



Early Years Team

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Date: 21st July 2023

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to thank you for all your hard work during 2022/23. We would also like to take the opportunity to say good luck to those providers and practitioners who are moving on.

If you are counting down the days until the Summer holidays, we hope you have a good break and make the most of the opportunity to take some time for yourself. For the many that will be working throughout the Summer, please remember that support is still available from both the Early Years and the Early Years Inclusion Teams.

This final 2022/23 edition of the Early Years Bulletin is brief, highlighting any key information that needs to be shared before September.

As always, if you need any advice or support, please contact the team via email at:
EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Best regards,

The Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Worcestershire Children's Services

Last Friday, Ofsted published its [report](#) following a full inspection of Worcestershire Children's Services in May. We are delighted to share that we have received a 'Good' rating. Ofsted inspectors noted that there has been continued progress since the last inspection in 2019 and found that "there is a coordinated drive to continue to improve children's experiences" which is testament to the hard work of our colleagues in children's services and the recognition of the importance of the partnership and impact of schools and settings on keeping children safe was recognised.

Nursery Education Funding

Provider Agreement 2023/24

The Worcestershire Provider Agreement 2023/24 was sent out at the beginning of July. Please ensure that the Provider Declaration Form and Contact Details Form have been completed and returned by **Monday 31st July** if you wish to offer Nursery Education Funding in September.

Summer Term Adjustment Claims

The Provider Portal is open for Summer Term Adjustment Claims. The deadline for submission is **Friday 11th August**.

Autumn Term Estimate Claims

The Provider Portal is open for Autumn Term Estimate Claims. The deadline for submission is **Friday 11th August**.

NEF Provider Briefings

It was fantastic to see so many people at the recent NEF Provider Briefings. As promised, a copy of the slides are available to download from [Google Drive](#) for your reference.

Early Years Supplementary Grant 2023/24

Information about the recently announced Early Years Supplementary Grant has been emailed to NEF contacts this week, confirming the Worcestershire arrangements. If you haven't received this information, please contact EYFunding@worcestershire.gov.uk to request a copy.

Early Years Funding Consultation

The DfE have launched a Funding Consultation, seeking views on their proposed approach to funding for early years entitlements for **2-year-olds and under from April 2024**. The consultation focuses on the way the funding will be distributed to local authorities, as well as how local authorities deliver the funding to early years providers.

Further information regarding the proposals, as well as the survey, can be found here: [Early years funding - extension of the entitlements - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#).

The deadline for responses is **Friday 8th September**.

New First School for Redditch

In order to meet the increased demand for school places that has arisen due to local housing developments, Worcestershire County Council is proposing to deliver a new First School, including a nursery and wraparound provision, in the Webheath area of Redditch. The school will be located on a site off Foxyldiate Lane and will ensure that child can access a First School place within their local community.

A public consultation is currently under way, which is open until **Friday 4th August**: [Survey](#)

Summer activity pack to encourage children to wash their hands

Continuing the promotion of the 'Clean Hands, Safe Hands' campaign. Public Health in Worcestershire has put together a summer holiday activity pack to help encourage children to wash their hands. It is aimed at children in early years and primary school and includes activities such as 'colour in an ugly bug', a maze and a wordsearch. There is also an opportunity for children to design their own ugly bug and send it in to us. Public Health will create a gallery of ugly bugs and use the best ones in our next handwashing campaign in the autumn.

All ugly bugs designed should be returned to public health by Monday 4th September 2023. Completed entries can be posted to Rachel Cockayne, Public Health, Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP or digital copies can be emailed to PHcomms@worcestershire.gov.uk

We hope you find these activities useful to use in your classroom. If possible, please also send to parents to use over the summer holidays.

The new summer activity pack can be downloaded from <https://bit.ly/HWSummerPack>

There are more packs and information here: <https://bit.ly/WorcsEYandSchoolsResources>

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

Preparation for Adulthood Survey

The Preparation for Adulthood Survey is still open, seeking views of all Early Years providers, as well as those of parents/carers, on how we can prepare children and young people with SEND to meet their aspirations in the areas of employment, independent living, community inclusion and health.

Please take the time to complete the Provider Survey, as well as sharing the following link with parents/carers:

Early Years providers: <https://forms.office.com/e/iVcaPAi7sw>

Early Years parents/carers: <https://forms.office.com/e/WVzzn9CtKM>

Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

Early Years Foundation Stage Consultation

As previously communicated, the Department for Education is consulting on proposed changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage. A summary of the proposed changes can be found here: [Summary of changes - early years foundation stage regulatory changes consultation](#)

Responses to the consultation must be made via the [Citizen Space](#) platform by **Wednesday 26th July**. Any further questions can be directed to eyfs.consultation@education.gov.uk.

Ofsted Complaints Consultation

As mentioned in the last Early Years Bulletin ([EYB210](#)), Ofsted are consulting on their post-inspection arrangements and complaints handling.

For further details and to respond to the consultation, please use the following link: [Ofsted Consultation 2023](#) and submit your response by **Friday 15th September**.

Apply for support from the DfE Childminder Mentor Programme

[The Childminder mentor programme](#) is still available for childminders to access. Further information about the programme is available from [hempall's website](#), including the amount of support on offer and the main aims of the programme.

If you are interested in receiving support, please complete the [DfE Childminder Mentor Programme - Request for Support form](#) by **31st July 2023**.

National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)

The NPQEYL is free, flexible and designed by sector experts to help professional leaders and aspiring leaders across the EY sector develop their career. It also trains leaders to support children impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as helping them to lead effectively through:

- creating and implementing a vision and policies
- improving staff recruitment, development, management and appraisal
- marketing their setting
- working in partnership with parents and carers.

The [NPQEYL Blog](#) has been launched to share the experiences of current participants.

More information about the NPQEYL and eligibility criteria can be found at: [Early years leadership NPQ](#). If you have any questions or need further support, please contact EYERProject.Mailbox@education.gov.uk.

Out of School Club Awards (OSCAS)

Do you know an amazing out of school provider who deserves an Out of School Club Award? With a range of award categories, including Out of School Club of the Year, Inclusive Practice Award and Team of the Year, entries can be made until Sunday 27th August. Further information and the entry form can be found here: [OSCAS Awards — Club Central Conference](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help and Safeguarding Update

South Worcestershire Summer 2023 Parenting Planner

Please download the [Parenting Summer Planner](#) for parents/carers over the summer holidays. Sessions are **free** and can be booked by parents/carers themselves by simply clicking on the QR code. There are no limits to how many sessions they book onto.

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

EHCNA Request

When making an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment request, please note that although it shows that you have 15 days to complete the request, each time you save the applications the 15 days restarts; this allows you to complete the form over a longer period.