fully funded Early Years Educator with SEND Level 3 qualification, which provides the tools and knowledge to recognise, and support SEND requirements from the outset.

For more information: [Early Years Educator with SEND \(bereadygroup.org\)](#)

Early Years Inclusion Process Evaluation

We are seeking feedback from providers on the Early Years Inclusion Process. This is anonymous, and the feedback can be provided by the link below.

[Complete EYIP Evaluation 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 [booking 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@worcschildrenfirst.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:

20th June 2024, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code EY 10407 / 84512

21st 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: Autumn 2024 / Spring 2025

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.

For the Autumn Term, we are trialling an Out of School specific session; depending on attendance, a date may also be added to the Spring Term.

Childminders The childminder sessions also include the SENCo Cluster meeting.

- 6th November 2024, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10273 / 85139
- 13th February 2025, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10273 / 85140

Out of School Providers (November date ONLY)

- 7th November 2024, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: EY 10274 / 85145

Group Settings (All group based provision including school nurseries)

- 7th November 2024, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 85141
- 8th November 2024, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 85142
- 12th February 2025, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 85143
- 14th February 2025, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 85144

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code. *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: 11th 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 Inclusion Training

The Early Years Inclusion Training from September 2024 to July 2025 is being offered FREE with all sessions being delivered virtually via MS teams. The training team offer is:

- SEND in the Early Years (course code: 10493)
- How to Write a Support plan webcast (course code 10084)
- Individual Provision Maps (IPMs) and SMART outcomes (course code 10494)
- Annual Review of EHCP's (course code 10496)
- How to complete an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) (Course code 10495)

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

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

Early Years ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) *NEW*

WCF Educational Psychology Service are excited to be able to a NEW ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) training and supervision programme specifically for Early Years practitioners working within the EYFS in PVI nurseries, pre-schools, Childminders or School ran/ governor-led nurseries across Worcestershire.

The ELSA programme has been widely adopted as an evidence-based early intervention for children and young people in over 100 local authorities in the UK. ELSAs attend training days and group supervision sessions led by EP's. They will be trained to plan and deliver individualised programmes of support for children to develop their emotional literacy, including: Awareness of own and other people's emotions; Management of stress, grief, anger and conflict; Development of social interaction skills; and Promotion of a realistic self-concept and self-esteem.

The initial training is a mix of psychological theory and application of theory to support children and young people. The training involves discussion, activities and sharing of helpful resources. Resources to support work as an Early Years ELSA are shared.

Cost: £450 + VAT per delegate

Location: Worcester

Dates: 5 Sessions

- 14th January 2025, 30th January 2025, 11th February 2025, 25th February 2025, 11th March 2025.

Each day is 9:30am to 3:30pm and lunch is provided so please ensure dietary needs are provided at the point of booking.

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10497. Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.