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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of another tremendously challenging year, we wanted to send a final note to say a big thank you for your continued support.

You all still face so many daily challenges, yet all of you continue to respond incredibly. Determined to support your colleagues and your school, setting and childminding communities, you refused to compromise for your children, recognising that they still deserve the very best. It has been an honour to work with such dedicated professionals.

We very much appreciate all of the ways we are able to work with you from our support visits, projects such as the PDP or Wellcomm, through to our online CPD programme and regular briefings. Our fantastic Early Years conference was a particular highlight for us. We have lots of exciting plans for 2022 so please watch this space!

Enjoy your week and have a very Happy Christmas.

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Covid Update

Please see below a message from the Department for Education in relation to the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

“There is a new variant of COVID-19 - Omicron - which is highly infectious and spreading fast. Every adult in the country now needs to get a Covid-19 booster vaccine, because two doses of the vaccine are not enough to give the level of protection against infection we all need. Boosters give you the best possible protection against the virus and should significantly reduce your risk of serious illness and hospitalisation.

“It is more important than ever to get vaccinated. Get your Covid-19 booster vaccine today to strengthen your protection. Get boosted now. Visit nhs.uk/covidvaccination.”

If useful, communications and promotional assets about the Covid-19 vaccine and booster drive will be available via the [Coronavirus Resource Centre](#). Keep checking the ‘Vaccine’ section for the latest resources to help you promote key messages. This [employer toolkit](#) might also be useful e.g. for larger providers.

Updated Guidance for Childminders

Please find attached an updated version of the guidance for childminders.

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.

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 01 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 we will issue revised joining instructions.

Inclusion Funding Overview

25 January 2022, 5.30pm to 6.30pm, virtual delivery, £12 + VAT per delegate

Aimed at SENCO's and setting managers.

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

How to book

Online: Book via [CPD](#) using your specific setting login details.

Confirmations will be issued from CPD, please ensure they are forwarded to the delegate. If the training is virtual then confirmations will include a word document which have the specific joining instructions, please ensure they are shared with the delegate accordingly

Reducing Parental Conflict (Harmony at home)

Further to our recent article regarding Reducing Parental Conflict (Harmony at Home) we have received feedback that there was not an evening option available to suit Childminders / Nurseries. As such we have taken this on board and organised one evening course to take place in May. If you have already secured a place on a different course date and wish to move please contact the training so we can transfer your place accordingly

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
- 26 May 2022, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, course code: SCH/21/646 *** NEW DATE RELEASED**
- 15 June 2022, 3.30pm to 6.30pm, course code: SCH/21/621

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

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- 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.

Safeguarding Training

It is essential that all staff and volunteers working with children undertake Safeguarding training suitable to their role.

The DSL and Deputy DSL would be expected to undertake the Early years and childcare designated safeguarding lead (DSL) course on a yearly basis. All other staff including volunteers would be expected to complete the Safeguarding in early years and childcare for practitioners training every 3 years. Details of both courses are below.

Early years and childcare designated safeguarding lead (DSL) training

This training is specifically for the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy DSL or those who are looking to become the DSL / Deputy DSL in early years and childcare settings across Worcestershire.

The training has been devised to support DSL's who are new to the role, experienced and extremely experienced. Content is updated regularly and includes a detailed look at signs and symptoms, legislation, guidance and responsibilities, record keeping, making referrals, multi-agency working, child protection meetings, serious case reviews, and exploring barriers to good practice. The training meets the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership requirements for Designated Safeguarding lead training, includes the role of the DSL and additional content relating to the EYFS and inspection

The DSL and deputy DSL are to refresh this training on a yearly basis from April 2021 onwards.

Virtual delivery via Zoom

- Joining instructions will be issued via CPD as part of your confirmation, if you have not received within 5 days of the training please contact the training team on 01905 844 420

Cost: £40 + VAT (£48 inc. VAT)

Childminders specific dates

- 22 January 2022, 9am to 3.30pm (with a break), course code: EY/21/144
- 01 and 08 February 2022, 7pm to 10pm, course code: EY/21/145
- 05 and 12 March 2022, 9.30am to 12.30pm, course code: EY/21/147

Setting specific dates

- 09 and 16 March 2022, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/21/148
- 25 March 2022, 9am to 3.30pm (with a break), course code: EY/21/149

Mixed Settings & Childminder cohort dates

- 12 February 2022, 9am to 3.30pm (with a break), course code: EY/21/146
- 28 and 30 March 2022, 7pm to 10pm, course code: EY/21/150

Safeguarding in early years and childcare for practitioners

This training is aimed at all those working in early years and childcare settings, including practitioners, committee members, auxiliary staff, administrators, and anyone else who would like an introduction to safeguarding and child protection. Content includes understanding what abuse is, signs and symptoms, legislation, and guidance, and what to do if you are concerned. The training meets the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership requirements.

Delegates are expected to refresh training at this level at least every 3 years, and content is updated periodically to reflect new legislation, guidance, and practices.

Virtual delivery via Zoom

Cost: £22 + VAT (£26.40 inc. VAT)

Joining instructions / link will be issued with your CPD confirmation, if you have not received within 5 days of the training please contact the training team on 01905 844 420

- 17 February 2022, 7pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/21/160
- 11 March 2022, 9.30am to 12pm, course code: EY/21/161
- 22 March 2022, 7pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/21/162

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 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 their website at: <http://www.hwsendiass.co.uk/>.

Early Years Attendance Data

The DfE have confirmed this week that they do not intend to continue collecting Early Years Attendance Data in January 2022. This is still subject to review and is likely to change if there are substantial amendments to the Early Years guidance. For the moment though, there are no collection dates planned for the Spring Term.

Thank you all for your regular returns over the last 20 months. We appreciate the time taken to submit the data and are grateful that so many of you continued right until the end.

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.

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](#)

Best regards,



Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

