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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

We do not anticipate issuing a bulletin every week during the summer break but this week we do have some important information to share again both locally and nationally which we think you will find of use.

Please take time to read information shared from Public Health, we would encourage you to share this with Parents/Carers in your setting.

Best wishes.

Contents

Updated version of Development Matters.....	2
Ofsted EIF Inspections and the EYFS.....	2
COVID-19 Update	2
DfE Help for Early Years Providers Service.....	3
New EYFS and Development Matters Training.....	3
Annual Safeguarding Self-Assessment for Early Years Settings and Childminders	3
Additional dates for Free SEND Workshops running over summer holidays.....	4
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	5
Weekly Attendance Data	7

Updated version of Development Matters.

The Department for Education (DfE) have published a [revised version of Development Matters](#), government's non-statutory curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), to reflect feedback received from the Early Adopter schools that have adopted the EYFS reforms over the 2020/21 academic year.

Please note that changes to content are minor and you will not need to alter any planning based on the September 2020 version that you may have already made.

These changes include:

- Updated links, making minor tweaks to wording for clarification purposes.
- Updates to the Introduction and Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning sections to ensure the wording is aligned with the aims of the reforms and reflects the most recent research and evidence.
- Ensuring the document is accessible, inclusive, and easier to navigate. This includes a new design, layout and colour coding.

No major changes have been made to the curriculum guidance under the seven areas of learning, therefore this update should not impact planning based on the early adopter version of Development Matters.

The DfE hope that the new design will make it easier for practitioners to navigate and use for curriculum planning.

Ofsted EIF Inspections and the EYFS

Ofsted have just launched a brand-new page which includes what providers need to know about delivering the current and revised early years foundation stage (EYFS).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-eif-inspections-and-the-eyfs>

COVID-19 Update

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

Guidance on what childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been updated to reflect that we moved to Step 4 on 19 July. This includes removing the section on 'contact tracing until Step 4'. They have also updated sections on clinically extremely vulnerable staff and children.

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](#)

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](#)

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.

Additional dates for Free SEND Workshops running over 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

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

We're seeing an increase in severe respiratory illness in children as restrictions ease and people mix more, with cases higher than usual for this time of year and further increases expected over the winter months.

Symptoms of severe respiratory infection in children, include a high temperature of 37.8°C or above (fever), a dry and persistent cough, difficulty feeding, rapid or noisy breathing (wheezing).

Most cases of respiratory illness are not serious and clear up within 2 to 3 weeks, but parents should contact their GP or call NHS 111 if:

- Their child struggles to breath.
- Their child has taken less than half their usual amount during the last 2 or 3 feeds, or they have had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more.
- The child has a persistent high temperature of 37.8C or above.

Some children under 2, especially those born prematurely or with a heart condition, can suffer more serious consequences from these common respiratory infections.

Find out more about the symptoms and what to do [here](#).

Please share this information with your parents:

- There are many common respiratory viruses seen in children, which most will have had by the time they turn 2.
- However, in children under 2, the more serious consequences can lead to bronchiolitis, infection of the lower airways, that can make the airways inflamed and mucousy making it harder to breath.
- The early symptoms of bronchiolitis are similar to those of a common cold, such as a runny nose and a cough.
- Further symptoms can develop over the next few days, and may include:
 - a slight high temperature (fever)
 - a dry and persistent cough
 - difficulty feeding
 - rapid or noisy breathing (wheezing)
 - parents should seek emergency NHS care if their child become breathless – the most common symptom of severe RSV.

- Most cases of bronchiolitis are not serious, but you should contact your GP or call NHS 111 if:
 - you're worried about your child
 - your child has taken less than half their usual amount during the last 2 or 3 feeds, or they have had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more
 - your child has a persistent high temperature of 38C or above
 - your child seems very tired or irritable.

- Dial 999 for an ambulance if:
 - your baby is having difficulty breathing.
 - your baby's tongue or lips are blue.
 - there are long pauses in your baby's breathing.

- Good respiratory and hand hygiene can reduce the spread of these infections. Parents are advised to carry tissues and use them to catch coughs or sneezes, bin the used tissues as soon as possible and wash your hands with soap and warm water to kill the germs.

- Children with flu or bronchiolitis symptoms should stay home and reduce contacts where possible.

- Most cases are not serious and clear up within 2 to 3 weeks, but the symptoms can be very worrying for parents. For some infants and babies, such as those born prematurely or with a heart condition, bronchiolitis can be more severe. NHS 111 or your GP can offer advice if any parent has concerns.

- It is perfectly okay for parents to ask people with colds to keep away from newborn babies, particularly in the first two months, and for babies born prematurely.

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bronchiolitis/>

Suggested social media posts for settings to use.

The copy below should be used in combination with the images produced by Public Health England. Ideally these images should all be used together as a carousel as they contain different key messages and can be downloaded from our [Google Drive](#).

- RSV is a common virus causing colds and coughs but can be more severe in some children. Right now, cases are higher than usual for this time of year as COVID-19 restrictions ease and children mix more. Find out more about the symptoms and what to do if you're concerned here <https://bit.ly/3wPHiPb>

- We're seeing more children with respiratory illness for this time of year. Good hygiene can reduce the spread of these infections: carry tissues to catch coughs or sneezes and wash your hands with soap and warm water. Find out more about the symptoms here <https://bit.ly/3wPHiPb>

- Cases of respiratory illness in children are higher than usual for this time of year. If your child becomes breathless or has difficulty breathing, contact NHS 111 or your GP immediately. Find out more about the symptoms here <https://bit.ly/3wPHiPb>
- If your child is breathless, has a persistent high temperature or isn't feeding properly, contact NHS 111 or your GP as it could be a sign of severe respiratory illness. Find out more about this common virus and what to do if you're concerned here <https://bit.ly/3wPHiPb>

Most cases of respiratory illness in children aren't serious and clear up within 2-3 weeks, but the symptoms can be worrying. For some infants & babies, like those born prematurely or with a heart condition, it can be more severe. If concerned call NHS 111 or your GP.

Weekly Attendance Data

The DfE will not be collecting EY's attendance data over the Summer holidays and therefore we will not be sending out the weekly data form for completion. The DfE have recently consulted on the data collection, with an intention to stop the return altogether, however this has not yet been confirmed. Please look out for a further update at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

A national summary of the attendance within Early Years settings, as well as Schools can be found here: [Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak, Week 30 2021](#)

Best regards,



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