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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

At long last, we have all been enjoying some warm and sunny weather - perhaps summer is finally on its way!

This week I would really like to bring your attention to our recruitment and retention survey. Thank you to all those that have already responded, but we would be very grateful if more of you could find a few minutes to complete the survey. You don't need me to remind you that the Early Years sector is experiencing crisis with this issue, and we would like to develop strategies at local authority level to tackle the situation. The more data and evidence we receive from you the better - thank you.

On a different note, since I have been working at Worcestershire Children First it has been a privilege to be part of the developing partnership between the Safeguarding and Early Years team. We hope that we have a robust and clear training pathway in place. We also have a conference scheduled in June which promises to be a wonderful event with some inspirational speakers booked as well as practical advice and guidance from the sector. You will find further information in this week's bulletin.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone at the Worcestershire Independent Providers meeting that provided me with such a warm welcome this week, it's always great to hear your views as they really do matter to us all in the Early Years team. Always remember that you make the difference!

Enjoy your week.

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Early Years Recruitment and Retention

The difficulties posed by recruitment and retention are a national and local issue. We are undertaking a survey to gather evidence from the sector of your experiences to enable us to better understand the local picture. You can access the survey at: <https://forms.office.com/r/GYHtTS47Ga>

Early Years Safeguarding Conference

Early Years Safeguarding Conference on 21st & 23rd June, 18:00pm - 20:00pm

This conference aims to share best practice in relation to safeguarding provision in Early Years Settings. A range of speakers and workshops over two evenings will showcase approaches to improving provision in settings with particular reference to local and national priorities.

Hear our amazing speakers Bill Say and Michael Conroy talk about the challenges arising in Early Help, stereotyping and how to support setting's. We will also have an Early-years setting sharing good practice and experience on how to keep a child safe.

ONLY £25 + VAT PER DELEGATE

Book via [CPD Online](#) using event code **CON/22/199** and your settings CPD leader login details. Confirmations with joining instructions attached will be issued via email, we ask that junk / spam folders are checked. Any problems when booking please contact the training team via email at workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

Learning Language and Loving It - The Hanen Program for Early Childhood Educators

Would you like FREE training for your nursery staff?

- Which supports the Speech, Language and Communication skills of children
- Aligns with the new OFSTED and EYFS framework changes
- And fits alongside many targeted SLC focused interventions like WellComm, ICAN Talk Boost and Elklan.

Nurseries across the North, Midlands and the Humber are being invited to take part in an efficacy trial testing a training programme known as ***Learning Language and Loving It - The Hanen Program[®] for Early Childhood Educators***. The project is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Department for Education.

Nurseries who sign up to take part will be randomly allocated to either receive the fully funded Hanen training or carry on business as usual. The Business as usual group will receive £1,000 for taking part in the trial.

Nurseries receiving the training will benefit from:

- **High quality and internationally researched training** that provides guidance for early years practitioners in promoting social, language and literacy learning in early years settings
- **An approach which enhances the everyday language learning environment for every child in the setting**, including children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs, those with or at risk of delay, second-language learners and typically developing children
- **Funded CPD opportunity** for 2/3rds of staff who work with pre-school children in your setting
- **1:1 personalised coaching** from speech and language therapists and early years experts
- Reimbursements for **50% of cover costs for workshop attendance**
- Opportunity to inform practice in a national evaluation of what works in early years

Further information can be found by:

- Reading the leaflet attached
- Visiting our website - [Hanen LLLI Trial – Communicate SLT CIC \(communicate-slt.org.uk\)](https://www.communicate-slt.org.uk)
- Visiting the EEF's website - [Learning Language and Loving It \(TM\) - The Hanen Program[®] for... | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)

Next steps...

Please complete this short [Online form](#) to register your interest and/or book your place on a virtual information event in May 2022.

Early Years Leaders, Managers and Childminders Update Forum

An opportunity to hear all the latest Early Years news on policy, Ofsted, and best practice both nationally and locally.

