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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

This week we are thrilled to be able to announce another amazing free training offer. We have teamed up with Early Excellence, an established leader of Early Years pedagogy, provision and practice and they have provided us with a suite of inspirational webinars designed to help you upskill your teams and stay connected to best practice. The topics are wide-ranging and bespoke to settings, childminders and schools so please take advantage of this offer whilst you can as availability is limited.

Don't forget that the free interactive story-telling training sessions with Animateys are also now live. Helen will be joining us at the Leaders and Managers Update at the end of the month to let you know more, and I know she would be delighted if as many of you as possible were able to take advantage of this brilliant offer.

Enjoy your week.

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Free Storytelling Training Has Arrived!

Your Animateys Active Storytelling Training is now available to all Early Years settings and schools in the county.

To access the training you will need to:

- Go to the checkout page on the Animateys website.
- Create an account for your school/setting (or log in if you already have one)
- Enter the coupon code for your district at checkout

NOTE: You will not need to add any payment details.

Please find your codes below:

- *Bromsgrove: storybr
- *Malvern Hills: storymh
- *Redditch: storyred
- *Worcester: storywo
- *Wychavon: storywyc
- *Wyre Forest: storywf

These codes are for the use of all schools and settings across Worcestershire. They may not be shared with anyone outside of the county. Codes are all lower case.

For a reminder of what this training is all about, [please click to watch a short video](#).

We urge you all to take up this wonderful opportunity.

Early Excellence Webinars

The Early Years Team have secured funding meaning we can offer registered Ofsted PVI settings and Schools the option to **access one** Early Excellence webinar free for their **whole staffing** team.

From 12th March 2022:

- There will be a choice of seven webinars for PVI settings and five bitesize webinars for Schools to choose from
- There are 30 licenses available per webinar
- Each setting / school can only access one webinar out of the 12 options available (see table below)
- Each webinar link is valid for 6 months from the date of distribution
- We recommend the training being undertaken during a team meeting

To request a license on your preferred Webinar this must be done via [CPD Online](#) using your setting / school CPD leader login details.

- Each webinar will be available from the 12th to the 20th March 2022 for bookings
- Each webinar can be found by clicking on “20th March” on the calendar function under search events on CPD.
- When requesting a place please ensure it is booked under the manager / owners / childminders / team lead / EYFS lead’s name.

After the closing date for interest has been reached (20th March) the training team will:

- double check to ensure that each setting / school has only requested one webinar only
- contact any settings / schools that have booked onto more than one webinar to determine which one you wish to access.

- issue the specific link for the webinar to the person the request has been logged against (aka place booked via CPD) and It is then their responsibility to ensure that the webinar is accessed and viewed by the team within the next 6 months.

We hope that you take advantage of accessing a free webinar and details of your choices are below:

PVI Settings & Childminders ONLY

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| <p>Understanding How to Support Children's Well-being & Involvement 0-4</p> | <p>For practitioners committed to putting the child at the centre of all they do, this programme will support teachers to gain an understanding of how we can measure and support children’s well-being as they develop emotionally, using the international recognised Leuven Scales of Well-being as a framework. The three parts are: Session 1: The signs, signals and levels of wellbeing and involvement Session 2: Moderation of levels of involvement Session 3: 10 Action Points: An audit tool</p> | <p>EY/22/113</p> |
| <p>Let’s Talk: Understanding Language & Communication in the EYFS 0-4</p> | <p>A three-part webinar package for EYFS practitioners who are looking to develop language and communication skills. The sessions will draw on the latest research findings and explore the key steps involved in early language development. Consider the processes involved in holding a ‘conversation’, vocabulary enrichment and how we can successfully support quality talk within provision. Session 1: Stages of development for speech, language and communication Session 2: The impact of the learning environment Session 3: Action planning for practice and provision</p> | <p>EY/22/114</p> |
| <p>Understanding Outdoor Learning in the EYFS 0-4</p> | <p>An insightful three-part webinar package designed for EYFS practitioners which places outdoor learning in the spotlight Session 1: Establish Principles: Exploring the Special Nature of Outdoor Learning Session 2: Rethink Provision: How to Maximise Opportunities Outdoors Session 3: Develop Practice: What do Adults Need to Know and Do Outdoors</p> | <p>EY/22/115</p> |

