



**Ian Morris**

**Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager**

Email: [imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

Tel: 01905 844721

Our Ref: EYB191

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Well, that was a very quick half-term. Is it my imagination, or does time go more quickly at this time of the year?

At the end of a week when we are hearing more news about settings struggling to remain open, I would like to bring your attention for the final time to our recruitment and retention survey. If you have experienced difficulties in this regard, we would really like to hear from you. Once the survey is complete, we will report our findings via the bulletin and at our forthcoming Leaders and Managers Updates. The survey closes this week.

Don't forget that very shortly after half-term we have our first Early Years Safeguarding conference to look forward to. There are guest speakers and exciting workshops to attend over the course of two evenings in June. We hope as many of you as possible are able to join us.

I would also like to highlight the rescheduling of our final Preparing for Inspection session for the Summer. Feedback for these sessions has been extremely positive, with many reporting how helpful the face-to-face sessions have been in providing opportunities to network and share best practice. The new date is 25th June.

Finally, we want to wish you all a happy half-term and Jubilee weekend.

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.

[Complete short survey on recruitment and retention](#)

## 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](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) or call 01905 844 420.

## Preparing for Inspection

Unfortunately, due to the trainer Gill Owen being ill, the Preparing for Inspection course scheduled for 21st May could not take place. As such the course has been re-arranged to 25th June at 9.30am – 12.30pm in Worcester. For those scheduled to attend on the original date, please contact the training team [workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) to confirm your attendance.

For everyone else, Childminders, Managers of Pre-schools / Nurseries / Out of Schools clubs then this is another opportunity for you to book to attend this essential training.

This course is designed 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.

Cost: £35 + VAT

25 June 2022, 9.30 to 12.30pm, Worcester, course code: EY/22/181

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](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) or call 01905 844 420.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

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

## Practice

### Covid Recovery and the Importance of Keeping Children Active

As the nation continues to recover from the pandemic, it remains crucial to understand how 'pandemic life' has impacted upon young children, many of whom have lived a large part of their life under some version of lockdown conditions. Hard on the heels of a [University of Bristol study](#) highlighting falling activity rates among 11-year-olds, [new EIF polling of parents](#) suggests that less than one in five under-6s are getting the recommended amount of daily physical activity despite the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

[Read blog on Operation Long-Run: Covid recovery and the importance of keeping children active](#)

## Staffing

It's top of mind for managers paying agency fees for temporary cover, for colleagues trying to keep some continuity of care, and for parents wondering who will be looking after their little one today. But rather than share the doom-and-gloom recruitment crisis stats with you, instead, we have two articles to help you out.

### Tackling the recruitment crisis: advice for managers

If you're desperately seeking staff at your setting, recruiter Valentina is here to help. From getting the hiring process right to finding that 'hidden gem', you'll learn how to find and keep the superstars of the sector.

[Read the article on tackling the recruitment crisis in Early Years](#)



## How to keep your best staff

Empowered, well-paid staff are more likely to stay, but what else can you do to motivate your educators? Retaining good staff has never been more important, so read on for tips and tricks from training to targets.

[Read the article on how to retain your nursery staff](#)

*Source: Family*

Best regards,



Ian Morris  
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