Delivered virtually by the Early Years team

Cost: Free

- 8 June 2022, 3.45pm to 5.15pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY/22/204
- 9 June 2022, 6.45pm to 8.15pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY/22/205

Book via [CPD Online](#) using your settings CPD leader login details. Confirmations with joining instructions attached will be issued via email, we ask that junk / spam folders are checked. Any problems when booking please contact the training team via email at workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

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 (trainers preferred platform) with joining instructions being issued via CPD as part of your confirmation, if you have not received them within 5 days of the training, please contact the training team on 01905 844 420

Cost: £25 + VAT

- 10 June 2022, 9.30am to 12pm, course code: EY/22/052

Book via [CPD Online](#) using your settings CPD leader login details. Confirmations with joining instructions attached will be issued via email, we ask that junk / spam folders are checked. Any problems when booking please contact the training team via email at workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

NEF Provider Briefing

This is an update session to highlight any changes to NEF in Worcestershire for September. Specifically, for those offering NEF within Worcestershire. Delivered by Nicky Burford, Patrick O'Connor, Hana Malins and Rob Phillips

Cost: Free

- 14 June 2022, 7.30pm to 9pm, Worcester, course code: EY/22/176
- 15 June 2022, 7.30pm to 9pm, Redditch, course code: EY/22/177
- 17 June 2022, 10am to 11.30am, Worcester, course code: EY/22/179
- 21 June 2022, 7.30pm to 9pm, Wyre Forest, course code: EY/22/178
- 23 June 2022, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY/22/169

Book via [CPD Online](#) using your settings CPD leader login details. Confirmations with joining instructions attached will be issued via email, we ask that junk / spam folders are checked. Any problems when booking please contact the training team via email at workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

Animateys

A reminder that the active storytelling training is still available and is free of charge! Please choose the correct version for you from the list below. And see attached clip of some active storytelling in action in a setting in your County ... they are scooping up fish in a giant fishing net, (of course! 😊)

1) For schools/settings with a screen:

You can run the entire training as a group during a team meeting, using the interactive video technology. Allow at least an hour - or more, to allow lots of time to create and discuss activities, getting them ready to go and ready to share with the children.

If you choose this option, one person needs to coordinate the training in advance and on the day (including downloads).

You can [access the group version here](#). Please type in the correct (100% discount) code at check out. You do NOT need to put in any payment details.

Bromsgrove: **storybr**

Worcester: **storywo**

Malvern Hills: **storymh**

Wychavon: **storywyc**

Redditch: **storyred**

Wyre Forest: **storywf**

2) For schools/settings without a screen:

Each member of your team can watch a very shortened (20 mins) version of the training at home - and each create an activity to accompany a story. You can then all come together in a team meeting (without any technology) to discuss the activities you have created.

Please contact Helen on hello@animateys.com and ask for a code specific to your setting.

3) For childminders / librarians (or other individuals):

You can watch the 20 minute video and we recommend creating your own activities to share with the children at the end.

[You can access the training here.](#) Please type in the correct (100% discount) code at check out. You do NOT need to put in any payment details.

Bromsgrove: **storybr**

Worcester: **storywo**

Malvern Hills: **storymh**

Wychavon: **storywyc**

Redditch: **storyred**

Wyre Forest: **storywf**

"The impact has been immediate with storytelling being much more animated and interactive. Thank you" - Nursery Manger, Overbury

"This training supports Early Year practitioners in making stories interesting, fun, stimulating language for all stages. It's full of ideas to bring characters to life, encouraging children to be part of the story." - Deputy Nursery Manager, Worcester

"The training gives you fresh ideas on how to tell stories to children, keeping them engaged and following the early years profiles." - Childminder, Worcestershire

[View short Animateys in action clip on Instagram](#)

Ofsted Education Inspection Framework Curriculum Roadshows

Ofsted is running a series of Education Inspection Framework (EIF) curriculum roadshows for Early Years settings. These events will be held regionally across the country, between June and July this year. We intend to run a specific roadshow for maintained nurseries later in the year.

These half-day events will offer the opportunity to learn more about how we look at language and communication at inspection and what we have learnt about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two representatives from your setting are welcome to attend. Each person attending will need to register separately.

Current Ofsted Inspectors (OIs) are asked not to attend this event, as specific training is provided for inspectors separately.

Please note that there is no charge for attending one of these events and spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you are interested in attending one of these events in your region, please find below details of the date, session times and links for registration.

Wednesday 29th June

Birmingham

9.30am - 12.30pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/339025613737>

2.00pm - 5.00pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/339047418957>

Please do not hesitate to contact us at events@ofsted.gov.uk should you have any questions.

