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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you have had a busy but enjoyable week and are beginning to look forward to a Spring Term break. On behalf of the Early Years team I would like to say “thank you” to the many of you that found the time to join us for our Spring Term updates during the last two weeks.

I hope that you found them useful; I know the information around Early Help has been especially well received and I would like to say thank you to Rachel Watkins for her presentation and follow-up information for this week’s bulletin.

Please look out for our free training for the new EYFS that will be running during the Summer term. Thank you to all of you have booked on already, I know several sessions are full already.

Best wishes.

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Early Years Weekly Attendance Data

Thank you for your ongoing data returns. There has been a slight decrease in submissions this week; we are still submitting the data to the DfE on a weekly basis so it is important that we get as many returns as possible. **If you are closed**, we would still appreciate you taking the time to complete the form.

[The form for the week commencing Monday 22nd March is now live \(opens in new window\)](#)

Please be aware that you need to use the new link every week – you will **not be able to access the Form** via last week’s link.

The form should be submitted by **9am on Tuesday 30th March**. Please note that schools with nursery provision should also be submitting a return, for the **nursery/pre-school children** only.

Training available in the summer term

Introduction to the NEW EYFS

Our Introduction to the NEW EYFS session is open to all Childminders, Settings and school ran / governor led school nursery / pre-schools across the county and free to attend.

Join the Early Years team (Ian Morris, Sam Barrett, Sharon Jones) to prepare for the statutory introduction of the revised EYFS in September 2021 and to develop your understanding of the revised Development Matters materials

Due to COVID-19 these sessions will be delivered virtually via MS Teams, and specific joining instructions will be attached to CPD confirmations:

- Tuesday 15 June, 9am to 11.30am, course code: EY/21/090
- Tuesday 22 June, 4pm to 6pm, course code: EY/21/09
- Tuesday 29 June, 6pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/21/092
- Joining instructions will be attached to the confirmation email from CPD, if you have not received them 5 days before the course contact the training team on 01905 844 420 / workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Please book spaces via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your CPD leader login details

NEF Childminding registration briefing

This is an introduction to Nursery Education Funding (NEF) for registered and prospective Childminders, including information about Statutory requirements and Worcestershire processes.

These free sessions are specifically for Childminders who are interested in offering NEF in Worcestershire:

- 30 June 2021, 7.30pm to 9pm course code: EY/21/098
- 20 October 2021, 7.30pm to 9pm, course code: EY/21/099
- 9 February 2022, 7.30pm to 9pm, course code: EY/21/100
- Joining instructions will be attached to the confirmation email from CPD, if you have not received them 5 days before the course contact the training team on 01905 844 420 / workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Please book spaces via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your CPD leader login details

NEF Providers meetings

These are free update sessions to highlight any changes to NEF in Worcestershire for September.

- 23 June 2021, 7pm to 8pm course code: EY/21/101
- 24 June 2021, 7.30pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/21/102
- 25 June 2021, 10am to 11am, course code: EY/21/103

Joining instructions will be attached to the confirmation email from CPD, if you have not received them 5 days before the course contact the training team on 01905 844 420 / workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Please book spaces via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your CPD leader login details

Early Years Prevent and British values

The Government's Prevent Strategy talks about British Values and asks all educational establishments, including early years to be teaching these values, but what does this mean for early years practitioners, and what are Ofsted looking for?

This session aims to give practitioners an understanding of the Prevent Strategy and the requirement to teach 'British Values'. We will consider the ways in which these values reflect those already embedded in early years and identify current examples of good practice. We will also explore ways to further develop the teaching of values in order to better support the Prevent Strategy, meet the requirements of Ofsted and achieve better outcomes for children.

Virtual via Microsoft teams

- Cost: £22 + VAT (£26.40 inc. VAT)
- 26 May 2021, 7pm to 9pm, course code: EY/21/096
- 14 January 2022, 10am to 12pm, course code: EY/21/097
- Joining instructions will be attached to the confirmation email from CPD, if you have not received them 5 days before the course contact the training team on 01905 844 420 / workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Face to face delivery

- Cost: £32+ VAT (£38.40inc VAT)
- 06 October 2021, 7pm to 9pm, Worcester, course code: EY/21/108
- 16 March 2022, 7pm to 9pm, Worcester, course code: EY/21/107

Please book spaces via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your CPD leader login details

Early Help

What is Early Help and who provides it?

