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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

The end of term is very nearly here, and we do hope you are enjoying all of the festivities and excitement that this special time of year brings. Our bulletin this week contains a mixture of the latest local and national Early Years information.

We have the latest training opportunities from the Early Years Inclusion team as well as an exciting free Harmony at Home training offer. The school admissions team offer a further reminder for your families to ensure that they complete their admission forms for entry to Reception next year. The bulletin also includes the latest DfE guidance and research.

Enjoy your week.

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Nursery Education Funding 2022/23

We've received a number of calls over the last few weeks regarding the NEF hourly rates for 2022/23. The DfE have now published the indicative Local Authority allocations for 2022/23, the detail of which can be found here: [Early years funding: 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/early-years-funding-2022-to-2023)

The School's Finance Team will be providing further information about the Worcestershire rates as soon as they can.

Department for Education Updates

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

Following the Prime Ministers announcement on 8 December 2021, guidance has been updated on working from home, the NHS COVID pass and parent and child groups, on vaccination, vulnerable children and when to contact the NHS self-isolation hub, face coverings in communal areas, new and expectant mothers and individuals previously considered clinically vulnerable.

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Following the Prime Ministers announcement on 8 December 2021, guidance has been updated on asymptomatic testing, tracing close contacts and isolation, face coverings, workforce and the clinically extremely vulnerable.

[Childcare and early years providers survey: 2021](#)

Statistics on the characteristics of early years providers in England.

[Statistics: childcare and early years](#)

Childcare arrangements for all ages and early years provision for children who are 5 years of age or younger.

A special offer on our Early Years Inclusion courses

The offer is on our range of early years inclusion courses available in the Spring Term, which include:

- Positive Behaviour Management (currently being rescheduled to January 2022)
- Effective Early Identification of SEND
- Introduction to Speech and Language Difficulties
- Effective Individual Provision Map (IPM) Writing - Introduction to Practice
- Training for New SENCO's - Introduction to Practice
- 'How to write a Support Plan' workshop
- Individual Risk Assessments and Health Care Plans for children with SEND within Early Years settings

The buy one get one half price applies for any bookings made from 1 October, on any early years inclusion course so you can have delegates attend two different courses with this 50% offer, and the course must be completed by the end of March 2022.

To take advantage of this offer when booking via [CPD Online](#) using your settings CPD Leader login details, please quote: **SENCOAutumn**. If you do not quote **SENCOAutumn** when booking your second course, the training will be charged at full price.

Also please be aware that the majority of the Early Years Inclusion training, detailed above, will be moving to virtual delivery. Please continue to book places as normal and as / when the course is updated on [CPD Online](#) we will issue revised joining instructions.

Inclusion Funding Overview

Virtual delivery (Microsoft Teams)

Tuesday 14th December 5.30-6.30pm

£12 per place: aimed at SENCO's and setting managers.

Are you new to the SENCo role or wish to refresh your knowledge on how to claim inclusion funding for children with additional needs in your Early Years Provision? If so, this 1 hour overview course will provide you with clear guidance on the funding that is available to all NEF registered settings, out of school and holiday provisions.

An overview of how to claim inclusion funding for children with additional needs. The one hour workshop will provide insights into:

- The different levels of funding and the expectation of support and interventions at each stage
- Guidance on when and how to claim the funding
- Explain the funding available for each age group
- How to predict the funding you will receive and plan appropriate spend
- Provide guidance on how to record appropriate spend, and record impact of the funding
- Guidance on discussing the funding with parents/carers

Book your place now on [CPD Online](#).

Reducing Parental Conflict (Harmony at home)

Following the Early Years DSL forums in November where we discussed the Reducing Parental Conflict (Harmony at Home) training we are now pleased to say that additional dates have been organised.

The training is for DSL/ Deputy DSL's to attend and is being offered free to all Early Years and Childcare Settings within the county.

Aims and objectives:

- What is Parental Conflict?
- The difference between parental conflict and domestic abuse
- Risks and factors
- Child's voice
- What is Harmony at Home?
- Digital Toolkit and resources
- Role of the Practitioner (DSL)
- Practitioner resources

Cost: Free to all PVI Early Years Settings

Virtual delivery: will be via Microsoft teams and joining instructions will be issued along with CPD confirmation.

- 15 March 2022, 3.30pm to 6.30pm, course code: SCH/21/620
- 19 May 2022, 3.30pm to 6.30pm, course code: SCH/21/327 (limited spaces available)
- 15 June 2022, 3.30pm to 6.30pm, course code: SCH/21/621

To book: Book via [CPD Online](#) using your CPD leader login details. Confirmations will be issued from CPD which will have the joining instructions and supporting information attached, when forwarding please ensure all attachments are also shared. If you require any support with booking or to check course availability it is essential that you contact the training team directly by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Changing Face of Early Childhood

The [latest report](#) in the Nuffield Foundation's [Changing face of early childhood series](#) draws on over 80 research studies and other sources to explore the quality, effectiveness and sustainability of early childhood education and care provision in the context of key policy changes over the last 25 years.

Primary and First School applications for children starting September 2022

Closing Date for Applications 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 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 encouraging them to make on time applications for starting school.

We are asking Early Year partners to remind parents about the need to make an application and draw their attention to the closing date, in both conversations and communication messages to parents/carers.

If you have parents/carers that you feel would benefit from some guidance and support with the application process please direct them to the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 822700, the School Admissions Team on 01905 844111 and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) via: <http://www.hwsendiass.co.uk/>.

Learn - Explore - Debate

NCB recently worked with the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the latest round of their Learn - Explore - Debate events. Over 600 early years practitioners signed up, over three days, to hear speakers discuss a range of topics and to connect with their colleagues from across the country. These events were planned with feedback from the Foundation Years community at the forefront of our thinking, and they focused on COVID-19 recovery, Ofsted inspections under the revised EYFS and supporting children with SEND.

The first session focused on COVID-19 recovery, including a [presentation from DfE](#) and a [case study from Triangle Nursery School in Lambeth](#).

In the second session, Wendy Ratcliff HMI and Samantha Sleaman-Boss from Ofsted presented on [inspections under the revised EYFS](#) and explored the role of assessment in greater detail.

The final session featured a case study from Amy Devine and Angela Prodger from the Pen Green Centre on [how to take a celebratory approach to SEND](#)

A Better Start

A Better Start is a ten-year, £215 million programme set-up by The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK. The five A Better Start partnerships, based in Blackpool, Bradford, Lambeth, Nottingham and Southend, are supporting families to give their babies and very young children the best possible start in life. [Sign-up to receive the A Better Start newsletter.](#)

[Cooking for A Better Start changed our lives](#)

Mum of two young children, Mariyam Ali, recently completed Henry's online Cooking for A Better Start Course. Mariyam says that the sessions have changed her life and thanks to everything that she has learned, her whole family's eating habits have improved.

[A Festival of Conversations](#)

Carolyn Smith from A Better Start Southend describes how a series of events for families, early years practitioners and system leaders has got the town talking.

[Volunteering saved my life](#)

Great-grandad, Raymond Field, 70, proudly says he is Better Start Bradford's oldest Community Champion. Here, he describes how volunteering helped turn his life around.

[How activity cards have supported community engagement](#)

Michelle Ormerwood, Community Connector Co-ordinator at Blackpool Better Start, shows how local people have responded to an initiative encouraging child development activities.

[Trauma-informed practice – learning from A Better Start](#)

Trauma and adverse childhood experiences can have a devastating impact on babies and very young children. This report explores the evidence and shows how practitioners from across the A Better Start programme are responding.

Best regards,



Ian Morris
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