



Ian Morris

Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager

Email: imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 844721

Our Ref: EYB145

Date: 23rd April 2021

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

We hope that you enjoyed a welcome break over Easter and that as lockdown eases, you have been able to get out and about a bit more!

We now have just one term before the new EYFS becomes statutory, making it vital to be up to speed and fully prepared for the upcoming changes. If you haven't already booked your places on our free training, please do so quickly as even our new dates are now almost full.

Alternatively, get in touch and we can offer personalised sessions for your settings.

Wishing you all the best for the term ahead.

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Government updates

7 April 2021

[EYFS staff:child ratios – DfE approved qualifications](#)

We have updated the 'Early years qualifications: from 1 September 2014' spreadsheets.

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

We have updated advice on the use of face coverings in schools and out-of-school settings and added new guidance on test and trace support payments. We have also removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

We have updated advice on the use of face coverings, Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and self-isolation. We have removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 Response – spring 2021.

[Check early years qualifications](#)

We have updated the 'Overseas qualification' section with information about the Statement of Comparability (SoC) which will need to be provided with the qualification information.

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

We have updated advice on the use of face coverings in education and updated information to reflect commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.

14 April 2021

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

We have updated advice to reflect step 2 of the roadmap out of lockdown, n singing in parent and child groups, educational trips, and for staff and children who are clinically extremely vulnerable. Updated the face coverings section on visual communication, visors and exemptions.

19 April 2021

[Early years inspection handbook](#)

The Early Years Inspection Handbook has been updated to include a new section on 'Inspection during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic'

Inclusion training

Our range of Inclusion training for April 2021 to March 2022 is now available on [CPD](#) to book and this includes the SENCO forum / clusters for each term. All of the SENCO forum / clusters and a selection of our inclusion courses will be virtually delivered with face to face training taking place later on in 2021 / 2022.

If you are interested in any specific Inclusion course being delivered as “in-house” virtually or face to face then please speak to the Inclusion team on 01905 843099 or email eyinclusion@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Child-Based Statements

The Child-Based Statements have now been uploaded to the Children’s Services Portal. Please use these Statements to check how many funded hours a child has remaining to access over the Summer Term Funding Period; this is particularly important if a child has accessed another provider during the year.

If a child has moved to you from another setting, a copy of their Child-Based Statement can be requested by emailing EYFunding@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Summer Term Actual Claims

The Provider Portal is now open for your Summer Term Actual Claim. Claims should be submitted by Friday 7 May.

Please remember that 31 March was the cut-off for both the eligible funding age groups and for applications for the Additional 15 Hours (30 Hours Childcare):

| Criteria | Dates |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Child’s Date of Birth for Two-Year-Old Funding | 01/04/2018 – 31/03/2019 |
| Child’s Date of Birth for 3&4-Year-Old Funding | 01/04/2016 – 31/03/2018 |
| 30 Hours Childcare Start Date | On or before 31/03/2021 |
| 30 Hours Childcare End Date | On or after 01/04/2021 |

Starting Well Partnership

The Starting Well Partnership is asking nurseries, schools and academies in Worcestershire to review the information they hold on the service to aid their staff, parents and children to access accurate and up to date information.

The Starting Well Partnership has delivered public health nursing services for children, young people and families across Worcestershire since April 2020.

Led by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, the Partnership brings together professionals from Barnardo's, Action for Children, and Redditch Borough Council to support 'parents to be' and their children during the early years and as they move through school towards adulthood.

Working alongside local organisations and community groups including schools, the Partnership identifies, and addresses health and wellbeing needs by empowering families and young people to access support networks and groups in their local community.

Six district teams bring together Health Visitors, Parenting Support Workers, Community Nursery Nurses, School Health Nurses, Health Care Assistants, Volunteer Coordinators, Community Health Connectors, Business Support Officers and Administrators to deliver services into their local communities.

Attached is the latest version of the 'Professionals Guide to the Starting Well Partnership'. Further information can be found via the Starting Well Partnership website or by contacting your local Public Health Lead.

Policy News

[New EYFS framework published](#)

The new EYFS statutory framework has been published. The Department for Education has confirmed that the reforms to the EYFS will be rolled out nationally from September 2021

[The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days](#)

The Government have published a review, led by Rt. Hon Andrea Leadsom MP

[Birth to 5 Matters non-statutory guidance published](#)

Birth to 5 Matters; non-statutory guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage, developed by the Early Years Coalition, has been published.

Practice

[Learn-Explore-Debate events – Implementing the revised EYFS](#)

The Early Childhood Unit at the National Children's Bureau have made available a selection of recordings, slides and case studies to view for discussion and training. They include information from the DfE, Ofsted and Dr Julian Grenier and an interview with Dr Suzanne Zeedyk on Self-Regulation.

West Midlands Ofsted Big Conversation

West Midlands Ofsted Big Conversation are back with another virtual meeting on Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 6.30pm.

With an update from Ofsted on the re-start of Inspections and two great speakers looking at children's communication and the new Early Years Foundation Stage then this is set to be another popular event for the sector.

Tickets are priced at £5 and you can book direct on www.wmabc21.eventbrite.co.uk

Please contact the organisers direct via Eventbrite if you have any queries.



The poster features a teal background with a pink border. At the top, three speech bubbles in blue, pink, and purple contain the letters 'O', 'B', and 'C' respectively. Below them is the hashtag #OfstedBigConversation. The main title 'Virtual West Midlands Meeting' is in white. A purple box contains the date and time: 'Tuesday 25th May 2021 18:30 – 20:30 (£5 per ticket)'. A white box lists the agenda items. A circular badge on the left says 'BOOK NOW!'. The Eventbrite logo and website URL are at the bottom.

O B C

#OfstedBigConversation

Virtual West Midlands Meeting

Tuesday 25th May 2021
18:30 – 20:30 (£5 per ticket)

BOOK NOW!

eventbrite

Agenda includes:

- Ofsted West Midlands Regional Update
- Janet Cooper from Stoke Speaks Out – sharing good practice tips for supporting children's communication needs
- Tom Bennett from MBK Training Group – EYFS reforms and ELG changes

www.wmabc21.eventbrite.co.uk

Best regards,

Ian Morris

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