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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As your half term break is finishing, let's hope that this blustery weather ends soon, and the first signs of Spring arrive for us all to enjoy! Our thoughts and best wishes are extended to anyone affected by the flooding in parts of Worcestershire.

We are well on the way to helping you take advantage of all that a new season brings with our latest CPD offers. The frequency of inspections seems to be increasing across the county and this week has seen another of our childminders receive an outstanding judgement. We have our Preparing for Inspection training in March to help you ensure that you are well equipped should you "get the call".

It also won't be long before we start thinking about transitions and our Ready for Big School session in May can be found advertised this week if you wish to book early, along with Spud in the Mud; a session all about developing your outdoor provision.

Finally, next week sees the launch of our storytelling training in conjunction with Animateys. We are really excited about the possibilities of the project and hope that you are able to take advantage of this amazing free offer.

Enjoy your week.

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Covid Update

The Department for Education has [announced](#) that from 21 February 2022, early years settings are no longer required to notify Ofsted, or the childminder agency with which they are registered, of any COVID-19 cases in the setting, whether that is of a child or staff member. They also do not have to submit notifications for any cases that have happened in the last 14 days.

It remains a legal requirement under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework to report cases of serious illness. You should notify Ofsted as soon as practical, and in any case within 14 days of a notifiable event happening.

For information about what is classed as a notifiable event or serious incident and what to tell Ofsted, please refer to their [guidance on reporting a serious childcare incident](#).

The guidance has also been updated to reflect that from 21 February twice-weekly testing in settings will no longer be required and on 24 February, the guidance on tracing close contacts and self-isolation will be replaced by UKHSA guidance.

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

The guidance has been further updated to reflect new public health guidance tracing close contacts, isolation and when someone has symptoms or a positive test.

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

The guidance for holiday and after-school providers has been updated to reflect the end of the asymptomatic testing programme. Reference made to UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance on contact tracing and isolation which comes into effect from Thursday 24 February 2022.

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

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Fabulous Free Storytelling Training

Early Years speech and language development has been disproportionately hit by the pandemic. But there are some simple steps we can all take to help turn this around.

In partnership with award-winning storytelling specialists, Animateys, we are super excited to be offering a fantastic (and FREE) storytelling training opportunity for all schools and settings in the County!







A child's ability to understand, engage with and learn new words from stories increases exponentially when they are experienced actively. This fun & practical group workshop will give your team the tools and confidence to take their storytelling up a level - maximising the impact on children's development.

The training will launch on **Friday March 4th** when we will be releasing a free activation code for each district. *Please look out for the Bulletin!*

Please [click here for a short video all about the training!](#)

Also, below is some key information.

The training:

-  Will help your team understand *through first-hand experience* why active storytelling is so important to a child's ability to learn and develop through stories;
-  Will increase your team's storytelling confidence;
-  Will give your team the tools to create dramatic play activities to accompany any story book;
-  Promotes team culture;
-  Is a fun, practical and relaxed group workshop (always with serious learning points, of course!) for the whole team;
-  Is delivered by interactive video - so you can run your workshop at a time to suit you;



- Provides practical downloads, including ready-to-go activities for the story of Goldilocks;
- Lasts between 1.5 and 2 hours (depending on breaks).
- Once you have activated your training, you will have access for 12 months.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact Ian Morris at imorris@worcechildrenfirst.org.uk or Helen from Animateys at hello@animateys.com.

I'm ready for big school - are you ready for me?

Ensuring that everyone involved in the transition process is prepared and confident in knowing what makes an effective and successful transition for our young children.

Audience: Nursery, pre-school, and Reception

Cost: £30 + VAT

When: 26 May 2022, 9am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: SCH/21/559

Book your place via [CPD Online](#) using your CPD leader login details. Confirmations will be issued from CPD, please check junk / spam folders.

Spud in the mud

Discovering ways to develop and encourage language development in the outdoor environment when the children are fully immersed in their chosen play.

Audience: Anyone exploring outdoors with 3–5-year-olds!

Cost: £30 + VAT

When: 01 April 2022, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester, course code: SCH/21/546

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

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 email 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.

