

Early Years Team

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Date: 18th October 2024

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

There are a number of exciting announcements within this edition of the Early Years Bulletin including Early Years Capital Funding and funding for School-Based Early Years Provision. Details about both of these schemes can be found below.

The **Early Years Provider Briefings** are taking place after half-term; if you have not yet booked your place, please see the Training section for dates and booking information. They are a great opportunity to hear the latest policy news, as well as raise any questions you may have.

Don't forget that alongside the courses listed below, the Early Years Team also has a range of webcasts available to support practice. They are all available to book via CPD.

If you need any advice or support, please email the team on EYCC@worcestershire.gov.uk or submit a request via the website.

Regards,

The Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Nursery Education Funding

Autumn Term 2024 New Starters

If you have new children starting that haven't attended another setting and are eligible for funding this term, claims can be submitted onto the Provider Portal without waiting for the adjustments to open after half-term.

Eligibility Codes for January 2025

Families of children who are due to start accessing funding from January 2025 under the Working Family criteria should now be applying for their Eligibility Codes.

Please ask for the Eligibility Code to be given to you as soon as possible and use the Eligibility Checker on the Provider Portal to confirm that the Start Date is on or before 31st December 2024 and that the End Date is on or after 1st January 2025.

Early Years Capital Funding

As previously communicated, Worcestershire has approximately £850,000 of capital funding to support the expansion of funded Early Years provision.

Capital funding encompasses building work and the installation of fixed assets and equipment with a shelf life of more than one year and costing more than £500. It cannot fund running costs, routine maintenance or refurbishment of premises. Further information about the use of capital funding for the Childcare Expansion can be found here.

Criteria

To be considered for capital funding, projects must:

- Create additional funded early years places
- Be in areas of Worcestershire where WCC have identified a sufficiency risk/issue or provide
 places for families from an area with a sufficiency risk/issue, demonstrated through previous
 take-up of places
- Evidence high quality Early Years provision
- Evidence ongoing viability/sustainability
- Evidence good value for money

District maps outlining areas of the County that have an identified sufficiency risk/issue can be found here.

Applications

Applications can now be submitted, up until **Friday 29**th **November**. All applications will be assessed before any decisions are made; cost per place, total cost of the project and the local sufficiency risk/issue will all be considered during the assessment process.

Early Years Capital Funding Application Form

As part of the application, the following information must be supplied:

- Minimum of 3 quotes for projects under £20,000 or 4 quotes for projects over £20,000
- Cash-Flow Forecast for the next 3 years (2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27)

All successful applications will be subject to a clawback agreement, the length of which will depend on the total funding awarded.

Childcare Sufficiency Surveys

To inform the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, surveys are conducted to provide qualitative information to support our understanding of the childcare market within Worcestershire.

There are two surveys currently taking place, and are available until Friday 15 November:

<u>Provider Survey</u>: to be completed by any childcare setting operating in Worcestershire. <u>Parent Survey</u>: to be completed by any parent/carer of a child aged 0 -11 years. We'd be grateful if you could forward the following text to parents/carers and encourage them to respond to the survey:

Childcare survey for parents and carers

Worcestershire County Council is running a survey to find out what parents and carers think about the childcare available across the county. This includes nurseries, preschools, childminders and out of school provision.

They would like to find out more about what parents and carers think about the childcare they currently use, as well as find out about any issues with accessing childcare.

The results of the survey will be used to help the Council plan to make sure there is enough good quality childcare in Worcestershire, at the times and places that families need it.

You can complete the survey here: Parent Survey

The survey will **close on 15th November 2024**.

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub





Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub is a networking and peer support session for early years leaders, childminders, practitioners, and EY teacher's working with children within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It's a collaboration between University Worcester (UW) colleagues enhancing practice for UW students, WCC early years team and **YOU** our setting providers.

Meetings are held termly, and we ensure providers drive the agenda, covering topics that you want to talk about. We aim to create a collaborative, supportive and inclusive space for our early years community to come together to network. We draw on the wealth of expertise across our community allowing colleagues to share knowledge and effective practice which will benefit us all.

So, if you are missing social contact and fed up with virtual meetings, this is the space for you! If you have an interest in learning from other settings and becoming part of a network to share knowledge and effective practice with a range of early years educators, then we would love you to join our tribe!

