



Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of 2023, we'd like to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication over the last year. We hope you find time to relax over the Christmas break.



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

Following the Early Years Funding Consultation that took place over the Summer 2023, the DfE have now published the [Government's response](#) to the Consultation, as well as the [Early years entitlements: Local Authority funding operational guide 2024 to 2025](#), which outlines the changes for the Entitlements Expansion in April 2024.

The key decisions made by the DfE as a result of the Consultation include:

- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) will be extended to all eligible children.
- Disability Access Fund (DAF) will also be extended to all eligible children.
- Deprivation Funding can be extended to all eligible age-groups, but is not a mandatory supplement other than for eligible 3- & 4-year-olds.

Indicative Local Authority funding rates have been published alongside the guidance; as previously advised, we will use the results of the Worcestershire Early Years Funding Consultation to determine the recent Worcestershire Nursery Education Funding rates for 2024/25 and are aiming to publish these at the end of January/early February following Cabinet approval.

Out of School Provision

Early Years Website Updates

As previously mentioned, we are in the process of updating the [Early Years website](#) to improve the guidance and resources available for the sector. We now have a page dedicated to Out of School provision: [Playwork and Out of School Settings](#).

Wraparound Expansion Survey

If you currently offer Wraparound provision, or are interested in opening new places to meet parental demand, we would appreciate you completing a short [survey](#) to support our planning for the Wraparound Programme. The survey should only take a couple of minutes to complete.

Out of School Records

We would also like to update our information about existing out of school provision available within Worcestershire. **If you currently have access to the Online Provider Portal**, we would appreciate you checking the information we have regarding your wraparound provision:

- Log onto the [Provider Portal](#)
- Select the appropriate provision type from the drop-down box at the top of the screen (Before School Care and/or After School Care)
- Click on Forms and select Out of School Provision
- Complete the form and submit for each of your out of school provider types

If you offer Out of School provision but do not have a record for Before School Care and/or After School Care available on the Provider Portal, please email EYCSystems@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with your Provider Name, Ofsted URN and whether you want Before School Care, After School Care or both adding to your record. Once you have received confirmation that this has been done, you will be able to complete the Out of School Provision form with up-to-date details.

If you no longer offer Out of School provision but still have the records appearing on your Provider Portal, please email EYCSystems@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with your Provider Name and Ofsted URN to request the records are deleted.

If you do not have access to the Online Provider Portal, or cannot remember your log-in details, please email EYCSystems@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with your provider name and Ofsted URN to request a reminder of your log-in details.

Buddy Foster Carers

Worcestershire Children First Fostering is looking to welcome Buddy Foster Carers into our fostering family. We are looking for people who have experience of caring for children in varied capacities to be matched to approved fostering families and children who are in care to provide regular respite/short breaks to the family as an additional element of support.

Buddy fostering can work alongside full-time work or part-time flexi working so it's a great opportunity to experience fostering and supporting others without needing to leave employment. The ages of the children can vary, the level of support that you offer can vary; it can be anything from a child having a child over for dinner, to a weekend or even a week or two during school holidays.

If you think this is something that you would like to explore further then please call us on 0800 028 2158 or visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering

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

Vapes - Free Poster (Illegal Vapes) and Parent/Carers leaflet

Early Years settings can order free posters about what constitutes an illegal vape. These are ideal for staff rooms and parent areas.

Please use this order form: <https://forms.office.com/e/d1c9Lc12km>

In addition you can access the parent/carers leaflet about vaping from [Google Drive](#).

HANDi App - Don't let bugs play on your mind

On behalf of our colleagues at NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire please find below information to promote the usage of the HANDi app to your parents and carers. Your support in displaying the poster, sending the information out in your communications to parents and carers and putting the information on your websites would be most appreciated.

They are requesting that settings help the local health systems to promote the paediatric HANDi App which gives parents and carers local advice on what to do when their child is unwell whether that's looking after them at home, taking them to see a GP, using NHS 111, or visiting an urgent care service.

[Download HANDi campaign poster and social static](#)

[HANDi App - Don't let bugs play on your mind](#)

If your child is unwell, use the HANDi App to check their symptoms and get instant, NHS-approved medical advice.

Developed and approved by local Paediatric Consultants, the HANDi App provides expert advice on how best to manage the most common childhood illnesses, including:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- High temperature
- 'Chesty baby' illnesses, such as bronchiolitis, asthma and croup
- 'Chesty child' illnesses such as wheezing and asthma
- Abdominal pain
- Common newborn problems.

The app is free, and can be downloaded to any Apple or Android smartphone or tablet.

Why use HANDi?

HANDi is designed to help you know what to do when your child is unwell - whether that's looking after them at home, taking them to see a GP, using the NHS 111 service, or visiting an urgent care service.

