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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you have been able to enjoy the glorious Spring weather this week.

In our latest bulletin we have a whole raft of training opportunities from the Early Years Inclusion team as well as a fabulous free offer from the Virtual school.

It was great to meet Helen from Animateys at our Leaders and Managers update meeting this week and really pleasing to hear the positive feedback from her interactive storytelling sessions. Make sure that you access this tremendous free offer, as well as the wonderful range of Early Excellence webinars, of which numbers are limited so don't miss out.

We are also pleased to partner up with Early Education for some great introductory sessions of Birth to Five Matters which I know you will find useful and interesting.

Enjoy your week.

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2022-23 Education Service Directory out now

Worcestershire Children First’s new Education Service Directory is now available to download on the [WCF Education Services website](#). This has the full list of services to support schools, early years and settings with areas such as inclusion and SEND, safeguarding, attendance and quality of education. Maintained schools can now take advantage of the Early Bird Discount offer until end March 2022.

New services for 2022-23 include:

- Gypsy Roma Traveller Support
- Educational Psychology
- Emotional Literacy Support Assistants
- Mindfulness in Schools
- Coaching Psychology
- Education Welfare Service
- School Improvement Consultancy
- Curriculum and Subject Specific Consultancy
- Early Career Teaching

[Download New Education Services Directory](#)

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

<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>
<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 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. 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 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. 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. 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

<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>
<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.</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>	<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.</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>	<p>EY/22/134</p>

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
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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.

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.

Please email rwhite@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to express an interest or contact Becky White on 01905845231.

SENCo forum / clusters

From April 2022 the SENCo Forum / clusters will now be labelled as North or South and then from Autumn term there will be a choice of either North/South per term to book. Please book to attend the best date to suit you.

North Clusters

- 7 June 2022, 6.15pm to 7.45pm, course code: EY/22/041
- 9 June 2022, 4pm to 5.30pm, course code: EY/22/094
- 19 October 2022, 4.15pm to 5.45pm, course code: EY/22/042
- 1 March 2023, 6pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/22/043

South Clusters

- 10 May 2022, 6pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/22/095
- 11 May 2022, 5pm to 6.30pm, course code: EY/22/096
- 17 May 2022, 6pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/22/097
- 18 October 2022, 5pm to 6.30pm, course code: EY/22/098
- 28 February 2023, 5pm to 6.30pm, course code: EY/22/099

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

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.

Cost: Free

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

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

Effective individual provision map (IPM) writing

This course will enable you to deliver the Graduated Response completely. It will provide guidance on the appropriate paperwork required to demonstrate the 'additional and/or different' work you provide for children known to outside specialist agencies. IPM's will provide your team with a way of demonstrating the child's progress as a direct result of your interventions. New SENCOs will find this an essential course; however, it is also relevant for key people who will contribute to the writing of IPMs.

Cost: £25 + VAT

Virtual delivery

- 21 June 2022, 5pm to 7pm, course code: EY/22/089
- 8 November 2022, 4pm to 6pm, course code: EY/22/090
- 7 February 2023, 6pm to 8pm, course code: EY/22/091

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

Promoting Positive Behaviour Management

All behaviour has a reason and is a form of communication. This course helps you to understand behaviour and be able to deal effectively and appropriately with it within your setting.

Cost: £25 + VAT

Virtual delivery

- 27 September 2022, 4pm to 6pm, course code: EY/22/038
- 14 March 2023, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/22/092

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

Training for new SENCOs

This course is a combined workshop covering role of SENCo and SEND code of practice.

Session 1: To become confident in understanding the SEND code of practice and putting the principles into use – this includes the graduated response. Session 2: Become confident in the role of the SENCo, including supporting the identification of SEND within an early year's setting. An essential course for all named SENCo's, new SENCo's, Managers and Room Supervisors.

Cost: £45 + VAT (£54 inc VAT)

Virtual Delivery

- 20 September and 04 October 2022, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/21/093
- 21 and 28 March 2023, 4pm to 6pm, course code: EY/22/038

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.

How to write support plans workshop

A 1-hour introductory course to support practitioners with writing individual support plans (ISP) for children with SEND within early years settings.

Cost: £12+ VAT

- 12 May 2022, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/22/105
- 11 October 2022, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/22/106
- 8 February 2023, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/11/107

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. Confirmations will be issued from CPD which will have the joining instructions and supporting information attached, when forwarding please ensure all attachments are also shared.

If you require any support with booking or to check course availability it is essential that you contact the training team directly by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

An Introduction to Birth to 5 Matters

This training will provide an introduction to the Birth to 5 Matters non-statutory guidance and help practitioners from across the Early Years sector to think about how to actually use it in practice.

Donna Gaywood, the Birth to 5 Matters coordinator from Early Education, will lead this session and offer practical advice so that you can make the most of the guidance, particularly in response to the current challenges facing the Early Years. Please bring any thoughts, comments and questions as time will be given for ongoing discussion.

Audience: Anyone who works within the Early Years sector, 0 to 5 years.

Cost: £10 + VAT per delegate

Virtual delivery – joining instructions will be attached as part of your CPD confirmation.

- 27 April 2022, 9.30am to 11am, course code: EY/22/150
- 4 May 2022, 4pm to 5.30pm, course code: EY/22/151
- 4 May 2022, 6.30pm to 8pm, course code: EY/22/152
- 11 May 2022, 9.30am to 11am, course code: EY/22/153
- 14 May 2022, 10am to 11.30am, course code: EY/22/154

Book your place via [CPD Online](#) using your settings / schools CPD leader login details. Confirmations with joining instructions will be issued, please ensure junk / spam folders are checked and everything is forwarded accordingly.

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>

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)

Best regards,



Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

