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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

With the Spring term well underway, there is no doubt that our new relationship with COVID continues to create challenges for continuity in Early Years. Hopefully, we will be able to continue working together, and to get the term off to a good start, we are highlighting two key events for the Spring Term.

Our Leaders and Managers Forum in March has already received a number of bookings and I am pleased to reveal that we have invited a number of guest speakers along. Topics for discussion will include Ofsted inspections, assessment and the Worcestershire Start for Life offer. In addition, we will be introducing an exciting interactive story-telling project that everyone in the county will be able to become a part of.

March is looking to be a busy month as we also have information this week about our termly Early Years DSL briefings. These sessions are also extremely well-attended and contain all the latest information and best practice guidelines around safeguarding. We are very excited to announce our Early Years safeguarding conference for the summer term too - more information to follow soon.

This week has seen further amendments made to the latest Government advice and our bulletin contains the very latest information from the DfE.

Enjoy your week.

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

Updated guidance to align with the Plan B announcement on Wednesday 19 January 2022. This includes the removal of the recommendation to wear face coverings in communal areas from 27 January. Additional guidance has also been added on staff deployment and staff shortages, EYFS flexibilities, prioritising early years places and reporting COVID cases to Ofsted.

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

Updated 'Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak' to align with this week's Plan B announcement. We have also clarified the information on children under 5 years who are identified as close contacts and isolation expectations in boarding schools.

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)

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

Updated to reflect the removal of Plan B requirements for working from home, face coverings in classrooms, face coverings in communal areas and mandatory NHS COVID Pass certification requirements for events.

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

Early Years Data Collection

As communicated in December, the Early Years Attendance return has now ceased. However, due to the impact of Omicron, the DfE have this week introduced their own direct survey with group settings and schools. The DfE are using their own email list to contact settings and schools directly, asking a small number of questions focused primarily on staffing and child absences. This survey will be emailed out every Monday until at least half-term, with a return deadline of Wednesday.

The purpose of the survey is to understand the impact of COVID on the Early Years sector so it's important that as many group/school settings as possible respond, to ensure that the DfE have a true understanding of the issues the sector is facing. The DfE are intending to publish a summary of the returns on a regular basis.

Early Years Leaders and Managers Update Forum

An update on all the latest news and information from the Early Years sector both locally and nationally. Please ensure you book a place as we only issue a link to those who have formally booked a place via CPD as part of the CPD confirmation.

- 23 March 2022, 3.45pm to 5pm, course code: EY/22/004
- 30 March 2022, 6.45pm to 8pm, course code: EY/22/005

The sessions are free to attend and will be delivered virtually via MS Teams. To book your place please do so via [CPD Online](#) using your CPD Leader login details. If you encounter any issues when booking, please contact the training team by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Early Years Safeguarding Leads Forum (DSL Forums)

An update of the latest in Early Years safeguarding information from our Safeguarding team. Suitable for all Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads and Childminders in our Early Years PVI sector. If you are a DSL in a school, please speak to Denise Hannibal's Safeguarding Education Team for information on specific school DSL forums.

- 8 March 2022, 6.30pm to 7.45pm, course code: EY/22/015, virtual delivery
- 10 March 2022, 6.30pm to 7.45pm, course code: EY/22/016, virtual delivery

Book your place via [CPD Online](#) using your CPD Leader login details. Confirmations will be issued from CPD with joining instructions attached.

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 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

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

Aimed at SENCOs 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 via [CPD Online](#) 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 will have the specific joining instructions so please ensure they are shared with the delegate accordingly.

NEF Childminding registration briefing

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.

Cost: Free

9 February 2022, 7.30pm to 9pm, course code: EY/21/100

Book via [CPD Online](#) using your specific setting login details. Joining instructions will be attached to the confirmation email from CPD Online, however if you have not received them 5 days before the course contact the training team via email on workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

Early Years SENCo Cluster / Forums

Broad aims of the Network:

1. To bring together EYs SENCOs 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 SENCOs and Early Years Inclusion personnel.
5. An opportunity to discuss specific issues with your inclusion officer

Virtual delivery via MS Teams and free to attend.

