



Ian Morris

Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager

Email: imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 844721

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

With the Summer holidays fast approaching it feels like everyone is busier than ever with arranging transitions, preparing for end-of-year celebrations, not to mention delivering our everyday provision.

If you have time though, the end of year is also a good time to reflect on the successes of the year and to start to plan ahead. It's been good to hear of another Worcestershire provider achieving Ofsted's highest benchmark this week. In our bulletin this week we also pay tribute to Little Lodge Nursery on their success at the prestigious NDNA awards.

The Early Years team at Worcestershire Children First are continually amazed by the brilliant work of so many of you in the sector, often in the most challenging of circumstances.

Enjoy your week.

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National Day Nurseries Association Awards

Huge congratulations must go to Little Lodge Nursery in Worcester. Not only have they achieved outstanding Ofsted status earlier this year, but now they have received two highly prestigious NDNA awards.

First, they were named as Nursery of the Year in the Central England category and then manager Rosemary (“Macky”) claimed the title of Manager of the Year.

Everyone at Worcestershire Children First offer our sincerest well wishes on these fantastic achievements, having visited recently I know that they are well-deserved and that everyone in the Little Lodge team should be extremely proud- well done!

DfE Updates

Early education and childcare entitlements for children under 5 years of age in the state-funded, private, voluntary and independent sectors in England. [Provision for children under 5 in England: January 2022](#)

Childcare arrangements for all ages and early years provision for children who are 5 years of age or younger. [Statistics: childcare and early years](#)

Become an Ambassador for Early Years Children Looked After

We are inviting you to be a part of Worcestershire's exciting journey by signing up and participating in the virtually delivered learning journey delivered by KCA in partnership with Worcestershire Virtual School.

This offer aims to build upon the fantastic job that is already being noticed and valued across Worcestershire's settings. By signing up to this series of inputs, you are committing to engaging with each session, some of which are in your own time but are all necessary before the shared reflective session at the end. Please see attached flyer for more details.

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.

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.

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.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/earlyhelp

Inclusion Supplement Applications – Autumn Term

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

An online application form has been created, and we politely request that settings use the new online 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 online form, paper applications will still be accepted, however the team intend to move to purely online applications in the 2022-23 academic year. The new online 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.

Early Years Career Progression Pathways

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, click www.eyalliance.org.uk/we-are-educators-campaign

Source: Nursery World

Supplies of disposable aprons available for settings

Our colleagues in Public Health still have a large number of disposable aprons available for use by settings, which many settings have utilised already. The aprons are in boxes of 500 and suitable for possible use in your arts and crafts classes.

If interested, please email cv19logistics@worcestershire.gov.uk with an idea of quantity you require. **Boxes can be collected from their PPE Stores at Unit 4 Blackpole Enterprise Park, Worcester WR3 8SG on Thursday 7th July 2022 between 8am & 6pm.**

There is no need to book a time, there will be someone at the stores available to help during the date listed above.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Morris".

Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