- Early Help is providing support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in a child's life, from birth to the teenage years.
- Early Help can be provided by anyone working with a child, young person or family, e.g. health visitors, nursery nurses and support workers (job coaches/ tenancy support staff)

Countywide services

- [Starting Well Partnership \(opens in new window\)](#)
- [Reach4Wellbeing \(opens in new window\)](#)
- [Adult and Community learning \(opens in new window\)](#)
- [Building Better Opportunities \(opens in new window\)](#)
- Troubled Families Employment Advisors (co located between Worcestershire Children First and the Department for Work and Pensions)

Troubled Families Employment Advisors work alongside partners feeding into the Troubled Families Programme, supporting families with 'The Journey to Work'. A lot of families facing multiple issues feel that they can't possibly work due to the complexities in their lives, when, in many cases, some work can be very beneficial – it can change family dynamics, boost confidence, self-esteem, provide a social life, extra income, and give them something to aim for and be proud of.

How we can help you and the families you are supporting:

- Benefits reality check
- Advise on claiming appropriate benefits e.g. Universal Credit, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment etc.
- Identify barriers to work and how to overcome them.
- Support with health issues as a barrier to work.
- Signpost/refer to job opportunities, training, work experience, local provision etc.
- Liaise on behalf of the family with Jobcentre Work Coaches and benefit specialists.
- Better off in work calculations.
- Advise on job search and employability skills.
- Attend case conferencing or multi agency meetings.
- Signpost to debt and financial support organisations.
- Share knowledge and provide upskilling on the Labour Market, changes to welfare benefits, employment opportunities etc., at team meetings and digitally.

Families need to be attached to the Troubled Families programme before we can work with them. This is done by completing a My Family Support Plan/ Early Help Assessment form. Please contact Rachel Watkins (tel. 01905 846076 or email rwatkins2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) for an initial discussion on how to do this.

Locally tailored services

- [Worcester Food bank \(opens in new window\)](#)
- [Food banks in other areas \(opens in new window\)](#)
- [Social Prescribing \(opens in new window\)](#)

Further information

- [Early Help website pages \(opens in new window\)](#)
- [Links to the following documents are available on this page \(opens in new window\)](#)
 - Early Help Pathway
 - Levels of Need
- If there is a need for early help family support that can't be met by you or any other service, complete [an online request for additional support form on our website \(opens in new window\)](#)

Levels of Need multi-agency training

[External Agencies – Multi Agency Levels of Need and Threshold Guidance Workshop \(opens in new window\)](#)

Please follow guidance below:

- Do you have an account – No thanks
- Course price – click in public circle
- Select organisation from dropdown box – Public
- Put in your address
- Then click book course

Any identified issues with the training booking system please contact: Judith Peachey – JPeachey@worcestershire.gov.uk

Government Updates

Updated 18 March 2021

[Survey of childcare and early years providers and coronavirus \(COVID-19\): wave 3 \(opens in new window\)](#) Wave 3 of research with childcare providers in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19).

[Use of free early education entitlements funding during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in new window\)](#) Update: the government's plans for funding local authorities in the 2021 spring term and for the financial year 2021 to 2022.

[Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(opens in new window\)](#)

Converted the additional operational guidance from PDF to HTML. This version clarifies previously published guidance on supporting those who are anxious about school attendance, clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable, lateral flow device (LFD) testing in primary school and face coverings.

Updated 19 March 2021

[Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update \(opens in new window\)](#) Added a short section about Area SEND in 'Current activity'. This sets out our plans from April 2021.

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests \(opens in new window\)](#) New information explaining what 'related occupations' are to schools, nurseries and college staff and students. Added 'early years education' because the service includes childminders and childcare staff who do not work in nurseries.

Updated 22 March 2021

[EYFS staff:child ratios – DfE approved qualifications \(opens in new window\)](#)

"Updated spreadsheets with the qualifications affected by changes to NCFE CACHE early years educator (EYE) and early years educator (EYP) qualifications where the certificate shows 'knowledge only pathway'.