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| <p>Strengthening Observation & Assessment Practice 0-4</p> | <p>With a much sharper focus on assessment and observation practices in the Revised EYFS, now is a good time for schools and settings to review and develop their existing processes to ensure that they underpin the careful planning of a curriculum that meets the needs of all of our children</p> <p>In this three-part webinar, we will explore the new statutory requirements, recommendations and core principles and help you to review your current practices; the tools and strategies you use and how they support the unique child.</p> <p>Session One: Exploring Principles & Practice Session Two: Reflecting on What and Why Session 3: Looking Closely at Observation and Assessment</p> | <p>EY/22/116</p> |
| <p>Building Your Understanding of Child Development 0-4</p> | <p>This three-part webinar package focuses on child development and is an insightful and thought-provoking programme centred on key aspects of pedagogy</p> <p>Session 1: Exploring Schemas: Session 2: Exploring Self-Regulation: Supporting First Steps Session 3: Sustained Shared Thinking: Building Authentic Learning Partnerships</p> | <p>EY/22/117</p> |
| <p>All About Developing Work with Two Year Olds</p> | <p>A three-part webinar package focused on pedagogy and practice for EYFS staff working with our youngest children</p> <p>To ensure that we have inspiring environments with provision and practice of the highest quality for our two-year olds, it is critical that early year's practitioners develop a deeper understanding of the unique needs of these young learners.</p> <p>During these webinars, we will explore what is special about being two. Time will be spent considering children's development, how this relates to play, active learning and thinking – and we will look at examples of outstanding provision.</p> | <p>EY/22/118</p> |
| <p>Understanding Practice & Provision in the EYFS 0-4</p> | <p>A three-part webinar package designed for those looking to refresh their EYFS knowledge. Each webinar places a different aspect of EYFS provision under the spotlight with new ideas and inspiration for practice.</p> <p>Session 1: Making the Most of Continuous Provision in the EYFS Session 2: How to Build on Children's Interests Session 3: How to Secure Effective Interactions</p> | <p>EY/22/119</p> |

Schools ONLY

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| <p>Creating Conversations! Inspire Language through Role Play</p> | <p>Inspire language and explore the importance of establishing meaningful and quality domestic role play that remains in place all year. The acquisition of spoken language and communication skills in early childhood builds strong foundations for reading, writing and mathematics. High quality role play supports children as they experiment with language, allowing vocabulary to flourish in meaningful contexts. This session will consider resources that can be added to the environment which will provide opportunities across all areas of learning and reflect children’s personal experiences.</p> | <p>EY/22/120</p> |
| <p>It’s a Small World: Inspiring Children’s Storytelling Through Small World Play</p> | <p>Inspiring children’s storytelling through small world play with ideas to encourage children to develop their own stories using a range of open-ended resources. Story is central to the development of children’s communication, language and literacy. Small world play allows children to explore, experiment with and reflect on feelings and events and to develop creative thinking. This session will look at ways of creating a stimulating environment where children are given time to develop their ideas through small world provision – supported by adults who are skilled at extending learning and developing authors. This session will include opportunities for delegates to develop their own stories through hands on activities with small world and a range of open-ended resources.</p> | <p>EY/22/121</p> |
| <p>Exploring Self-Regulation</p> | <p>Self-regulation has been identified as a key competent in child development; powerfully strengthening both learning and well-being. Now also highlighted within the revised EYFS, this session will explore what self-regulation is and how it connects to what we know about how young children learn. In this session, we will consider how we can effectively support children in developing their self-regulation skills, reflecting on the implications for practice and provision.</p> | <p>EY/22/133</p> |
| <p>How to Secure Effective Interactions</p> | <p>How good are your interactions with children? High quality interactions are central to effective early years practice and ensuring all children make progress. For these to be successful requires skilled adults. This session will demonstrate how engaging in effective conversations during child-initiated activities helps children absorb new vocabulary, expand their knowledge and extend their thinking. Delegates will come away with ways to successfully improve the quality of their adult: child interactions; improving outcomes across the curriculum for all children.</p> | <p>EY/22/134</p> |

