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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

With the Summer holidays fast approaching, this week's bulletin is full of ways we can help you start to plan for the Autumn term. Our EYFS and Development Matters recorded training remains available for you to view on YouTube. We hope that the recorded format lends itself well to it being used for staff meetings or to be viewed a little at a time at the end of a busy day. The Inclusion team have added further free sessions to their summer programme of support too.

The bulletin also provides further opportunities for professional development through Nasen, whilst there are a wealth of on-line materials being launched by Anna Freud this week, including fantastic resources to help with supporting staff well-being.

With well-being in mind, it's important for all of us to take some time to rest and reflect following a year like no other. Throughout the difficulties of the last year the Early Years community both locally and nationally have consistently gone above and beyond, often unheralded but nevertheless hugely valued by the families and communities they serve.

I do not intend to issue the bulletin weekly throughout the summer break however if there are any significant updates or key information that we believe will be of use to you ahead of the new academic year in September we will communicate these with you.

Finally, on behalf of the Early Years and Early Years Inclusion teams we would like to thank you for your continued commitment; it is genuinely a pleasure and a privilege to work with you. For those of you moving onto pastures new or even retirement we would like to extend our very best wishes to you for the future.

Best wishes.

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Thank you

Message on behalf of Sarah Wilkins, Director for Education and Early Help

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their continued efforts, dedication and commitment they have shown to children and families in Worcestershire throughout this last year. It's been a challenging year and I am immensely grateful to each and every one of you and hope that you manage to get some well-deserved rest over the summer.

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Headlines Summer 2021

HAF funded summer holiday clubs will be taking place at 67 locations across Worcestershire, thanks to the Ready, Steady, Worcestershire partnership, offering 3995 free of charge places a week, including provision of a meal, to children in receipt of Free School Meals. The Summer Holiday Activities Programme is aimed at children aged between 5-15 with something for everyone – from sports, to science, farm days to cookery and forest school to bush craft – an exciting time awaits children this school holiday. Clubs are inclusive of all needs, with additional specialised provision for children with SEND, such as horse riding and equine therapy.

There is an online booking system which can be accessed through the Ready, Steady, Worcestershire webpage or places can be booked directly through the clubs. The online booking system is now live with an interactive map showing clubs and activities in your area.

Ready, Steady, Worcestershire are also providing 'Golden Nugget' opportunities to children via the holiday clubs.

- Golden Nugget One – arts workshops from Severn Arts. There will be 50 arts workshops taking place at clubs across the county - with a huge demand for arts and crafts and music, followed by dance, drama and digital workshops.
- Golden Nugget Two – a themed away day experience from The Hive, including Wild World Heroes, Harry Potter and Mad Science. Club providers can book to take groups of young people on a day trip to The Hive (at no additional cost) to experience engaging and healthy activities in this fantastic location. Transport will be provided where required.
- Golden Nugget Three – a sports or arts away day experience at Worcester University. Club providers can book to take groups of young people on a day trip to The University (at no additional cost) to experience activities in this fantastic location. Transport will be provided where required.
- Golden Nugget Four - nutritional education from the WCC family learning team. HAF funding criteria stipulates nutritional education should be included as part of the holiday programme and the family learning team have created four fun workshops with a nutritional theme. Adult learning tutors will be visiting providers throughout the summer to deliver the workshops to primary aged children and the content will be available for everyone from 26th July on the nutritional section of the RSW webpage.

Training opportunities have been available to providers and their teams on practicalities such as use of the booking system as well as topics such as Youth Mental Health First Aid and Engaging Inactive Young People from Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Providers can request support from a dedicated support team at Sutton Croft who are co-ordinating the Worcestershire programme.

There is a dedicated provider webpage – about to be updated ahead of summer delivery – to include COVID information bulletins from Public Health and information on signposting families to wider services.

During the summer we will add a 'Back to School' option to the Ready, Steady, Worcestershire webpage to provide information to families on pre-loved/low cost uniform and helpful resources to support children with the return to school.

DfE Covid-19 Update

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

DfE Help for Early Years Providers Service

To support early years providers to understand and implement the changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework, the Department for Education (DfE) have set up the ['Help for Early Years Providers' service](#)

Nursery Education Funding 2021/22

The Worcestershire Provider Agreement 2021/22 and associated documents were sent out recently, to all providers currently offering Nursery Education Funding. If you intend to continue offering funded places in September, please ensure that the Provider Declaration Form 2021/22 is returned by **Friday 30th July**. Providers who do not meet this deadline may not receive their Autumn Term Estimate Payment on time.

Weekly Attendance Data

Thank you to everyone who submitted a return last week.

The form to complete for the **week commencing Monday 12th July** is now available:

<https://forms.office.com/r/DSD3ij4VYq>

It should be completed by **all settings**, including schools, who have Early Years children attending, **excluding** those children attending in Reception. **If you are currently closed**, we still need a return from you; the form will take very little time to complete but will ensure we have an accurate record to submit to the DfE.

Please click on the link, complete the form and submit by **9am on Tuesday 20th July**.

If you have any difficulties completing the form, please contact EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or NEF@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

New EYFS and Development Matters Training

The Early Years team have recorded training sessions to help support all Early Years practitioners and leaders with their implementation of the new EYFS and non-statutory Development Matters documents.

