



Ian Morris

Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager

Email: imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 844721

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we look back to the end of what was a difficult, stressful and exhausting year for the sector, we thank you for your dedication, commitment and hard work and try to look forward to the New Year with optimism.

Never underestimate the difference you make to the families and children in your care with the amazing work you do.

Our first bulletin of the New Year unfortunately continues where we left off last year with the latest DfE COVID guidance and some important information regarding the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme. On a related matter, we also include the Early Intervention Foundation's report on the impact of the pandemic on children's physical development.

This issue also contains a great deal of information on CPD opportunities available this term and a final reminder for families that the deadline for registering for first and primary school places to start in September is fast approaching.

We wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Enjoy your week.

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DfE COVID Update for Early Years

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

Guidance updated in line with the UKHSA announcement about confirmatory PCR tests, clarification that children can return to the setting on day 7 if they've had 2 negative LFD tests and guidance on testing under 5s for household contacts.

Update on COVID Economic Support

The Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme (SSPRS) is returning from mid-January 2022 for COVID-related sickness absences for up to two weeks per employee occurring from 21 December 2021 onwards. This two-week limit will be reset so an employer will be able to claim regardless of whether they have claimed under the previous scheme for that employee. More guidance is to be published shortly. We will ensure we share this with you once published.

[More information on both schemes can be found here on the Gov website.](#)

Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) has been updated to include the use of face coverings in classrooms and indoor activity rooms for adults and children aged 11 and above.

Protective measures for holiday or after school clubs and other out-of-school settings

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) has been updated in line with the UKHSA announcement about confirmatory PCR tests and clarifying that children can return to school after day 7 if they've had 2 negative LFD tests.

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
- 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 offer applies for any bookings made from 1st 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 the [CPD website](#), using your settings' CPD Leader login details, please quote: **SENCOAutumn**. If you do not quote SENCOAutmn 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

25th 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

Book online via the [CPD website](#) 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)

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

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 and nurseries. As such we have taken this on board and organised one evening course to take place in May (as detailed above). If you have already secured a place on a different course date and wish to move, please contact the training team on workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk so we can transfer your place accordingly.

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

To book: Book via the [CPD website](#) 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

Childminders SEND Network

20th January 2022, 7pm to 9pm
Virtual delivery; free to attend

The Early Years Inclusion Team will share relevant news and updates from the SEND sector with Worcestershire's childminders, take questions and will speak about a range of subject matter specific to supporting children with SEND within Worcestershire.

The 20 January 2022 network will have updates specifically from the Worcestershire Continence Nurse and as always other SEND updates.

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.

Early Years SENCo Cluster / Forums

Virtual delivery via Microsoft Teams and free to attend

Broad aims of the Network:

1. To bring together EYs SENCo's from Worcestershire Early Years Settings to share good practice and discuss common issues in order to continue to improve outcomes for children.
2. To update staff on National and Local Early Years and SEND initiatives to inform further CPD needs.
3. To raise awareness and expectations re Special Needs Education in the Early Years including issues and developments around planning, transition support, assessment and tracking tools, and current developments.

4. To develop a continuing working and supportive partnership between the Early Years SENCo's and Early Years Inclusion personnel.
5. An opportunity to discuss specific issues with your inclusion officer

[Malvern Hills](#): 1st February 2022, 4.15pm to 5.45pm, course code: EY/21/285

[Persnore and Evesham](#): 8th February 2022, 5pm to 6.30pm, course code: EY/21/284

[Bromsgrove and Redditch](#): 15th February 2022, 4.15pm to 5.45pm, course code: EY/21/287

[Worcester City and Droitwich](#): 2nd March 2022, 4.30pm to 6pm, course code: EY/21/283

[Wyre Forest](#): 31st March 2022, 4pm to 6pm, course code: EY/21/286

Book online via the [CPD website](#) or via the specific links above; 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.

NEF Childminding registration briefing

9th February 2022, 7.30pm to 9pm

Virtual delivery, free to attend

Course code: EY/21/100

This is an introduction to Nursery Education Funding (NEF) for registered and prospective Childminders, including information about Statutory requirements and Worcestershire processes. The session is specifically for Childminders who are interested in offering NEF in Worcestershire

Joining instructions will be attached to the confirmation email from CPD, if you have not received them 5 days before the course contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or

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

Virtual delivery via Zoom

Cost: £40 + VAT (£48 inc VAT)

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 or 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, including 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.