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| Sustained Shared Thinking | Central to effective Early Childhood Education is the skilful adult. The ability to interact sensitively and appropriately, supporting and extending learning is a complex process built on a deep understanding of how young children learn and our knowledge of each unique child. In this session we will explore the concept of Sustained Shared Thinking, the evidence supporting its use and unpick how we as practitioners can use it as a core element of our practice to improve the quality of our interactions and outcomes for all our children. | EY/22/135 |
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If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Rachael Oakley, Training Coordinator on 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Early Years Training Directory

The Early Years training directory is available on our [WCF Education services website \(opens in new window\)](#) and is regularly updated with additional training as it's organised.

Virtual course joining instructions

We would like to remind delegates if you are due to attend a virtual training course, and you have not received your joining instructions please contact the training team a minimum of 5 days before your course is due to take place. The training team cannot guarantee that they will be available the 24 hours before your course to be able to reissue joining instructions and/ or provide support. The training team can be contacted on 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

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

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@worcechildrenfirst.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@worcechildrenfirst.org.uk.

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.

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 [CPD Online](#), 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.

On-Line Inclusion Funding Application Form - Summer Term 2022 Funding

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

We have now created an on-line funding form for the Summer Term which can be accessed on the following link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hxj0rDe900WeZUfN5I3IWsURIASJL01Fh_oaGUQpH4tUOUVQUlhaVkUzT1pOTTdOVVIWRU1MVEpCVy4u

If you wish to apply for inclusion funding for the following reasons, we would ask you to use the new on-line 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: [Local Inclusion Funding Application Form](#)

Paper applications will be considered if received securely via the [Children's Services Portal](#), however we urge early years practitioners to apply via the on-line 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.

Early Years Inclusion Training April 2022 to March 2023

The Early Years Inclusion team are currently finalising their training offer for April 2022 to March 2023, and the following courses are now available to book via [CPD Online](#):

- SENCo Forum Clusters - North and South
- SEND Childminder Cluster
- Inclusion Funding Workshop
- Effective Individual Provision Mapping (IPM) Writing
- Promoting Positive Behaviour Management
- Training for New SENCO's

Over the forthcoming weeks the following courses will be finalised, therefore please look out for updates within the Early Years Bulletin and on our Early Years Facebook page (@WCFEarlyYears):

- How to Write a Support Plan training
- Effective Early Identification for SEND
- Individual risk assessments and health care plans for children with SEND within early years settings

Safeguarding Training for April 2022 to March 2023

We are pleased to confirm that the Safeguarding Training offer for April 2022 to March 2023 is now available to book on [CPD Online](#). We've included the April to July 2022 dates below for both the Practitioners and DSL / Deputy DSL's. If you are looking for courses later on in 2022 / early 2023 then please check [CPD Online](#).

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: £25 + VAT (£30 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

- 11 March 2022, 9.30am to 12pm, course code: EY/21/161
- 05 May 2022, 7pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/22/050
- 24 May 2022, 6.30pm to 9pm, course code: EY/22/051
- 10 June 2022, 9.30am to 12pm, course code: EY/21/052

Courses for Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023 terms are available, please check CPD for dates.

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: £45 + VAT (£54 inc VAT)

Childminders specific dates

- 07 May 2022, 9am to 3.30pm, course code: EY/22/062
- 12 and 19 May 2022, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/22/064
- 14 and 21 June 2022, 7pm to 10pm, course code: EY/22/067
- 04 and 11 July 2022, 7pm to 10pm, course code: EY/22/069

Setting specific dates

- 29 April and 06 May 2022, 9.30am to 12.30pm, course code: EY/22/061
- 10 and 17 May 2022, 7pm to 10pm, course code: EY/22/063
- 29 June and 06 July 2022, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/22/068

Mixed Settings & Childminder cohort dates

- 21 May 2022, 9am to 3.30pm, course code: EY/22/065
- 09 and 16 June 2022, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/22/066
- 09 July 2022, 9am to 3.30pm, course code: EY/22/070

Courses for Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023 terms are available, please check CPD for dates.

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.