[Watch EYFS Training Session](#)

[Watch Development Matters Training Session](#)

Choosing a Phonics Teaching Programme

The following link sets out what the government is doing to help schools choose a phonics teaching programme.

[Choosing a phonics teaching programme](#)

Guidance to meet existing expectations for teaching early reading

The following policy paper sets out guidance for schools to meet existing expectations for teaching early reading.

[The reading framework: teaching the foundations of literacy](#)

Nasen: Meeting the Needs of Every Child

This DfE funded webinar is FREE to access and will provide Early Years Practitioners with a thorough understanding of inclusive practice for SEND in Early Years settings.

[Register for 29th July 13:00 - 15:00](#)

[Register for 12th August 18:00 - 20:00](#)

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

The Anna Freud National Centre some extremely useful updates to share with you. This includes their brand-new early years Staff Wellbeing Resource which was launched this week.

The fabulous new free [Staff Wellbeing Resource](#) is aimed at nurseries, preschools and other early years and childcare settings.

It offers practical guidance on how settings can support the mental health of their staff. It also contains some particularly interesting findings from a survey sent out to early years staff - regarding their mental health needs and experiences. Almost 1,500 nursery staff responded to this survey.

The survey discovered that nursery staff love their work, and many feel their settings are actively engaging with staff mental health and achieving positive results. But, less than half (47%) were aware of whether their nursery had a mental health and wellbeing policy in place, and where there was no known policy in place, staff stress levels were found to be higher.

Nursery staff also said that the pandemic had taken its toll on their mental health, with 50% reporting that they felt unwell as a result of work-related stress during the past year and 66% reporting that the pandemic had impacted their wellbeing and mental health.

The main areas which staff felt could make a difference to the wellbeing of staff were thought to be:

1. Supporting each other
2. Supportive management
3. The work environment
4. Help in accessing outside support

The free resource looks into how settings can excel in all these four areas. It also includes a range of practical tips and ideas on how to champion staff wellbeing, and an activity checklist designed to enable settings to implement permanent changes and monitor their progress.

So how exactly can a pair of **wellington boots sprayed gold** help a child in your setting who has been affected by trauma or abuse? And how can a **box of dead insects** help a child in your setting who has suffered a bereavement?

In the last few months, the Anna Freud Centre ran a series of three fascinating live webinars just for nursery and other early years staff. The first looked at managing challenging behaviour, the second looked at attending to the needs of children affected by a bereavement, and the third advised on how nursery staff can help any children in their setting who may have experienced trauma or abuse.

These events are free for you to watch at a time of your choosing. Just click these YouTube links:

Webinar 1) [Supporting children in early years settings who may have experienced trauma or abuse](#)

Webinar 2) [Supporting bereaved children in early years settings](#)

Webinar 3) [Managing challenging behaviour in an early years setting](#)

Speakers included **Louise Jackson**, Deputy Head of St Lawrence's primary and nursery, child bereavement specialist, **Beck Ferrari**, and our own mental health experts

Nearly 3,000 early years staff logged on to these fascinating live webinars to watch them in real time. Now you can watch at a time of your choosing. Some of these subjects are seldom covered in training, so feel free to pass these links on to your teams or any colleagues who would be interested.

Click [here](#) to access this great new resource!

This resource was created as part of a collaboration with a number of local authorities and other partners

Additional dates for the Free SEND Workshops running over the summer holidays

The Inclusion team have created packages of free inclusion training (to be delivered virtually) in the common topics that the SSA would normally support SENCO's with. The workshops are between 30 mins to an hour and will be bitesize events for you to dip into.

These workshops will be considered part of your inclusion package of support available, so please take advantage of the workshops, even as a refresher. They will be aimed at:

- Key person/s
- Room Leader/s
- SENCO/s

Each setting is welcome to attend multiple workshops and can request up to five free places (five separate email addresses) per workshop, allowing all relevant staff to attend.

Each delegate will receive a link to the workshop from me directly, on the morning of delivery. The workshop will be run virtually via Microsoft teams. The delivery of these workshops is part of the core support you will be receiving from your SSA.

Following the success of the last two terms of SEND workshops, we have put additional dates on for over the summer holidays. Workshops available are:

Top tips for promoting positive behaviour

- Tuesday 17th August 4.30 - 5.30pm

Completing a Support Plan

- Tuesday 24th August 4.30 - 5.30pm

If you would be interested in attending any of the workshops, please email Kelly Molnar; KMolnar@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with:

- the name of each delegate
- the email address for the delegate
- the preferred workshop and which date for each delegate

Annual Safeguarding Self-Assessment for Early Years Settings and Childminders

Over the term we have consulted with the sector and worked with some DSL's from across the County and have now developed a self-assessment audit tool (Annual Safeguarding Self-Assessment for Early Years Settings and Childminders). For some years, schools have been completing a similar assessment known as the section 175 as a legal requirement.

In Early Years the toolkit is **not** mandatory, however WCF believe this will support you in your setting to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding over the past 12 months.

This is an online survey which will be available yearly and can be completed online via: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162566541036> .

This will need to be completed by 31st October 2021, the results will then be shared with Denise Hannibal, Early Years and Education Safeguarding Lead and will support developing training needs for Worcestershire Early Years DSL's and all Practitioners, as well as supporting you in your setting to identify any priorities to ensure safeguarding is effective.

Best regards,



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