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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Another busy week has gone by.

I must express my gratitude to all those that attended the Early Years DSL conference over two evenings this week. I think it is a real measure of your dedication that you are able to attend such events at the end of a busy working day, and with such glorious weather to enjoy too. Thank you - and thanks also to Denise Hannibal for putting together such a memorable and inspirational event.

I would also like to recognise all those that attended NEF provider briefings over the last fortnight. I know that the return of face-to-face events has proved extremely popular and that attendees have welcomed the opportunity to network again. Thanks to Nikki Burford and her funding colleagues for making these events such a success.

Enjoy your week.

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Early Years Recruitment and Retention

We are very much aware of the difficulties encountered by many Early Years providers in their attempts to recruit new members of staff.

To support the sector we are making our social media accounts available to providers to share any vacancies you are struggling to recruit.

If you wish to advertise a post, simply email comms@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with the following information:

- Job title
- Location
- Hours
- Brief description of role
- Link to your setting for more information and/or details how to apply
- Closing date

Your post will then be advertised on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

Early Years Professional Development Programme

The Early Years Professional Development Programme (PDP) was launched in December 2019, and since then PDP training has been delivered to over 1,200 early years practitioners in more than 1,000 PVI settings and school nurseries and is set to benefit around 50,000 children.

Practitioners have become equipped with the skills they need to provide high quality support and teaching on early language, early maths and personal, social, and emotional development (PSED) to children who are most at risk of falling behind at a critical stage of their development due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Worcestershire, we are delighted to announce that a number of practitioners have successfully completed the course and in doing so have acquired “Communication Friendly” accredited status for their provisions. As a local authority we wish to acknowledge this tremendous achievement.

The course has run throughout the pandemic meaning adjustments to new ways of working as well as being faced with the challenges of finding cover for staff. That’s without even mentioning the day-to-day difficulties presented by Covid and having to meet strict deadlines.

Everyone that has completed the course deserves our greatest respect and admiration and we hope that their newly acquired status is making a real difference to the children that they work with every day. Well done to you all!

- Dawn Morris and Mary Felici - Wishing Well Day Nursery
- Jenny Rouse - St. Clements Preschool
- Katie Buckley - Sidemoor Preschool
- Nicky Reid - Evesham Nursery School
- Rebecca Withers - Little Seedlings
- Holly Browning - Smileys Creche
- Jayne Such - Little Sneakers
- Sally Bache - Wulstans Lodge
- Lou Gudger - Franche Community Primary School
- Trudi Harley - St. George’s C of E First School
- Emma Charles - Little Folks
- Hannah Coombes - Magic Moments
- Laura Salmon - Banana Moon
- Rachel Cartwright - Clifton Upon Teme
- Theresa Murphy - Childminder
- Christina Wilkes - Windmill Day Nursery
- Laura Whitworth - Raindrops Nursery

GET SAFE Training

Get Safe training is now multi-agency and as such is not bookable via CPD, to attend this training please following the process below to book your school place(s):

To book, please **click on this link:** [External Agencies \(opens in new window\)](#)

Please be aware that the course title comes up as *Raising Awareness of Exploitation and vulnerability*

Support with the instructions:

- Do you have an account – **No thanks**
- Course price - **click in public circle**
- Select organisation from dropdown box – **Public**
- **Put in your address**
- **Then click book course**

Please note that the training team cannot provide support with booking this course or obtaining certificates, you will need to speak to the Learning & Development team directly on email: LDAdmin@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone: 01905 844544.

Inclusion Supplement Applications – Autumn Term

The inclusion team can now accept applications for the Autumn Term 22.

An on-line application form has been created, and we politely request that settings use the new on-line version to apply for the funding. The application can be found on the following link:

[Autumn Term 2022 Inclusion Supplement 'Top Up' Applications - Early Years provisions](#)

If you are unable to access the on-line form, paper applications will still be accepted, however the team intend to move to purely on-line applications in the 22-23 academic year. The new on-line application is much quicker to complete, and also quicker to process – with the aim that settings are informed of the funding they will be awarded at the earliest opportunity.

Monitoring Form for GR4 challenge and Exceptional funding

Please note the deadline for inclusion funding Summer Term monitoring forms is 15 June 2022. If you have not already, please complete and return your monitoring forms to the Early Years Inclusion team via the [Children's Services Portal](#).

The information on the forms aid the team in allocating the correct level of funding, and failure to return the forms will result in the funding being delayed or cancelled. Any queries should be direct to rwhite@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Holding a Team Around the Family (TAF)

Friday 15 July 2022 from 11am to midday.

A Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting should take place when a concern identifies the need for a multi-agency response. It provides the opportunity to discuss how additional needs can be met.