FREE WEBINAR for Worcestershire Nursery practitioners and Childminders

What is Starting Well? Find out more about what FREE services are available to families living in Worcestershire. This free webinar will:

- Provide you with Information about FREE accredited groups for parents and carers to attend- Incredible Years, Understanding your child ASD, PEEP and many more
- Provide you with information and advice about free childcare, supporting your child with additional needs, holiday activities and other services which could be of interest to families
- Provide information about volunteering for Action for Children
- Explain where Family Hubs are and what services they provide
- Provide an opportunity to ask questions and tell us what challenges parents often face

Come and find out more by joining our FREE Microsoft Teams webinar on Tuesday 29th March at 6:15pm - 7:15pm.

(Please see attached flyer for more information)

Communication Champion Training

Based upon our successful Communication TA training we are pleased to offer a free training schedule for all early year's settings in Wychavon 2021-2022! Training will be delivered by the Worcestershire NHS Speech and Language Therapy team across all three Wychavon districts (Droitwich, Pershore & Evesham). The training will focus on a new speech and language topic each term.

All training will involve a service update followed by practical strategies, activities and resources to support children's speech, language and communication needs.

(Please see attached flyer for details)

Tax-Free Childcare

HMRC and Hemsall's are currently working together to try and increase the take-up of Tax-Free Childcare across the country as around 1 million families are currently missing out on this benefit.

If you provide paid for childcare services for children aged 0-11 years (up to 17 years if disabled), you are able to offer families the option of paying via their Tax-Free Childcare account. The scheme is similar to Childcare Vouchers, providing working parents with a saving of up to £2000 per year. If you are not registered to offer Tax-Free Childcare, you can do so here: [Sign up to Tax-Free Childcare if you're a childcare provider - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-to-tax-free-childcare)

To find out more about Tax-Free Childcare and how it can benefit families within your school or childcare setting, Hemsall's are running a webinar:

A FREE Tax-Free Childcare webinar for all types of childcare and out of school providers.

- Book your place [here](#) - 15 March 2022, 1.30pm - 3.00pm
- Book your place [here](#) - 16 March 2022, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

The following links will provide further information:

- [Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs](#)
- [Help paying for childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Early Years COVID-19 recovery experts and mentor programme

Details of how to apply to become a mentor, expert or area lead for the Early Years COVID-19 recovery programme.

[Apply for a role in the early years COVID-19 recovery experts and mentors programme](#)

Exemplification materials for schools

The DfE has published [exemplification materials](#) to provide support for schools when completing the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assessment for children at the end of reception year. These are a collection of case study videos that demonstrate teachers and leaders having professional discussions about individual children's development and their EYFSP judgements. A [vodcast for schools, multi-academy trusts and local authorities](#) has also been published alongside the videos to explain the changes and what is different this year.

The videos are designed to help schools understand and use the new early learning goals (ELGs) and profile assessment under the 2021 EYFS framework. The videos include a combination of children who have met and not met the expected levels of development across the ELGs, with teachers discussing how they came to those judgements.

Early Education Spring Festival

As colleagues who have worked with Birth to 5 Matters over the last year, I thought I would share with you our latest event. We are holding a Spring Festival to celebrate the first year of the publication of Birth to 5 Matters. Please find below a link to the Birth to 5 Matters Spring Festival and an attached flyer. It is a free festival and is open and available for anyone working in the early years sector. Do feel free to spread the news as widely as possible and encourage people to sign up to the individual sessions through the website and then Eventbrite.

We have a great line up and most of the sessions are being recorded. They will be made available afterwards for anyone who couldn't attend. They can also be used for staff training meetings.

(see attached flyer)

Family support for Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) families

Can you help improve our understanding of what works in family support for Black, Asian and minority ethnic parents and young people?

Very little data is currently available on how minority ethnic families interact with family support services, what enables them to form a strong and trusting relationship with practitioners and service providers, and what experiences may prevent them from receiving timely and effective support.

[SpeakOut](#), run by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) in partnership with Action for Children and the Race Equality Foundation, is a project and short online survey designed to provide a safe space for parents and young people from BAME backgrounds to share their experiences, views and ideas. Please share SpeakOut with parents who might wish to take part, or who can pass it on to families and young people whose voices need to be heard.