By popular request, our discussion topic for the evening will focus on "What is it like for a child with SEND in your setting? The session will take a strength based, solution focused approach, utilising the shared expertise in the room to recognise what's working well and gain support to overcome challenges in an empowering and supportive way.

Taking place on **Thursday 21**st **November at 6:30pm**, places are bookable via <u>CPD</u>; for further information about how to book, please see the Training section below.

Winter Infections in Children

Colds, sickness bugs and other infections are common in winter, especially in children and young people. Children are particularly vulnerable, as their hygiene habits may not always be ideal, and they are often with lots of other children at school. Ensuring good infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and preventative measures are important to reduce the risk of infections spreading.

With this in mind, Worcestershire County Council Public Health Team have developed an information pack which has been produced to provide education and early years settings advice, information and resources about infectious diseases and actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of transmission.

A copy of the document can be downloaded <u>here</u>.

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 chSComms@worcestershire.gov.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

Capital Funding for School Based Nurseries

On Thursday 17th October, the DfE announced that state-funded primary-phase schools will be able to apply for up to £150,000 of capital funding to upgrade spare space to create or expand on-site early years provision. The new or expanded provision can be school-run or delivered by early years settings (PVI providers including childminders), offering places for any early years age-group in areas where there is local demand. Guidance on the scheme is available here.

To apply for the funding, schools must have LA support. If you are intending to apply for the School-Based Nurseries Capital Grant 2024 to 2025, please complete this Expression of Interest form to enable the local authority to assess:

- If there is a sufficiency need for additional early years provision in your location
- If there are any accommodation or lease considerations

<u>Applications</u> from schools will be open from Thursday 17th October until Thursday 19th December.

Schools that are interested in opening provision in the future but are not intending to apply yet, may register their interest with the DfE here.

Ofsted Childminder Categories

It has been announced that from 1st November 2024, there will be two categories of childminder:

- 1. Childminder (with domestic premises)
- 2. Childminder without domestic premises

Childminders who are already registered do not need to take any action in relation to these changes and will be able to benefit from the new flexibilities.

All childminders will be able to work with an additional person (another childminder or assistant) under their childminder registration – allowing up to 4 people to work together in total. Childminders (with domestic premises) will be able to choose how much time they operate from their home or from non-domestic premises, as long as they spend at least some of their time operating from their domestic premises.

Those childminders who do not want to, or are unable to, work from home can register for the new category: 'childminder without domestic premises' where they would operate entirely from non-domestic premises.

The numbers for those providing Childcare on Domestic Premises will increase from 4 or more, to 5 or more people providing care; those already registered on or before 1st November 2024 will be able to continue operating with 4 or more people.

Detailed information about the changes will be published shortly, in the meantime an <u>overview</u> has been published.

Ofsted Early Years Blog: Submitting EY2 Forms

A new post, "Who needs to submit an EY2 form, and tips for completing it" has just been published on the Ofsted: Early Years Blog.

In this blog, Ofsted sets out who needs to submit an EY2 form and provides some tips on completing it, which helps to process the submitted form quickly and efficiently.

West Midlands Ofsted Big Conversation

The West Midlands Ofsted Big Conversation Open Meeting is happening on 8th November at Birmingham City Football Ground from 10am to 1pm.

This is your chance to hear the latest news from Ofsted themselves and also to speak directly with them on any issue in their popular Speakers Corner. Time will be given to talk to them discretely about any aspect of your choice.

Alongside this we are lining up other speakers that will be announced soon, so watch out for these names to be released in the coming weeks on social media and Eventbrite.

Tickets are £20 and can be booked via Eventbrite: https://www.http

Best Start in Life: a research review for Early Years

'<u>Best start in life part 3: the 4 specific areas of learning</u>' has now been published, adding to '<u>Part 1: setting the scene</u>', published in 2022 and '<u>Part 2: the 3 prime areas of learning</u>', published in 2023.

Part 3 considers what it means to make progress in the four specific areas of learning in light of fundings from research, along with the implications for practitioners.

To find out more about the research review and to read the individual documents, please visit: <u>Best start in life: a research review for early years</u>

Reminder: Childcare Works HUB

Childcare Works are supporting the Childcare Expansion programme on behalf of the DfE. They have free resources in place to support schools and settings, including management essentials, business planning tools and SEND resources:

<u>HUB Early Years - childcareworks.org.uk</u> <u>HUB Wraparound Childcare - childcareworks.org.uk</u>

DfE's 'Do something BIG' Campaign

The DfE's '<u>Do something BIG</u>' campaign is seeking inspiring and standout real-life stories from early years professionals working in nurseries, pre-schools, before and after school clubs, or as childminders.