[Malvern Hills: 01 February 2022, 4.15pm to 5.45pm, course code: EY/21/285](#)

[Pershore and Evesham: 08 February 2022, 5pm to 6.30pm, course code: EY/21/284](#)

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

[Worcester City and Droitwich: 02 March 2022, 4.30pm to 6pm, course code: EY/21/283](#)

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

Book via [CPD Online](#) 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 DSLs 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
- 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

Book via [CPD Online](#) using your CPD leader login details. Confirmation 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 your booking or to check course availability, it is essential that you contact the training team directly via email at workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

2 Year Integrated Check Survey

Termly information will be sought from Early Years settings on the integrated checks carried out by practitioners. A Microsoft form has been created, and the link will be publicised on a termly basis in order to gather a range of information from early years settings.

Data requested will include:

- The number of 2 year old checks carried out within the setting
- The number of children whose information was shared with the health visitors via the [WCC Children's Services Portal](#)
- The types of needs identified during the checks
- Feedback on response from Health Visiting team

The Early Years team would greatly appreciate all settings logging onto the survey below to share your experiences of the 2 year integrated check. You can access the survey requesting information on the Autumn term 2021 on the following link:

[Worcestershire 2 Year Old Integrated Check - Autumn Term 2021 \(office.com\)](#)

The Health Visiting team are also gathering feedback from the health visitors and parents, to ensure the 2 year integrated checks are successful in identifying children with developmental concerns who require access to additional services in order to provide interventions to support their development.

More information on the 2 year integrated checks can be download from this webpage:

[Integrated 2 Year Check - Worcestershire Children First Education Services](#)

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 DSLs 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
- 1 and 8 February 2022, 7pm to 10pm, course code: EY/21/145
- 5 and 12 March 2022, 9.30am to 12.30pm, course code: EY/21/147

Setting specific dates

- 9 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

Updates from Training

Effective Individual Provision Map (IPM) Writing

This has been rescheduled to take place on 29 March 2022, 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Any delegates booked on the original course date of 2 February 2022 will be contacted via CPD with updated confirmation and joining instructions.

Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead training

For delegates booked onto any DSL course taking place between January and March please look out for an email from CPD with two specific word documents attached (called Levels of Need and Myths), these will be used during your training. You do not need to print them off just have them available to view. For anyone who books a place on these courses going forward they will be attached to your confirmation along with your joining instructions.

To contact the training team please email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

Expectation of delegates who attend any virtual training course

We have been informed by one of our trainers that over the last few months they have noticed a decline in respect for other delegates during courses, and as such we'd like to re-highlight the following message.

- We ask that all delegates attending training behave in a respectful manner towards the trainer and other delegates present.
- During the training, topic dependent, you may have an emotional reaction as such please ensure you contact your manager / colleague / friends / family afterwards for support.
- You may not share the same opinion as others during the training, please be respectful of their view and challenge accordingly, the trainer will intervene to ensure any incorrect understandings are clarified.
- Delegates are representing their employer during training so be mindful of your surroundings and what can be seen by others .
- During the training if you have another device open that could be seen on your screen or during an activity you share your screen then be mindful of what you have open as this can be viewed by all present and this includes any notes you are making during the training.

As always, we do recommend

- Minimise any unnecessary background noise (muting microphones, when necessary).
- Apply a background therefore reducing the risk of confidential information being seen by others.
- Turn phones off or onto silent and do not use them during the training (unless required to as part of an activity).

Trainers are within their right to share with WCF (training team) any concerns over delegates attending their training. Depending upon the nature of the concern for example behaving inappropriately, not engaged during the training, share views or opinions which even when challenged cause the trainer uncertainty over their understanding of the sector, share materials which are not appropriate to the content of the training / discussions taking place, then the training team can contact the manager / employer of the delegate and make them aware accordingly. As always if a Safeguarding disclosure is made during any training course then the relevant parties will be contacted immediately.

If you are reading this article as the setting manager / owner / employer, we highly recommend that this is shared amongst your staff team.

Early Years Career Progression Pathway

Are you interested in FREE tailored Early Years upskilling and training?

The Early Years Careers Progression Pathways Project (EYCPP), part-funded by the European Social Fund, is a newly launched project bringing together expertise from Birmingham City University, Newman University and West Smethwick Enterprise.

This project is designed to deliver an innovative programme of fully-funded skills interventions to residents in Greater Birmingham and Solihull.

The programme will enhance the skills base of employees and help to improve employability within the Early Years Sector.

(Please see attached flyer)

Early Years Team Contact Details

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Best regards,



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