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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Our bulletin this week contains a great deal of information and news. It is pleasing that more of you have made use of our Safeguarding Self-Assessment tool. If you have not used it yet please find out more in our opening article this week and book yourself onto our upcoming EY Safeguarding Leads Forum.

Tracey Wilson from the Admissions Team has contributed an article on the importance of families applying for school places on time and the difficulties that applying late can present, especially for our most vulnerable children.

We also have a number of training opportunities for you ranging from paediatric first aid, inclusion and staff wellbeing as well as the afore-mentioned EY DSL Forum and Leaders and Managers Update.

Finally, if you have not done so already, please ensure that you reserve your place at our Early Years Conference which takes place next week. We have a fantastic array of speakers lined up as well as a number of exhibitors, all in the lovely venue that is Worcester Racecourse. We hope to see as many of you as possible there next Friday and Saturday.

As an added incentive, if you have already booked a place you can now bring along a colleague for half price. This extends to anyone who books in this final week - book one place and get another for half price.

Please share and follow our [Worcestershire Children First Early Years Facebook page](#) where more information can be found.

Enjoy your week.

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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). Schools for some years have been completing a similar assessment known as the section 175 which legally has to be completed by all schools.

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 survey will be available yearly and can be completed [online](#).

This will need to be completed by **31st October 2021**, the results will 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.

Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead Training

From January 2022 the Early Years DSL Training will be increasing back up to 6 hours, at present the delivery is 4 hours. It will continue to be delivered virtually by Cheryl Green, our trainer, and will remain at £40 + VAT per person for each booked place.

We have reviewed the feedback from courses delivered in the April to July 2021 period and it has become apparent that additional time is needed to go into further depth on specific topics as well as to allow the discussions that take place not to be rushed or hindered due to ensuring all content is covered. This will also allow additional topics to be added in last minute based upon legislative guidance changes. As we know Safeguarding is an ever changing and evolving subject.

The training team will be working with Cheryl over the forthcoming weeks to ensure they have all the right information to amend the training booking system, CPD, and send revised confirmations out to all delegates. The intention is that this will be completed by 31 October if not before.

As a reminder, the Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead training is a single course for all types of DSL i.e. new, experienced, very experienced and is now a YEARLY course. The decision to move to yearly has been based on a number of factors. These include our experiences in the last 18 months due to COVID, that many of the safeguarding messages are the same or similar, how schools and governors access Safeguarding training, and that Worcestershire Children First want a consistent approach to Safeguarding training for ALL the workforce working with children and young people aged 0 to 18 years.

You can book your place via [CPD Online](#). If you have any questions regarding your booking, please contact the training team via email at: workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Save the Date - Early Years Conference

We are pleased to announce the return of our popular Early Years conference. This year we are thrilled to have invited such a diverse and renowned group of speakers along to enthuse and inspire you. As you can see from our workshops listed below, there will be something for everyone in the Early Years community.

Sensory storytelling and language acquisition - Katrice Horsley

During the workshop Katrice will share simple techniques to enable children to develop their language as well as create and remember stories. She will also provide tips on how to engage parents in developing their children's language skills. The workshop will be participatory, and we may be working on the floor so make sure you have comfy clothing.

Metacognition and self-regulation - The Characteristics of Effective Learning in action - Neil Farmer

This session will focus on underlying purpose of the EYFS, how to develop Independence, resilience, and autonomy within the children. To give children the thrill, the will and the skill.

Practical ideas for supporting children's wellbeing - Sonia Mainstone-Cotton

This will be a practical workshop offering ideas and tools everyone can use in their setting to support children's wellbeing.

SchemaPlay - Dr John Siraj-Blatchford and Lynnette Brock

John and Lynnette share video case studies of SchemaPlay practice, provoking discussions and practical experiences to take back to your setting and put into action!

As a final week special offer, we are now offering to anyone that has already booked a place the opportunity to bring along a colleague for half price. Similarly, if you book a place in this final week then you can get a second place for half price.