If your child is unwell, HANDi will ask you questions about your child's condition to help you decide the best course of action - and with all the advice on HANDi developed and approved by local NHS paediatricians and other healthcare professionals, you can rest assured that you're getting the best possible advice.

For more information, to download the app and to hear from our Clinical Lead for Children and Young People, Dr Louise Bramble, please visit the website <https://www.hwics.org.uk/our-services/handi-app>

[Download HANDi campaign poster and social static](#)



The poster features a woman smiling at a young child. The child is wearing a blue hospital gown and has a yellow cartoon frog on their chest. The woman is wearing a blue hospital gown with a green cartoon monster on her back. There are several other cartoon germs floating around: a pink one with a magnifying glass, a purple one with a crown, and a blue one with a crown. The NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire logo is in the top right corner.

Don't let germs make mischief in your mind.

If your child is unwell, use the HANDi App to check their symptoms and get instant, NHS-approved medical advice.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

HANDi

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Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework

From Thursday 4th January 2024, the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework will have two versions, one for childminder and one for group and school-based providers:

- [EYFS statutory framework for childminders](#)
- [EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers](#)

Until 4th January 2024, the current [EYFS](#) remains in place.

Early Years qualification requirements and standards

Following the Early Years Foundation Stage Consultation during Summer 2023, updated guidance has been published that comes into effect on **Thursday 4th January 2024**: [Early years qualification requirements and standards](#). Until 4th January, providers must ensure that the [current guidance](#) is followed.

Mental Health for Early Years Children

We all have mental health, just as we all have physical health. In the same way that we can be more or less physically healthy from time to time, we can also be more or less mentally healthy from time to time too.

Help for Early Years Providers has added new [information and guidance on supporting babies and young children with their mental health](#). The guidance:

- Explains how practitioners can support positive mental health in early years children.
- Includes emotional and behavioural support strategies to use in early years settings.
- Links for further reading and resources.

For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for Early Years Providers website](#).

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs provide advice, share good practice and offer evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners. Led by the National Children's Bureau (NCB), there are 18 regional Hubs, including the [Midlands Stronger Practice Hub: HEART](#).

The NCB have launched a new [Hubs website](#), bringing together information from across the Hubs, including upcoming events, development programmes and resources.

Childminder Start-Up Grants

As previously announced, new childminders can apply for a start-up grant to recover the cost of registering as a childminder. Registration must have taken place after 15th March 2023 and must be ongoing.

If registration took place between 15th March and 31st July 2023, the grant application must be received by 31st January 2024. For registrations taking place between 1st August and 31st December 2023, applications must be received by 29th February 2024.

Further information about the scheme is available [here](#).

Applications for the grant can be made [here](#).

Ofsted poster for parents

Ofsted have recently updated their [poster for parents](#) to clarify Ofsted's role in childcare registration and regulation, as well as how parents can contact Ofsted.

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

Early Help Resources

A [recent study](#) produced by Action for Children in partnership with the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) suggests that one in five children are growing up in material deprivation and 10% of all children are in families with an income below the poverty line.

The findings of the study were echoes of the discussions that took place at the recent Worcestershire Community Hub meeting, where providers described some of the support that is being given to families at your settings.

You may find the following links useful when providing essential Early Help support to your families:

[Early Help family support | Worcestershire County Council](#)

[Early Help in the Early Years | Worcestershire County Council](#)

[Early Help training and events | Worcestershire County Council](#)

[Early Help in Worcestershire A4 Poster](#)

[Virtual Family Hub | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Worcester Child Contact Centre

Worcester Child Contact Centre are the only free supported contact centre in Worcester. They offer a twice a month session for non-resident parents to meet their children. Its aim is to reach families where parental conflict is effecting a parent seeing their children - often due to parents not wishing to see each other.

Their aim is to provide a safe space and help with handover of children so parents can avoid each-other and reduces risks such as the resident parent not knowing where the child is going or when they might be bought back. They are accredited by NACCC ([National Association of Child Contact Centres](#)).

Contact sessions run twice a month on a Saturday afternoon and are free to use. Families have to do a self-referral process through NACCC to use the centre.

Your support in raising awareness about the service would be most appreciated. Please display the [Worcester Child Contact Centre poster](#) or circulate with any parents who may benefit from this service.

For more information, please visit www.worcesterchildcontactcentre.org.uk.

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

Early Years Operation Encompass

Following the rollout of Operation Encompass to Early Years settings within Worcestershire, we are looking for some examples of good practice and positive outcomes from settings that have received an Operation Encompass notification for an early years child in your care.

If you have received a notification and can provide some feedback, please complete the attached Operation Encompass Good Practice Reporting form and return by 31st January 2024.

If you have not yet signed up to Early Years Operation Encompass, but have funded early years children in your care, please email ntruby@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to request a 'Welcome Pack'.