Their goal is to champion the early years sector as part of the campaign and through DfE newsletters and social media channels. The DfE want to hear from staff of all ages and backgrounds, showcasing that anyone, from any walk of life, can work in the sector and bring something unique and valuable to the role. The DfE campaign team will work with the candidate depending on their story and agree where and how their story will be used to positively promote the great work they do and inspire others.

If you would like to be considered for a case study as part of this campaign, please email earlyyears.careers@education.gov.uk; if you put yourself forward, please also email EYCC@worcestershire.gov.uk to let us know.

Safety Alert: Water Beads

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a Safety Alert to warn of the risks that water beads pose to children and vulnerable adults. The Safety Alert advises that water beads should be kept away from children under five, and only used with older children or vulnerable adults under close supervision.

Water beads can expand up to 400 times when exposed to liquid. They are marketed for various purposes, including for use as toys and in crafting. When swallowed, they expand and can block the gastrointestinal passage, potentially requiring surgery. They can also cause choking and have harmed children in the UK, with reports linking them to deaths overseas.

If it is suspected that a water bead has been swallowed, medical help should be sought immediately. The Safety Alert can be found here: Product Safety Alert: Water Beads (PSA7) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSC) vaccination

From 1 September 2024, pregnant women can have a free vaccine in each pregnancy, to protect their babies against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

RSV is a common virus which can cause a lung infection called bronchiolitis. In small babies this condition can make it hard to breathe and to feed. Most cases can be managed at home but around 20,000 infants are admitted to hospital with bronchiolitis each year in England. Infants with severe bronchiolitis may need intensive care and the infection can be fatal. RSV is more likely to be serious in very young babies, those born prematurely, and those with conditions that affect their heart, breathing or immune system. Further information can be found here: A guide to RSV vaccination for pregnant women - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision

Out of School Update Meeting – Don't miss out book now, it's FREE!

Don't forget to book a place on the Autumn Term Out of School Update meeting, taking place on **Tuesday 12th November 7:00-8:30pm**. This meeting is suitable for leaders and practitioners working in out of school settings, both PVI and School run, including before and/or after school settings and holiday clubs.

You will not want to miss this session! We are lucky to welcome our special guest **Thérèse Hoyle** who will be sharing her Top tips for "playful" practice when working with school age children, highlighting how playworkers are the real "**Superheroes**" of play!

A Little bit about Thérèse Hoyle

Founder of Thérèse Hoyle Consultancies Ltd and lives in Malvern Worcestershire, however you'll find her travelling all over the country and internationally with her work in creating Positive Playtimes. Thérèse's passion is to support primary schools to dramatically improve the quality of day-to-day play times and lunchtimes, with a consequent beneficial impact on lunchtime behaviour, engagement, learning, social, emotional, mental and physical health and wellbeing.

She is recognised as one of the world's leading training providers of playtime and lunchtime programmes with her 'How to Be a Lunchtime Supervisor Superhero' workshop, Positive Playtime Essentials and Award Programme, and Positive Playtime Online Academy.

Thérèse has over 25 years' experience in education and has worked as a teacher, education consultant, coach, wellbeing adviser and trainer with over 1,500 schools and organisations. She is author of 101 Playground Games 2nd edition, 101 Wet Playtime Games, How to be a Peaceful School (Contributing author) and The Big Book of Whole School Wellbeing, (co-editor and contributing author) and regularly writes for education magazines and journals.

Also on the agenda

- Update on the National Wraparound Programme, opportunities for funding and the Breakfast Club Early Adopters Scheme.
- Safeguarding update: including launch of the Safeguarding audit for out of school clubs as well as national and local updates
- Ofsted updates, including local trends from out of school inspections

Please see Training section below for details of how to book.

Wraparound Programme Funding

Are you considering opening or expanding before and after school provision?

Funding is available to:

- Create new wraparound provision.
- Expand existing wraparound provision, creating additional places and/or increasing your childcare offer.
- Remove identified delivery barriers.