Don't miss out, booking is now live via [CPD Online](#) and be advised that places are limited. The codes are:

- Friday 15th October - CON/21/433
- Saturday 16th October - CON/21/434

Inclusion Courses – Buy one get one half price

A special offer is available for early years inclusion courses. Quote the following code on CPD online to get 50% off the second course you book onto:

Code: SENCOAutumn

For a full list of inclusion courses available please visit the [WCF Early Years Training webpage](#) and book via [CPD Online](#).

EYFS Early Support Tracking documents

It has come to our attention that incomplete documents were available on the Inclusion team website and certain links were not accurate. Thank you to all practitioners who highlighted these issues with the inclusion team.

The correct documents are now available to download from:

[Early years inclusion A to Z of resources - Worcestershire Children First Education Services](#)

- EYFS Early Support Tracking - Physical
- EYFS Early Support Tracking - All Areas Combined

These have been updated in line with the Revised EYFS. Please note that these documents must be used to track children if they are known to Preschool Forum, or if you wish to apply for additional top up funding such as 0-5 non NEF, Challenge to GR4 or Exceptional Early Years Funding.

Early Years Inclusion Funding

As it is a new academic year please ensure that you are reapplying for any top up funding via the application process. **Any child who accessed funding in the Summer Term will not have their funding automatically extended into the Autumn term and the new academic year.**

This applies to the following funding streams:

- 0-5 non NEF
- Challenge to GR4
- Exceptional Early Years funding

If you have not yet put in a new application, please do so via the Chs Secure Portal.

If you have any questions about inclusion funding, please email rwhite@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Please also remember to return any monitoring forms and funding contracts for the Autumn Term prior to the NEF actual payment run. Failure to return contracts and monitoring forms will result in the cancellation of the funding.

Paediatric First Aid Course

This Early Years Paediatric First Aid training course is aimed at all Early Years practitioners who are looking to obtain a current paediatric first aid qualification.

The course is 12 hours and delivered over 3 sessions: 2 x 3hr live sessions via Zoom and a 6 hour session face-to-face.

Session Times: 18th October & 20th October 6-9pm (Zoom). 23rd October 9am-3pm (Face to face).

Location: Little Squirrels at Shrawley, School House, Shrawley, Worcestershire WR6 6TT

Cost: £77 per person.

For more information and details how to book, please visit: [Early Years Paediatric First Aid Training Zoom & Face to Face \(3 Sessions\) - MBK Group](#)

Early Years Leaders and Managers Forum

The Early Years team will be providing an update on all the latest issues in Early Years, both locally and nationally. James Norman from Ofsted will also be talking about what to expect from an inspection visit.

- 2 November 2021, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/21/511
- 10 November 2021, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/21/512

Please book your place via [CPD Online](#) and joining instructions will be issued as part of your booking confirmation.

Early Years Safeguarding Leads Forum (EY DSL Forum)

The Early Years DSL forum is open to all PVI childminders, nurseries, pre-schools, out of school / holiday clubs and school ran / governor led nurseries and is FREE to attend.

Delivered by our Early Years and Education Safeguarding Team (Denise Hannibal our Education Safeguarding Lead and Hayley Doyle) they will provide updates on policy, legislation, guidance and local procedures, as well as giving you the opportunity for peer discussion.

- 16 November 2021, 6.45pm to 8pm, course code: EY/21/509
- 18 November 2021, 6.45pm to 8pm, course code: EY/21/510

Please book your place via [CPD Online](#) and joining instructions will be issued as part of your booking confirmation.

Early Years Staff Wellbeing

The Anna Freud Centre is announcing a series of free webinars aimed at all early years practitioners.

This webinar will look at: Early Years Staff Wellbeing on October 14th, 16:30-18:00.