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter

Have you seen the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) newsletter? The December 2023 edition is available here: [Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership - December 2023 Newsletter \(office.com\)](#)

For previous editions of the WSCP newsletters, please visit: <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/latest-news/wscp-newsletters/>

SignHealth Domestic Abuse Service

SignHealth is the Deaf Health Charity, who deliver support to improve the health and wellbeing of Deaf people. One of their services is to provide domestic abuse support for Deaf victims/survivors who experience domestic abuse and sexual violence. The attached leaflet provides more information about this service.

To find out more information about SignHealth, please visit their [website](#).

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

RETA Funding

Most children with SEND should have their needs met within the Schools Notional SEN funding and within SEN Support. Children with SEND will need a carefully planned transition in liaison with parent carers, early years provider and school setting to ensure that all information is shared including: needs identified, provision required and what is working well. Some children with SEND may require an enhanced transition package to ensure the next setting is fully aware of needs and is supported in planning on how to meet these.

The new Early Years Inclusion Process has been designed to support the enhanced transition process in several ways:

- Supporting early identification of needs so that targeted provision can be put in place and closely monitored and reviewed over time.
- Additional support from Inclusion Support Services to provide specialist support through the graduated response. If these professionals are involved at point of transition they will be involved in the transition process.
- Ensuring that children who require an EHC needs assessment have this requested prior to transition.

With the above in place, all children's needs should have been identified prior to transition and therefore will have their needs met either within ordinarily available resources, or with additional provision outlined in an EHCP. Therefore, from Summer Term 2024 RETA funding is no longer available to settings as it is not required to support the transition process.

There will be low incident occasions where children have not been known to services prior to starting school, and who present with complex needs. In these cases schools should follow the graduated response utilising their notional SEN budget.

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

Early Years Training Directory

To support Early Years settings, we have a bespoke “Early Years Training Directory” detailing all the training offered by The Early Years Team, such as:

- [Preparing for your Ofsted Early Years Inspection](#),
- [Early Years Prevent and British Values](#)
- [Good practice for a SEND environment](#)

Providing a quick and easy way to see what is available and help to plan your team’s training needs, the Early Years Training Directory is updated monthly to ensure we capture any changes in courses offered.

The Early Years training directory can be found on the Education Services [website](#).

If there are any courses listed that you would prefer to have delivered “in-house” to all of your team, please get in touch with the training team by calling 01905 844 420 or emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to discuss.

Join our Mailing List

To keep up to date with the latest courses and events offered by the Early Years team or wider services within Worcestershire Children First, then why not join our mailing list?

To join use this link <https://newzapp.co.uk/clients/forms/wcf/> - enter your details and select your preferred categories. Once you have successfully signed up you will begin to receive marketing emails relevant to your interests on the latest training, conferences, education services and news.

At any point you can update your preferences or unsubscribe.

NEF Expansion – What do we know so far?

An opportunity to look forward to April 2024, the start of the 'Childcare Expansion', hear about what we know so far and raise any questions that you may have. Suitable for all early years settings and childminders who offer NEF

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 24 January 2024, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10407 / 84219
- 26 January 2024, 10am to 11am, virtual delivery, course code: EY10407 / 84220

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.

Attachment Aware Trauma Informed Practice

In partnership with KCA, Worcestershire Virtual Schools are offering Early Years settings the opportunity to access training on Attachment Aware Trauma Informed practice.

Cost: Free

For practitioners who have not had recent Attachment Aware Trauma Informed practice training:

Five to Thrive: The importance of connected relationships

17 January 2024 4pm-6pm

Understanding Toxic Stress and Trauma and Promoting Recovering during a time of Collective Adversity

21 February 2024 4pm – 6pm

For practitioners who have attended ‘Five to Thrive’ and ‘Understanding Toxic Stress and Trauma’, or have attended ATR training with KCA previously:

Emotion Coaching and Promoting Resilience

17 April 2024 4pm – 6pm

Transitions and Vulnerability

14 May 2024 4pm – 6pm

Choose your words with care: Narrative, Shame & Identity

19 June 2024 4pm – 6pm

Further information about each of the modules is available on the attached flyer.

To book: [KCA: Reg form: Worcestershire VS Early Years Spring Summer 2023](#)

Early Years Update Meetings

An opportunity to head the latest Early Years news on policy, Ofsted and best practice within the sector. **The childminder sessions also include the SENCo Cluster meeting.**

Cost: Free

Dates:

Childminders

- 8 February 2024, 7pm – 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10273 / 84070
- 22 May 2024, 7pm – 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10273 / 84071

Group Settings

- 7 February 2024, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84072
- 9 February 2024, 10am – 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84073
- 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 listed above. *Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.*

Early Years DSL Forums: Autumn, Spring and Summer 2024 Dates

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

We have 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

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 05 March 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83721
- 15 March 2024 09:30am – 11am, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83722 (**change of date/time**)
- 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.*