Please note that due to changes in the national childcare agenda, funding for 2025/26 is no longer guaranteed. If you require funding to expand or create a wraparound offer, we urge you to apply as soon as possible; delivery of the project is expected to commence as soon as funding is awarded.

Wraparound Funding Application Form Autumn 2024

Support is available from the Early Years and Childcare Team, please contact Sharon Jones by emailing Wraparound@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Breakfast Club Announcement

On Monday 23 September, the Chancellor <u>announced</u> a breakfast club pilot, running from April 2025. The <u>Breakfast Club Early Adopters</u> scheme will invite up to 750 state funded schools with primary aged-pupils to become early adopters and begin the roll out. Schools that wish to find out more about becoming an early adopter can <u>sign up</u> to be notified as further information becomes available.

The DfE will be working with local authorities alongside schools, childcare settings and charities to consider the best approaches to deliver breakfast clubs; if you intend to sign-up to become an early adopter, we'd appreciate you letting us know by emailing Wraparound@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Lumi Nova: New free App to support children (7-12) with anxiety, fears and worries

Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS have partnered with BFB Labs to offer children and young people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire free access to Lumi Nova from 1st October 2024.

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage is a digital therapeutic mobile game supporting children with fears, worries and anxiety. Designed for children aged 7-12 years, Lumi Nova helps children to reflect on their feelings, build resilience, and learn lifelong skills to self-manage their worries in a fun intergalactic adventure.



Key features:

- Recommended by NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)
- Lumi Nova offers a Gold Standard of Care by facilitating graded exposures (the active ingredient of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) with psychoeducation
- Parent/guardian supported intervention
- Built in safeguarding & accessibility features

Watch this short, animated video to learn more: <u>Lumi Nova Introduction Video</u>

For instant access please signpost parents, who wish to support their child to use Lumi Nova, to sign up: <u>Lumi Nova App</u>

Contact Information

Website - <u>Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage</u> Email - <u>luminova@bfb-labs.com</u>

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit Tool

These audit tools, one for group providers and one for childminders, have been designed to help you reflect on current safeguarding practice and identify areas for development. We recommend that you complete this annually to ensure you are always developing your safeguarding practice.

<u>Safeguarding Self - Assessment Audit - Group settings</u> <u>Safeguarding Self - Assessment Audit - Childminders</u>

We request that upon completion of the audit, you send a copy to EYCC@worcestershire.gov.uk; one of the Early Years Improvement Advisers will review your assessment and allocate support for your setting as required.

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

New Early Years Enhanced Provision in South Worcestershire

Worcestershire County Council has commissioned Dingley's Promise to provide two Early Years Enhanced Provisions in Droitwich and Worcester which will be accompanied by extensive outreach support services, including support to local nursery settings and family support. The aims of these provisions are to:

- Provide the best early support for young children
- Help more children join mainstream schools and settings
- Assist families get the right support for their child's needs
- Ensure each child moves to the right school or setting for them

The Family Support Offer is available to all families in south Worcestershire with children aged 0-5 who have SEND or a developmental delay and will include stay and plays, home visits, information sessions as well as 1:1 support.

These provisions will be open from January 2025 although some aspects of the service, e.g. Family Support Offer will be available before. For further information visit <u>Dingley's Promise webpage</u>.

EYFS Early Support Tracking document

Launched as part of the DfE's 'Help for Early Years Providers', the SEND Assessment guidance and resources has now been published. Developed by Dingley's Promise in collaboration with the DfE, the resources have been created to support a child-centred, strengths-based approach to assessing children's needs. The guidance aims to support early identification of emerging SEND needs in a practical and standardised way.

We are currently looking into the best way of working with this in Worcestershire and will inform you as soon as we know of the launch date, so watch this space...

In the meantime, continue to use the Early Support Tracking documents.

Dingley's Promise: Resources for Practitioners

In addition to the SEND Assessment guidance, Dingley's Promise have a range of resources available that are aimed at enhancing skills, improving confidence and inspiring early years practitioners to develop an inclusive environment for all children.

Resources available include information guides for practitioners, videos to support practice and practitioner blogs. To access the free resources, please visit here.

Timings of the EHCNA

Worcestershire County Council are asking for the EHCNA's to be submitted by half term October 2024 for children who may need a specialist provision when they are school age.