We decided to run this event because although early years staff love their work, it can be emotionally demanding & stressful. Early years practitioners support young children at a significant time in their development. Their contribution to the wellbeing of children, by helping them learn new social, emotional and cognitive skills, and by feeding their incredible appetite for life and learning, is remarkable. Yet, despite this essential work, early years lags far behind other sectors when it comes to pay and recognition from governments and policy makers.

The webinar:

We recently published a resource about early years staff wellbeing, that shows that staff wellbeing needs to lie at the heart of nursery settings. The resource identifies four key areas that could make a difference to the wellbeing of nursery and preschool staff:

1. Supporting each other
2. Supportive management
3. The physical environment
4. Outside support

As well as hearing about the findings from the wellbeing report itself, this webinar will offer early years workers multiple perspectives on staff wellbeing in the setting. For example, there will be information around the importance of staff wellbeing and insight from a practice perspective. We hope that attendees will feel empowered and equipped to put staff wellbeing at the heart of the early years setting.

For more information and details how to book, please visit: [Early Years Staff Wellbeing | Training | Anna Freud Centre](#).

Primary and First School Applications for children starting school in September 2022

Closing Date for Applications 15th January 2022

We are asking all Early Years Partners and schools, to assist us in emphasising to parents the importance of making an application on time. The facility to make an online application is now open at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Could you please ensure that you include in your communication messages to parents, a reminder that the closing date for Primary and First School applications is the 15th January 2022.

The importance of making an application on time cannot be stressed enough. This year more than any other, has highlighted to us the huge impact that making a late application can have on the most vulnerable of children. A late application can only be considered after all those received on time, this places those children at a disadvantage. In areas where place availability is more limited some of the most vulnerable families, applying late, cannot be accommodated in their local schools, and in some cases, have not been able to attend the same school as their siblings. You already provide an amazing amount of support to those that are most vulnerable in your communities. It is vital that you continue to support those families in making on time applications.

As part of that support, we would ask you to ensure that you emphasise the importance to parents of applying on time and if necessary, support them in doing so. Please draw parents' attention to the closing date, in both conversations and communication messages to parents/carers. You will no doubt be aware of those children in your settings whose parents may need additional support with the application and by regularly reinforcing the message to parents about the importance of applying on time, you can assist them in ensuring their child receives the best possible opportunity for consideration for school places. You should all have received a poster for you to display in a prominent position in your setting, please ensure that you continue to display this poster and draw parents' attention to it wherever possible.

If you have parents/carers that you feel would benefit from some support in applying, guidance and support in relation to the application process can be provided by, the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 822700, The School Admissions Team on 01905 844111 and SENDIASS via: <http://www.hwsendiass.co.uk/>.

If you have Children in Need or those subject to Child Protection, please highlight the need to apply on time in Core Group meetings, so that social care colleagues can also support the families in applying, it can be included as an item in the safety plan too. We would appreciate your support in this.

Early Years Attendance Data

As previously communicated, the DfE are continuing to collect Early Years Attendance data during the Autumn Term, to enable them to monitor the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on the early years sector. The collection is monthly as per the dates below:

- Week commencing Monday 4th October
- Week commencing Monday 1st November
- December date to be confirmed

The information provided across all local authorities is used to inform the Governments Covid-19 recovery planning; it is therefore really important that we enable them to have an accurate picture of the early years sector within Worcestershire by submitting a response from all providers.

The data collection form for the week commencing Monday 4th October is now live and can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6uxui5wNKR>

The form should be completed by **all settings**, including schools, who have Early Years children in attendance. Children accessing Reception provision should not be included.

Please click on the link above, complete the form and submit by **9am on Tuesday 12th October**.

Adopting Pace in Early Years Settings

Roots Psychology Group working collaboratively with Worcestershire Virtual School invites you to this unique opportunity to understand and implement trauma-informed practice in Early Years Settings. Join us for two 2-hour workshops exploring a trauma-informed approach utilising the highly effective PACE (Playfulness Acceptance Curiosity Empathy) model.

(Please see attached flyer for more detail).

Best regards,



Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

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