Please click the link below and select training and events and click on the chosen course – all free and all virtual.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/earlyhelp>

NEF Provider Briefings

It was lovely to see so many people at the recent NEF Provider Briefings, both at the in person sessions and virtually. A copy of the slides are attached for reference. For any providers that were unable to attend one of sessions, please have a read through the slides and contact either myself, Patrick or Hana to discuss any questions you may have; a reminder of our contact details are included within the slides.

Nursery Education Funding for children arriving from Ukraine

The decision has been made to support children arriving from Ukraine as quickly as possible.

For two year old children, they will be able to access Two Year Old Funding from the term after their second birthday without having to wait for a National Insurance number to be allocated. Please support families to complete the paper Application Form (which can be found here: [Who is eligible for two year old funding? | Worcestershire County Council](#)), write on the form that they are Ukrainian and return it to the Two Year Old Funding Team using the Children's Services Portal. Once a National Insurance number has been allocated, please enter it onto the child's 'Notes' section when entering your NEF claim.

For 3 & 4 year old children, Early Years Pupil Premium will be awarded for children accessing their funded hours. Again, there is no need to wait for a National Insurance number to be allocated; enter 'Ukrainian' onto the 'Notes' section when entering your NEF claim and the Early Years Funding Team will allocate EYPP. Children living in England are automatically eligible for the 15 Universal hours of funding, from the term after their third birthday.

Worcestershire Provider Agreement

The Worcestershire Provider Agreement 2022/23 will be sent out via email on Friday 24th June. It will be sent to both the NEF Contact and the Provider Contact, from NEFWPA@worcestershire.gov.uk.

If you do not receive a copy, it is worth checking your spam/trash folders in case it is automatically sent there. If you wish to offer Nursery Education Funding in September, please ensure that the Provider Declaration Form and the Contact Details Form are completed in full and returned by Monday 11th July to the above email address.

Early Years Career Progression Pathways

CV Writing

NVQ Equivalent Level 1

Online, West Smethwick Enterprise

This online session will support you to create or update your CV specifically for Early Years job roles. The date and time for this session is yet to be confirmed.

[Email us to be added to the waitlist](#)

Collaboration in a Competitive Sector

NVQ Equivalent Level 4

MS Teams, Newman University

Delivered by our Academic Expert, this session will introduce you to a framework for identifying and putting into action potential win-win actions with external organisations.

[Book Here: Thursday 30th June | 11:00 - 12:30](#)

Streamlined Organisations: Lessons from the Private Sector

NVQ Equivalent Level 4

MS Teams, Newman University

Delivered by our Academic Expert, this session will introduce you to Lean Management to help you drive down costs, increase efficiency and improve the customer experience.

[Book Here: Thursday 7th July | 11:00 - 12:30](#)

Early Years Alliance launches its #WeAreEducators campaign

A campaign to recognise those working in the early years as educators has been launched by the Early Years Alliance.

The #WeAreEducators campaign aims to help those working in the sector highlight to parents, local communities and policymakers the unique importance of the early years and the role the workforce plays in shaping children's lives.

It follows an announcement by the National Day Nurseries (NDNA) about its new campaign to raise the profile of the sector, launching on Friday at its annual conference.

Under the Alliance's #WeAreEducators campaign, the organisation will be contacting MPs and peers to voice for their support for the early years sector and recognise those working in childcare settings as education professionals.

Those who sign up to the campaign will be given access to a free toolkit which includes a template letter to send to their MP inviting them to visit their setting, posters, social media graphics and other materials to help them highlight the vital role of early learning. The latter is in reaction to a raft of research suggesting that despite the importance of the first five years of a child's life, early years provision is often viewed and treated as 'childcare' to support parents to work.

Neil Leitch, chief executive of the Early Years Alliance, said, 'For far too long, hardworking, talented and knowledgeable early years professionals have been treated as "babysitters" by policymakers, rather than valued as the educators that they are.

'Anyone who has ever worked in our sector knows that play is learning and that the early years is education. It is our hope that through this campaign, parents, local communities and – crucially – policymakers will come to understand this too.'

To sign up to the #WeAreEducators campaign, and receive a free toolkit, please visit:

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/we-are-educators-campaign>

Source: Nursery World

Practice

Preparation is key

The key to a stress-free September is to get ahead of the game. That's why Family is offering our early childhood platform for £1 until August 15th, to help you get ready for the new year. Your most relaxing summer ever, for less than the price of an ice cream!

[Find out how](#)

How to create a curriculum

Creating your own curriculum can feel a bit daunting, but Sue Cowley discusses why it's a lot easier than you might think. Get started now to be ready for the new year!

[Read the article](#)

Best regards,



Ian Morris
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