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:

1. Email Workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with the subject bar as Early Excellence workshops
2. Provide your name / setting name and email for the license to be issued to
3. Provide your preferred three choices (ideally you will be allocated your first choice but due to demand we cannot 100% guarantee this)
4. All requests are on a first come first served basis

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	EY/22/113
Let's Talk: Understanding Language & Communication in the EYFS 0-4	EY/22/114
Understanding Outdoor Learning in the EYFS 0-4	EY/22/115
Strengthening Observation & Assessment Practice 0-4	EY/22/116
Building Your Understanding of Child Development 0-4	EY/22/117
All About Developing Work with Two Year Olds	EY/22/118
Understanding Practice & Provision in the EYFS 0-4	EY/22/119

Schools ONLY

Creating Conversations! Inspire Language through Role Play	EY/22/120
It's a Small World: Inspiring Children's Storytelling Through Small World Play	EY/22/121
Exploring Self-Regulation	EY/22/133
How to Secure Effective Interactions	EY/22/134
Sustained Shared Thinking	EY/22/135

If anything is not clear then please do not hesitate to contact Rachael Oakley, Training Coordinator, 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

[Access further free webinars from Early Excellence](#)

Terms and Conditions

During 2020 and 2021 due to the impact COVID was having on our workforce, schools, settings and governing boards we operated a flexible approach and did not adhere to our terms and conditions in relation to booking a training course or conference, with regards to cancellations and/or non-attendance.

We wanted to remind everyone that as the Government has now removed many, if not all, of its restrictions in relation to COVID that our terms and conditions are now back up and are fully in effect. Terms and conditions can be found within all of the training directories and on our training page on our main [WCF website \(opens in new window\)](#). In addition when booking any training course or conference via CPD, our terms and conditions can be viewed / read and downloaded prior to submitting the request for a place.

Recently we have noticed a significant amount of people not attending training courses that have been booked for them. We understand and appreciate that this may be for a variety of reasons including staffing issues within the school / setting on that day, however, to support you can we remind you of the following:

- If a member of staff cannot attend a course, please let ourselves know so we can look at alternative dates and offer a transfer and / or offer the place out to someone on the waiting list
- If joining instructions are missing or cannot be found and they need to be re-sent, please allow a minimum of 5 days to get them re-sent and this can be done in a variety of ways.

The training team are here to help, as such any queries regarding any training booking please contact them on 01905 844 420 / workforcesupport@Worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Guidance on the progress check at age two

The Department for Education (DfE) has published new early years foundation stage (EYFS) [guidance](#) to provide support for early years practitioners when completing the progress check at age two. This non-statutory guidance will help all early years practitioners working with children between the ages of two and three to make an accurate assessment of a child's development and work closely with parents and other professionals to put in place appropriate support and intervention where it is needed.

The guidance informs, supports and offers suggestions that can help practitioners review children's development across the three prime areas of learning. It does not replace the professional judgement of practitioners but aims to support it. The guidance is clear that you do not need to spend a long time away from the children to complete the progress check or carry out excessive tracking or evidence collection.

The DfE has also published a [vodcast](#) to explain the new guidance to early years practitioners and a [blog](#) that highlights why the progress check is important now, more than ever as we support children to bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the guidance here](#)

A message from the DfE on staff:child ratios

Following recent media attention, the Minister for Children and Families at the Department for Education (DfE) Will Quince has [confirmed plans to consult the sector](#) in the summer on mirroring the Scottish model of a ratio of 1 to 5 instead of 1 to 4 for 2-year-olds in early years settings.

The Minister emphasised that he wants to work closely with the sector, hearing from providers and parents/carers on the issue before any decisions are made. The DfE will share information on how to make your voice heard in due course.

Practice

Foundation Years is pleased to share with you a new [vodcast](#) exploring the benefits of outdoor learning in the early years.

Gill Holden, Principal Officer of the Early Childhood Unit at the National Children's Bureau (NCB), speaks to Jo Gordon and Jacqui McDermid, Early Years Consultants, Communication and Language Development Leads at the Lambeth Early Action Partnership (LEAP) and co-founders of the Natural Thinkers programme.

Best regards,



Ian Morris
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