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## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I have to mention a huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Early Years conference last week. The event was a huge success, as indicated by the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received both on the day and since.

The speakers were brilliant, providing the perfect mixture of the theoretical, practical, and humour and they all commented on what an enjoyable time that they had experienced and how wonderful it was to be working face to face again.

The venue was perfect too and the staff could not have done more to make us feel welcome. It was also their first major event for some time, and they shared our nervousness beforehand. I'm sure that everyone in attendance would agree that they did a great job.

We hope to be staging another event later in the year, so please look out for further details shortly.

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

This will need to be completed by **31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Inclusion Courses – Buy one get one half price

A special offer is available for early years inclusion courses. Quote the code **SENCOAutumn** on [CPD Online](#) to get 50% off the second course you book onto.

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

## Autism training

Our Autism and Complex Communications Team have organised a range of training for schools, and we've JUST had clarification that several of these courses can be offered to our early years sector.

### **Story Massage**

Story Massage combines the benefits of agreed positive touch through the use of story, rhyme or song. The programme contains ten simple massage strokes that are easy to learn and can be used in different ways throughout different Story Massage sessions. It supports learning and communication through play and positive touch.

- Cost: £20 + VAT
- 2 November 2021, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code SCH/21/427
- 14 June 2022, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: SCH/21/428

### **Signalong: A few common words**

Signalong is an alternative and augmentative keyword signing communication method used by those individuals with a speech, language and communication need. Signalong uses a Total Communication Approach to teach language and literacy skills, through a combination of speech, signs and descriptions at the appropriate level.

- Cost: £20 + VAT
- 3 November 2021, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code SCH/21/425
- 10 May 2022, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: SCH/21/426

### **Sensory Audits**

A one hour course to find out What is a sensory audit? How to complete a sensory audit, A modelled sensory audit (if in setting) and Resources and equipment suggestions.

- Cost: £15 + VAT
- 29 November 2021, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code SCH/21/419
- 13 June 2022, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: SCH/21/420

All places are to be booked via [CPD Online](#).

If you would like to explore this training to your whole setting, then please contact the Autism Team directly by emailing: [Autism@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:Autism@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

## 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.

## Update to the contingency framework for education and childcare settings

On Wednesday 13 October, the DfE updated the contingency framework to reflect the position on the shielding programme and details on when increased COVID-19 testing can be recommended by directors of public health.

The contingency framework describes the principles for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. It covers all types of measures that schools should be prepared for. It also sets out thresholds for managing COVID-19 cases and when schools should consider seeking public health advice. Schools should make sure their contingency plans outline how they would operate if they were advised to introduce any of the measures described in the contingency framework.

[Read guidance on COVID local restrictions in education and childcare settings](#)

[Read NHS Test and Trace workplace guidance](#)

## Understanding Your Child - Solihull Approach

Worcester Starting Well would like you to encourage your families to take advantage of these great online resources for every parent. In your area, they are completely **free** thanks to Worcester Starting Well Partnership who have PRE-PAID for every parent and carer in Worcester.

Each course is based on research about children's emotional needs and behaviour. They are written by CAMHS experts; Clinical Psychologists and Psychotherapists; Health Visitors & Educators. They are evidence-based and trusted by professionals.

Courses include:

- 'Understanding your **pregnancy, birth, labour and your baby**'
- 'Understanding your **baby**'
- 'Understanding your **child**' (0-19+ yrs, main course)
- 'Understanding your **child with additional needs**' (0-19+ yrs, main course)
- 'Understanding your **child's feelings**' (taster course)
- 'Understanding your **teenager's brain**' (short course)
- 'Understanding your **brain (for teenagers only!)**'
- 'Understanding your **child's mental health and wellbeing**' (accompanies UYC and UYCAD)

Please see attached leaflets.

## Childminding UK

Please follow the link below if you are a childminder who attended the conference last week but didn't get the opportunity to visit the Childminding UK stall.

[Read message from Childminding UK](#)

## Early Years Career Progression Pathways

The Early Years Career Progression Pathways (EYCPP), part-funded by the European Social Fund, is a project focusing on the Early Years sector and delivered in partnership with Birmingham City University, Newman University and West Smethwick Enterprise.

EYCPP will provide students, graduates and local residents in the Greater Birmingham region (GBSLEP) with a range of free specialist early years and soft skills workshops and webinars. The bespoke skills offer will focus on equipping you with the vital Early Years (EY) skills needed to progress within the sector. This will enable you to enhance and extend your range of skills to apply for and secure jobs in the EY industry.

Please see attached documents for further details.

## Advice for staff on pregnancy and COVID vaccination

**Please see the following information for sharing with your staff.**

If you are pregnant or trying for a baby, getting the COVID vaccine will help to protect you and your child.

The COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to all pregnant women over the age of 16. We know that vaccines are effective in preventing COVID-19. Some pregnant women may become seriously unwell with COVID-19 infection, particularly in the later stages of pregnancy.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe. They do NOT contain live coronavirus or any additional ingredients that are harmful to pregnant women or their babies.

There is considerable emerging evidence on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy, and no evidence that the vaccines can cause harm to you or your baby.

Visit this NHS webpage for more information: [Pregnancy, breastfeeding, fertility and coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/covid-19/vaccines/pregnancy).

## Winter infections resources for schools and nurseries Autumn 2021

We have circulated alongside today's bulletin an updated Winter infections resources pack for schools and nurseries. The pack contains key messages for head teachers and early years leaders on winter preparedness; checklists for flu and COVID-19 and Norovirus readiness, including when and how to report outbreaks; and leaflets and further information on flu, COVID-19 and Norovirus.

See attached resource pack for more information.

Best regards,



Ian Morris  
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

