



Ian Morris

Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager

Email: imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 844721

Our Ref: EYB183

Date: 18th March 2022

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

How lovely it has been to drive around the county this last week and see the signs of Spring everywhere. I hope that you are enjoying the start of the new season and all the joy that it brings with the children in your settings.

I hope too that you have been able to take advantage of our two free training offers. As many of you will know from attending our conference last term, Animateys interactive storytelling sessions are fun and engaging for staff and children alike and this offer is one not to be missed.

Similarly, our Early Excellence webinars can be used as whole-staff sessions to really help you reflect on your pedagogy, provision and practice and the varied selection of titles ensures that there is something for everyone.

I shall look forward to seeing many of you at the first of our Leaders and Managers updates next week.

Enjoy your week.

Contents

Free Storytelling Training Has Arrived!.....	2
Early Excellence Webinars	3
Down Syndrome Training.....	7
FREE WEBINAR for Worcestershire Nursery practitioners and Childminders.....	7
Early Education Spring Festival	8
FREE EY Training Offer - Applying Play Therapy to the Real World.....	8
New Vodcast on Ofsted Inspections and the New EYFS.....	9
The Big Toddle.....	9
Toddle Together.....	9
Talking to Children and Young People About War	10
Bereavement Guidance for Early Years	10

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

Understanding How to Support Children's Well-being & Involvement 0-4	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	EY/22/113
--	--	-----------

<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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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>
<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 Three: 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 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</p> <p>Session 2: How to Build on Children’s Interests</p> <p>Session 3: How to Secure Effective Interactions</p>	<p>EY/22/119</p>

Schools ONLY

<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>

Exploring Self-Regulation	<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.</p> <p>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>	EY/22/133
How to Secure Effective Interactions	<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.</p> <p>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>	EY/22/134
Sustained Shared Thinking	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	EY/22/135

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.

Down Syndrome Training

The Early Years Inclusion Team can provide training in Down Syndrome; the 2 hour course provides an introduction to the syndrome along with strategies on how to support the spectrum of needs that children with Down Syndrome can present with.

The training is available for in-house purchase; however the Inclusion Team have indicated that there are a range of nurseries who are providing spaces for children with Down Syndrome who would welcome an on-line version of the course.

In order to assess whether it is feasible to put on a course, we would welcome contact from settings who are interested in the Down Syndrome course indicating:

- The number of staff they would like to attend
- Any specific days and times that would be suitable for the training to run
- Contact details

The inclusion team will then liaise with Workforce Support to arrange a virtual event if there is enough interest in the county.

To express an interest in the training, please contact Becky White via email at: rwhite@worcestershirechildrenfirst.org.uk or call on 01905 845231.

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)

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)

FREE EY Training Offer - Applying Play Therapy to the Real World

When: Monday 9th May 2022 Virtual Delivery

Time: 3.30pm-5.00pm

Who is the training for? All early years' practitioners including childminders, nursery and pre-school setting staff, reception teachers and teaching assistants, senior leads and social workers.

There is no charge for this training, we just ask you to come with an open mind and curiosity.

Areas of focus:

- Increased understanding of how to meet children's needs.
- Feel more equipped to help children feel safe - more able to learn.
- Believe your relationship with a child is their biggest asset.
- Support your belief in the importance of play in all of its forms.

To secure your place on this wonderful training opportunity and join our network of excellent practitioners, please email: virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

We require name of delegate/s, setting, job role and email address.

The deadline to sign up is Friday 29 April 2022.

Further joining instructions and a link will then follow.

(Please see attached flyer)

New Vodcast on Ofsted Inspections and the New EYFS

Foundation Years are pleased to share with you a [new vodcast](#) on Ofsted inspections under the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Gill Holden, Principal Officer of the Early Childhood Unit at the National Children's Bureau (NCB), speaks to Phil Minns HMI and Wendy Ratcliff HMI about Ofsted's approach to inspection and what settings can expect.

Gill then speaks to Katrina Rose from Little Acorns Nursery and Natalie Willcock from Corby Glen Community Primary School about their recent experiences of Ofsted inspection, from the initial notification of inspection, the inspectors' focus on the day and their top tips for other settings.

The Big Toddle

Get your party hats on and help us celebrate The Big Toddle's 25th Birthday by joining us on another roar-some Safari-themed adventure!

Our roar-some Safari-themed adventure continues this year, as The Big Toddle Week returns from the **20th to 26th June 2022!**

The Big Toddle is a short, sponsored walk for our littlest supporters. It's a chance for children to be as brave as a lion, put their best foot forward, and simply have buffa-loads of fun with family and friends!

The safari-themed event is aimed at children under five, although children of all ages and abilities can take part. Your Toddlers can get support from brave older siblings, and the littlest cubs can join in the fun from their pushchairs – or as we like to call them, their Solo Safari Jeeps.

You can organise your event on any day during The Big Toddle Week and getting involved is easier than ever before, simply follow the steps below.

There are **two incredible safari-themed ways to get involved this year**. Sign up below to receive your roar-some FREE resource packs.

Toddle Together

Toddle together as a pack, by signing up with your nursery, playgroup or school. You can choose the date, location and distance of your Big Toddle and we will provide you with all the fundraising goodies you need to have an elephant-astic day.

Our Toddle Together pack includes **FREE** medals, sponsorship forms and stickers for every child taking part!

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/big-toddle-sign-up>

Talking to Children and Young People About War

It's hard to know what to say when nothing you say will make things better.

That said, it is vital that children and young people can talk about what is happening in Ukraine, so we have drawn together a list of resources that might help:

- [Talking to Children About War](#) - Barnardo's
- [How to Talk to Children About War](#) - Scouts (in various languages)
- [How to Talk to Your Children About Conflict and War](#) – UNICEF
- [The War in Ukraine](#) - BBC Newsround
- [Reassure children about Russia-Ukraine war with resilience tales, say experts](#) - The Guardian
- [Resources for Teaching About the Ukraine Crisis](#) - Share My Lesson

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 \(strichards.org.uk\)](#) – 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 \(bereavementsupportworcestershire.org.uk\)](#)

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,



Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