Preparing for Inspection

This course is designed specifically for Leaders and Managers of PVI Nurseries, Pre-Schools and Out of School Clubs to ensure that you are fully prepared for your Ofsted inspection visit. It includes important information about the inspection framework and inspection activities and practical activities to ensure that you achieve the positive outcome you deserve.

If you are a Childminder please register your interest with Ian Morris directly via email at IMorris4@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk, a bespoke session will then be planned to take place during the Summer Term.

Cost: £35 + VAT

Face to face delivery

- 15 March 2022, 9am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: EY/22/029
- 25 March 2022, 9am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: EY/22/030

Virtual delivery

- 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
- 31 March 2022, 9am to 12pm, course code: EY/22/031

Book via [CPD Online](#) using your CPD Leader login details. Confirmations are issued to the email on CPD at the point of booking, please ensure spam / junk folders are checked. Any issues when booking please email the training team at workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

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.

[Worcester City and Droitwich: 2 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.

Early Years Prevent and British values

The Government's Prevent Strategy talks about British Values and asks all educational establishments, including early years to be teaching these values, but what does this mean for early years practitioners, and what are Ofsted looking for?

This session aims to give practitioners an understanding of the Prevent Strategy and the requirement to teach 'British Values'. We will consider the ways in which these values reflect those already embedded in early years and identify current examples of good practice. We will also explore ways to further develop the teaching of values in order to better support the Prevent Strategy, meet the requirements of Ofsted and achieve better outcomes for children.

Face to face delivery

Cost: £32+ VAT (£38.40inc VAT)

When: 16 March 2022, 7pm to 9pm, Worcester, course code: EY/21/107

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

Training for New SENCOs

Training for new SENCOs originally due to take place on 3rd and 10th February, has been re-scheduled for 24th March and 7th April 2022, 5pm to 7pm, virtual delivery. Delegates have been informed via CPD, we ask managers to ensure staff are made aware and confirmations forward to them if this hasn't already been done.

SEND Childminder Cluster

Specifically for Childminders, 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.

3rd May 2022, 7pm to 9pm, course code: EY/22/037

Cost: Free

Please book via [CPD Online](#) using your settings CPD leader login details. Confirmations will be issued via CPD, please ensure junk / spam folders are checked and forwarded to the delegate accordingly.

Inclusion Funding Overview

Due to direct interest and demand we have organised an evening Inclusion Funding Overview workshop to take place on the 5th April 2022.

- 05 April 2022, 5.30pm to 6.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY/22/035
- 05 April 2022, 7.30pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY/22/104 ** NEW DATE ADDED**

Aimed at SENCO's, Childminders 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

Cost: £12 + VAT per delegate

- 05 April 2022, 5.30pm to 6.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY/22/035
- 05 April 2022, 7.30pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY/22/104

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

Early Years Career Progression Pathway

This brand-new innovative project delivers a programme of tailored Early Years skills interventions.

The project brings together expertise from Birmingham City University, Newman University and West Smethwick Enterprise.

A team of dedicated and experienced Skills Advisors will:

- Support you to identify the skills needed to develop your career and complete an action plan
- Help you secure valuable placement and practical opportunities
- Help you access a wide range of workshops to support your progression into Early Years employment

Skills for Success in the Early Years Sector

MS Teams, Birmingham City University

Delivered by the Careers+ Team, this session will provide an opportunity for you to recognise the sector specific skills needed to achieve your career aspirations.

[Book Here: Monday 28th Feb | 11:00 - 12:00](#)

Early Years Inclusion Funding Webinar for parents, carers, SENCOs and Childminders

The Early Years Inclusion team have recorded a 30 minute webinar providing an overview of the Early Years Inclusion Funding that is available to support Worcestershire's Early Years children. The webinar can be viewed on the WCF YouTube Early Years pages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMdDipyxexg>

The webinar is an introduction to the funding, and includes:

- An overview of what the Local Inclusion Fund is
- How Early Years practitioners can include parent carers in the process of applying for additional funding
- An overview of the funding levels that are available

- How the Local Authority monitors the use of the funding.