Early Years Inclusion Funding dates

Early Years Inclusion Supplement Funding | Worcestershire County Council

Deadlines for Spring Term 2025 Funding applications:

For any providers that are planning the transitions for new children to start in January 2025, who are known to require additional funding, please apply by **21st November 2024**. This will allow you to have funding agreed prior to the start of the spring term, and allow you to plan your budgets and staffing accordingly.

Monitoring Form Return Deadlines:

Please remember that ALL GR4 + Challenge, Exceptional and 0-5 NON-NEF Inclusion Supplement Funding require a monitoring form to be completed. The Autumn Term 2024 forms are available between 1st – 15th November 2024.

Failure to submit a monitoring form may result in no Inclusion supplement being paid.

Reminder: To apply for Challenge and Exceptional funding, the child must be known to the Early Years Inclusion Process

Early Years Inclusion Team Helpline

The Early Years Inclusion Team helpline operates:

- Every Tuesday & Thursday afternoon (term time only) between 1pm 3pm there will an Inclusion Officer able to take your phone calls.
- The remaining times within the week, someone may answer, or we ask that you leave a voicemail for us to get back to you.

Inclusion helpline and answer machine: 01905 843099

Inclusion helpline email: eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook for updates

Early Years Inclusion website

Kidderminster Early Years Language Class

Kidderminster Early Years Language Class at St Mary's CE Primary School are offering free monthly Stay and Play sessions, as well as open afternoons for Early Years practitioners and SENCo's. Please see these <u>flyers</u> for more information.

SENDIASS Website

Do you have a child with a Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) in your Early Years setting?

Do you think a child in your Early Years setting might have Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

Did you know the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) have lots of useful information on their <u>website</u>? You can find information on:



- the support available for children/ young people with SEND and their families
- the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process

plus a handy A-Z of other support services and organisations.

If you identify children in your setting with potential additional needs, you can signpost their families to SENDIASS for **free** support.

Contact: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm

Call: 01905 768153 (24 hour answering machine service is available)

Email: SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk

Early Years Bulletin: Training

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

Early Years Update Meetings: Autumn 2024

An opportunity to hear the latest Early Years news on policy, Ofsted and best practice within the sector.

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

• 06 November 2024, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10273 / 85139

Out of School Providers (November date ONLY)

12 November 2024, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10274 / 85145

Group Settings (All group based provision including school nurseries)

- 7 November 2024, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 85141
- 8 November 2024, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 85142

Cost: Free

To book: via <u>CPD</u> 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.

Early Years DSL Forums

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other DSL's and Deputy DSL's from across the County, sharing good practice and keeping up to date with national and local requirements.

Audience: Early Years Childminders / Nurseries / Pre-Schools and Out of school Club providers

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 5 November 2024, 6:15pm to 7:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10400 / 90153
- 15 November 2024, 9:30am to 10:45am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10400 / 90154
- 11 March 2025, 6:15pm 7:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10400 / 90155
- 14 March 2025, 9:30am to 10:45am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10400 / 90156

To book: via <u>CPD</u> 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.

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub is a networking and peer support session for early years leaders, childminders, practitioners, and EY teacher's working with children within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It's a collaboration between University Worcester colleagues enhancing practice for UW students, WCC early years team and **YOU** our setting providers.

Audience: All Early Years practitioners

Cost: Free

Date: 21 November 2024, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, Worcester University, course code: EY 10527 / 90773

To book: via <u>CPD</u> 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.

Early Years Inclusion Training

The Early Years Inclusion Team are offering all of their training during 2024/25 for free. The following courses are all available to book:

- Annual Reviews of EHCP's * NEW* course code 10496
- Autism in the Early Years course code 10003
- How to complete an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) course code 10495
- Individual Provision Maps (IPMs) and Smart Outcomes course code 10494
- SEND in the Early Years course code 10493
- Transition in the Early Years course code 10168
- Webcast: How to write an Individual Support Plan course code 10084

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.

Nurturing the Developing Nervous System

Funded by Inclusive Communities, Redditch, explore how children's nervous systems develop and how early educators can support young minds and bodies.

Audience: Early Years Childminders / Nurseries / Pre-Schools and Out of school Club providers, School reception and year 1 staff

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 9 November 2024, 12pm 2:30pm, Bradley Green Village Hall, Redditch
- 7 December 2024, 12pm 2:30pm, Bradley Green Village Hall, Redditch

To book: Nurture Families - Nurturing the Developing Nervous System