Early Childhood Maths Group

The Early Childhood Maths Group (ECMG) have produced a [new toolkit on spatial reasoning](#), in collaboration with researchers at the University of Surrey.

The toolkit is aimed at supporting practitioners with spatial reasoning, as in the new EYFS Mathematical Educational Programme. Following consultation, the toolkit includes videos and posters, as well as a learning trajectory for children from birth to 7. You can view it [here](#).

Bereavement Guidance for Early Years

- Do you provide childcare for families who have experienced a recent bereavement?
- Perhaps your setting has experienced loss within your own provision?
- Do you know who to signpost parents / carers to? Do you know what to say to the children within your setting?

Many of us have sadly experienced a bereavement at one time or another. As an early year's service, we are always aware that settings support families with this far too often. We wanted to ensure you had links to support services which you can signpost your families to and seek advice out for yourselves.

The following links will offer some guidance around this topic.

[Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children \(winstonswish.org\)](http://winstonswish.org)

Winston's Wish is a national charity which offers advice, guidance and support following a bereavement. Their Freephone National Helpline is free to call on 08088 020 021 and their expert team provide bereavement support for parents, carers and professionals who are looking for childhood bereavement advice and support.

Their website offers a range of support including information on suffering bereavements as a result of coronavirus and age appropriate reading lists to help support siblings or young children. Sharing a story with a familiar and trusted adult in a setting or at home can provide children with a safe, warm and nurturing space to explore difficult emotions and feelings. This can help them to talk about their feelings and give adults an opportunity to sensitively support and help children to normalise feelings of anger, sadness or worry.

If you are looking for some support which is a little closer to home, then why not contact one of the bereavement services within our county. We have a range of district-based hospices which all offer bereavement advice to families who accessed the hospice along with families who have never accessed them.

[Bereavement Service | Primrose Hospice | Family Support](#) – Redditch and Bromsgrove Bereavement service

[KEMP Hospice: The Wyre Forest Hospice](#) – Wyre Forest Bereavement Service

[Bereavement support - St Richard's Hospice \(strichards.org.uk\)](http://strichards.org.uk) – South Worcestershire Bereavement Service

In addition, South Worcester have a Bereavement service which is an extension of St Richards hospice, but support family's county wide.

[Help for Children, Young People and Families | Bereavement Support South Worcestershire \(bereavementsupportworcestershire.org.uk\)](http://bereavementsupportworcestershire.org.uk)

If you are supporting children in your setting who are experiencing emotional difficulties following a bereavement, please do not hesitate to contact the Inclusion team to discuss additional funding to contribute towards staffing, on: 01905 843099 or visit our website for funding information at: [Early Years Inclusion Information - Worcestershire Children First Education Services](#)

Further Bereavement Guidance for Early Years



Support for bereaved children and their families in Worcestershire

Footsteps is a small, local charity supporting bereaved children, young people and their families across South Worcestershire. The charity is well established in the area and was set up almost 10 years ago in response to a real need for professional bereavement support for children and young people in the area - it offers a completely free service for those in need, aged 5 – 21 years. Four professionally qualified and experienced bereavement practitioners provide specialist one-to-one bereavement support in safe educational environments and also remotely. When resources allow, they can also provide training and inputs for school and college staff. In addition they offer advice to parents, carers and professionals, informing and raising awareness about bereavement in the community. Their service is delivered on an outreach basis, with practitioners travelling to support young people in schools, colleges, universities and other agreed settings. Support is tailored to meet the child's / young person's specific needs and the number of sessions delivered is flexible and needs based.

Each year Footsteps also endeavours to organise and offer a number of family activity days, inviting bereaved families they have worked with to meet with other bereaved families; to come together to share their feelings, to help stop them feeling isolated and to help them to have fun again without feeling guilt. Again these events are provided completely free of charge.

The referral process is very simple and straightforward and referrals for support are taken from school staff, from other professionals, from families and from older young persons themselves. To make a referral call Helen Dolton on either telephone number given here : 0845 4676065 / 07460 793596 or email info@footsteps.co.uk.

There is also a service called Touchstones providing a bereavement service in the Redditch and Bromsgrove area, though on a smaller scale.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