It also links to a range of other resources that explain the inclusion funding in more depth, such as:

[Overview of Graduated Response levels](#)

[The Graduated Response in Worcestershire Educational Settings](#)

[Information for Parent carers on the Preschool Forum](#)

More in depth training on how early years settings apply for the inclusion funding can be purchased via the WCF CPD on-line, and the next 1-hour inclusion funding workshop is set to run on the 5th April 2022:

[Training Information - Worcestershire Children First Education Services](#)

We would advise settings ask parents to view the funding webinar whenever they are claiming additional funding to support their children's holistic development.

Online Inclusion Funding Application Form - Summer Term 2022 Funding

In the Spring term the Early Years Inclusion Team trialed an online funding form. The feedback from settings was that the online form was much quicker and easier to complete.

We have now created an [online funding form for the Summer Term which can be accessed here](#).

If you wish to apply for inclusion funding for the following reasons, we ask that you use the new online system:

- New applications for GR4 challenge funding
- New applications for exceptional early years funding
- New applications for 0-3 non-NEF children
- Requests for continued funding for children who have received 0-3 non-NEF in the Spring term
- New applications for holiday or out of school funding for school aged children
- Requests for continued funding for school aged children who have received holiday or out of school funding in the Spring Term

Please ensure that you have discussed the funding you will access with the child's parents and have received signed consent to do so. Consent to access inclusion funding forms can be found within the [paper funding application on page 3 on this link](#).

Paper applications will be considered if received securely via the [Children's Services Portal](#), however we urge early years practitioners to apply via the online form as it is a much quicker system.

The deadline for Summer Term applications are as follows:

- Meeting 1 – deadline is 4th March (meeting to be held on 10th March)

- Meeting 2 - deadline is 29th April (meeting to be held on 5th May)

Please note if you are allocated a Graduated Response level 1,2,3 or 4 for children in receipt of NEF, then you can do this without completing an application via the Provider Portal when you enter the children's NEF actuals.

Launch of Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation

The formal consultation for the *Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032* runs from 7th February to 2nd May 2022 and will help shape Worcestershire's health and wellbeing priorities for the next 10 years. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is required to develop a strategy including a vision and priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in Worcestershire. For the 2022 - 2032 Strategy, the HWB would like to identify good mental health and wellbeing as the main priority, supported by action in areas that we all need to 'Be Well in Worcestershire'.

The consultation survey is open to everyone and will help the Health & Wellbeing Board build up a picture of what wellbeing means to people of all ages from across all areas of Worcestershire. We want to hear views from all our communities and your support is greatly appreciated. The consultation summary and full document are available to download from [Google Drive](#).

For more information and to take part, please visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HWBStrategy2022.

Please share the survey with your pupils, parents and staff.

A partner resources pack is available to download from [Google Drive](#) to support promotion of the strategy and consultation.

In the partner pack you will find everything you need to promote the consultation and invite your clients, service users or resident groups to have their say on the future of health and wellbeing in Worcestershire! It includes the consultation document, a two page summary, press release, web page banner and social media and promotional assets.

If you have any queries or would like a member of Public Health or the Health and Wellbeing Board to attend a meeting to talk about the consultation, please email hwbadmin@worcestershire.gov.uk.

SENDIASS Training Surveys

SENDIASS Herefordshire and Worcestershire has a new Training and Development Officer, Sally Keane. They will be offering training to local education, health and social care professionals, children and young people and parents to increase knowledge of SEND Law, guidance, local policy, issues and participation.

Sally is looking to gather the views of parents/carers of children with SEND in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, on the training that will be of benefit to them. Parent carers can complete their [SENDIASS Parent Carer Training Survey](#) to let them know the areas that they would value training in and how they would like it to be delivered.

The closing date for this survey is Friday 25th February.

Sally is also looking to gather the views of education, health and social care professionals in Herefordshire and Worcestershire on the training that will be of benefit to them. Professionals can let them know the areas that they would value training in and how they would like it to be delivered by taking part in our [Professionals Training Survey](#).

The closing date for this survey is Friday 18th March.

For further information please see their [SENDIASS Training Webpage](#).

They would appreciate your help in spreading the word about their surveys. Please share the Parent Carer Survey details with your families and the Professionals Survey details with your staff. Thank you.

Best regards,



Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