[Check early years qualifications \(opens in new window\)](#)

Added information about the qualifications affected by changes to NCFE CACHE early years educator (EYE) and early years educator (EYP) qualifications.

Updated 23 March 2021

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in new window\)](#)

Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 18 March 2021'.

Updated 24 March 2021

[Early years and childcare: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(opens in new window\)](#) Added guidance on 'Asymptomatic testing: early years staff in different

[Asymptomatic testing: primary and maintained nursery school staff \(opens in new window\)](#)

Updated the guidance to include information on who should be offered testing, how the testing works, testing pupils and what staff with symptoms or a positive test result need to do.

[Asymptomatic testing: early years staff in different settings \(opens in new window\)](#) How staff in early years settings can access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Asymptomatic testing programme for childminders

From Monday 22 March 2021, there will be more options available to childminders to enable them to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme. This testing offer is also extended to anyone who works in an occupation related to a school, early years childcare provider, or college and their household, childcare and support bubbles. More information can be found [here \(opens in new window\)](#)

We want to extend our sincere thanks to local areas who have offered early years settings asymptomatic testing via local community testing programmes over the previous months.

From today, all childminders will be able to access asymptomatic twice-weekly testing by either:

- **Attending a test site** to get tested where they will be able to see how to take the test or pick up tests to do at home
- **Collecting tests to do at home** - <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- **Order a test kit online** - More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

This is a very welcome development for childminders. Testing will help to identify positive cases, particularly those who may have the virus and do not have symptoms. Those who test positive will then self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus. All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test.

In addition, the households, childcare and support bubbles of early years children are also able to access twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. More information can be found [here \(opens in new window\)](#).

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to [government guidelines \(opens in new window\)](#). Those with symptoms should follow [guidance for households \(opens in new window\)](#) with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and book a PCR test.

Please can you share this update with your networks to ensure that all childminders get this important update.

We are also aware that many of you are currently supporting private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) nurseries to prepare for regular asymptomatic testing, which will begin on the 22nd of March. In order to best help you support these nurseries please find attached our latest PVI rollout FAQ.

Please also note that PVI nurseries should expect to receive a further delivery of test kit supplies between 24th and 26th March. These supplies should last another 3-4 weeks. If a setting has received too many test kits, they will be able to keep them as stock to use as and when required.

Research Opportunity: 'Exploring Early Childhood Practitioners' Perceptions and Management of Empathic Interactions with Children and Families'

Message on behalf of Angela Hodgkins, Senior Lecturer & PhD Researcher at University of Worcester.

I am a senior lecturer and post graduate researcher at the University of Worcester, and I am currently researching empathy within early years practice. The aim of my research is to highlight the amazing skills that I know practitioners are using every day within their work with children and families.

If you are currently working in the Early Years and are willing to volunteer for a research study on the subject of empathy within your practice, I would love you to get in touch. The research would involve you making notes about empathy in a diary for 1 week and then having a virtual chat with me (on Zoom, Teams, etc.), and then doing the same again later in the year.

If you are an Early Years manager and you are willing to send out information to your staff, then I would be grateful if you would contact me for further information. Angela Hodgkins, Senior Lecturer & PhD Researcher. Email: a.hodgkins@worc.ac.uk

What about Us – First 1001 days movement

In the year since we first locked down, over 600,000 babies living in England have been born and have lived their whole lives in lockdown. Many young families are missing out on vital early years support as their struggles have gone under the radar of professionals due to shortages in services, exacerbated by lockdown restrictions.

The Government has recently announced £1.7bn COVID catch-up funding for school children, but there has been no support for babies who are at risk having experienced lockdown during a particular important period in their development.

[The First 1001 Days movement \(opens in new window\)](#) are asking you to get involved to raise attention and not let our Government forget the under 2s. They have launched a campaign #WhatAboutUs and are asking you to share your babies missed moments directly with Rishi Sunak, asking why under 2s have been forgotten by the Government in the COVID catch-up funding.

Visit [The First 1001 Days movement \(opens in new window\)](#) for email templates and moment assets to find out how you can contact Rishi Sunak via email, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Morris".

Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