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 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Childminders specific dates:

- 22 January 2022, 9am to 3.30pm (with a break), course code: EY/21/144
- 1st and 8th February 2022, 7pm to 10pm, course code: EY/21/145
- 5th and 12th March 2022, 9.30am to 12.30pm, course code: EY/21/147

Setting specific dates:

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

Mixed Settings and Childminder cohort dates:

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

Safeguarding in early years and childcare for practitioners

Virtual delivery via Zoom

Cost: £22 + VAT (£26.40 inc VAT)

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.

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 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

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

Reminder to childminders

The training team have recently noticed that Childminders are booking training on behalf of each other. This is absolutely fine when done correctly. Please ensure that if you book for another childminder(s) that you use their specific CPD login details.

If you book them using your details then please be aware:

- CPD will assume that they are employed by you
- a duplicate profile for this person now exists meaning training is split across a number of records, which will need to be merged
- Invoices are incorrectly raised - as they will go to the person who booked the delegates place on the course
- certificates will only be accessible via the person who booked the course and not the actual childminder who attended

As such it is imperative that childminders book themselves directly or if they prefer then share their login details with another childminder to get them booked onto training. If you choose to share your CPD login details with another childminder then this is at your discretion and we will only be able to re-set login details for the childminder the account belongs to.

By following the above request this ensures invoices are correctly raised and certificates are downloadable by the correct person.

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact the training team by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or calling 01905 844 420

Evaluations and Certificates

Evaluations are an important way to help our trainers develop, amend and enhance the training that they deliver. As such we want to actively encourage attendees on training to complete their online evaluation via CPD once asked (this is based upon receiving the register back from the trainer). Until the evaluation is completed, delegates cannot obtain their certificate via CPD. You have no time limit to complete your evaluation however we hope that you will do it as soon as possible. In addition, not every course booked via CPD will ask for an evaluation and this can be for a variety of reasons, in those instances your certificate will be available immediately upon receipt of the register from the trainer.

If you encounter any issues when completing an evaluation or downloading a certificate please contact the training team for support on workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

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 which places those children at a disadvantage. In areas where place availability is more limited, some of the most vulnerable families who are 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](#).

Growing up in the COVID-19 pandemic: An evidence review of the impact of pandemic life on physical development in the early years

This [Early Intervention Foundation \(EIF\) report](#) provides a brief review of emerging international and UK evidence on seven key factors associated with children's early physical health and development, and the extent to which the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (such as lockdowns and social distancing) have impacted on these factors.

10 Winter Activities

When the weather's freezing and you can't feel your fingertips, sometimes the last thing you want is to be outside. But we all know how beneficial outdoor play is, and how much our children love snow. With that in mind, we have got [10 winter activities](#) for you to try in the open air. Let's make those sub-zero temperatures exciting with some outdoor snow volcanoes and frozen art!

Early Years Team Contact Details

Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager
Email: imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
Tel: 01905 844721

Nicola Burford
Nursery Education Funding Project Manager
Tel: 01905 846 581
NEF Team Tel: 01905 844 441
NEF Team email: NEF@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Christine Ward
Early Years Safeguarding and Improvement Advisor
Email: cward5@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
Telephone: 01905 843953
Mobile: 07542028353
Early Years Team Number: 01905 844048
Email: eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Becky White
Inclusion Team Coordinator
Telephone: 01905 845231
Mobile: 07511045703
Email: rwhite@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Sharon Andrews
Area SENCo - North
Mobile: [07511 045590](tel:07511045590)
Telephone: [01905 843881](tel:01905843881)
Email: Sandrews@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Caroline Britton
Area SENCo - North
Mobile: [07511 045619](tel:07511045619)
Telephone: [01905 846942](tel:01905846942)
Email: CBritton2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Deborah Carter
Area SENCo - South
Mobile: [07511 045626](tel:07511045626)
Telephone: [01905 843912](tel:01905843912)
Email: Dcarter1@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Claire Lowden
Area SENCo-South
Mobile: [07511 045678](tel:07511045678)
Telephone: [01905 844182](tel:01905844182)
Email: CLowden@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Jane Parsons
SEnCo Support Adviser-South (maternity cover)
Email: JParsons4@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
Telephone: [01905 844426](tel:01905844426) and [07821 301790](tel:07821301790)

Paula Stearman
SEnCo Support Adviser-North
Mobile: [07511 045700](tel:07511045700)
Telephone: [01905 843784](tel:01905843784)
Email: pstearman@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Best regards,



Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

