



Early Years Team

Email: eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 844048

Our Ref: EYB204

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Best regards,

The Early Years Team.

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Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Scarlet Fever / Strep A. Guidance

In light of this, advice on managing Scarlet Fever for schools / parents has been circulated to all schools and includes guidance, draft letters and stake holder communication pack on Wednesday 5th December. If you have not received the information, please email EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to request a copy.

The incidence of invasive group A Strep (GAS) infection is higher than expected for this time of year. Scarlet Fever notifications are also higher than expected, having followed a similar trend to group A Strep (GAS) infection.

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is easily treated with antibiotics. Early symptoms include:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- Rash appears 12—48hrs later. The rash will have a sandpaper feel.
- Flushed cheeks and pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by red tongue (called "strawberry tongue")
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpaper feel

Some children may also experience nausea and vomiting

What you need to do

As per national [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education) guidance, please follow below steps:

- Exclude the individual(s) diagnosed with scarlet fever/streptococcal infection until 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment. If no antibiotics have been administered, the individual will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks and should be excluded for this period.
- Advise parent or carer to keep their child at home and seek advice from their general practitioner if their child is symptomatic.
- Encourage children, young people and staff to implement good [hand hygiene](#) practices. The 'Clean Hands Safe Hand' toolkit for education settings provides practical advice on how children can be encouraged to wash their hands. Additional Christmas activities are also available within this bulletin.
- Encourage staff, children and young people to implement good [respiratory hygiene](#) practices.

As there is an increase in notifications of scarlet fever to UKHSA, above seasonal expected levels it is recommend that you share the following link to [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) with parents/carers and staff.

Further advice can be found at **Should I keep my child off school/nursery** poster, and other resources are available for free [here](#). The following website also has information/ games/ lesson plans to teach children about infections and infection control. <http://www.e-bug.eu/>.

A national helpline where schools and childcare settings can receive advice on scarlet fever and GAS has been launched today (Friday 9th December). It will be open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. It can be accessed by calling 0344 225 3560 and then choosing option 9.

Schools and nurseries will be referred to the Health Protection Team from the helpline if:

- They have one or more cases of chickenpox or flu in the class that has scarlet fever at the same time. This is because infection with scarlet fever and either chickenpox or flu at the same time can result in more serious illness.
- They are experiencing an outbreak of scarlet fever in a setting or class that provides care or education to children who are clinically vulnerable.
- The outbreak continues for over 3 weeks, despite taking steps to control it.
- Any child or staff member is hospitalised or has died with group A Strep (GAS) infection.

To read the latest UKHSA blog on Group A Strep and what you need to know, please visit: [Group A Strep - What you need to know - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](http://blog.gov.uk)

For further infection prevention and control advice, please visit: [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education guidance \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Clean Hand, Safe Hands Campaign: New Resources

As part of the 'Clean Hands, Safe Hands' campaign that was launched by Public Health in Worcestershire in October, Christmas themed resources have been developed to be used in nurseries and schools. These seasonal resources can be used to remind children of the importance of washing their hands.

New resources available include wordsearches, quizzes and colouring-in sheets for children, and also new Christmas themed posters that can be displayed within your setting.

To access the new resources and the toolkit, please visit: [Handwashing - Google Drive](#)

School Admissions

Applications for a Reception place for September 2023 are now open; the deadline for application is **Sunday 15th January 2023**.

For further information and to apply for a school place, parents and carers should be signposted to [School Admissions](#).

Autumn Team Early Years Update Meetings

As requested at the recent Early Years Update Meetings, a summary of the slides are available to download from [Google Drive](#). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Early Years Team via EYCC@worcechildrenfirst.org.uk.

Urgent Safety Alert

The Office for Product Safety and Standards has issued an [urgent safety alert](#) for baby self-feeding pillows; the public are urged to stop using them immediately and dispose of them safely. Please highlight to parents and carers.

Nursery Education Funding: Fair Funding Consultation Paper 2022

Proposal to amend the Deprivation Supplement within the Worcestershire Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) from April 2023

Background

At present we have an annual budget of £150,000 for deprivation, which is a **compulsory** supplement within the EYSFF. The total spend is less than 0.5% of the funding allocation for 3- and 4-year olds and has not changed since the EYSFF started in 2011.

Deprivation funding is currently paid through two methods:

1. 10p increase to the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) supplement (on top of the 60p allocated via the DSG).
 - a. This is limited to the first 15 hours
 - b. Only paid if parent/carers have indicated that they are eligible for EYPP.
2. A lump sum paid in the Autumn Term based on the January census.

Proposed Changes

Pay via a child-based weighting

We would like to move away from using the EYPP and a lump sum for the funding of deprivation. The proposal is to use the child's post code to allocate an hourly supplement. We believe this will give a more accurate deprivation allocation, as well as providing funding termly to match each eligible child's attendance.

The post codes would be matched against the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices ([IDACI](#)). The post code is allocated a letter between A to G, with A being the most highly deprived areas. The sliding scale would cover the first 4 levels A to D, with A receiving the most per hour.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to move from adding £0.10 to the EYPP supplement, along with the annual allocation, to an individual child-based weighting based on the child's postcode, paid on a termly basis?

Increase the Deprivation Budget

We intend to increase the deprivation budget to £300,000, which is still less than 1% of the current Designated School Grant (DSG) funding received from the government to allocation for 3- and 4-year olds, to better support children affected by deprivation.

2. Do you agree with the intention to increase the total budget for deprivation?

Please submit your [response](#) by **5pm on Monday 9th January 2023**.

Early Years Bulletin: DfE Updates:

Consultation on changes to the Early Years Educator level 3 criteria

Following the [review](#) conducted by the NCFE, the DfE are now [consulting](#) on proposals to revise the criteria for the level 3 Early Years Educator qualification.

The consultation closes on **Monday 23rd January**.

National Professional Qualification Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)

The [NPQEYL](#) is a new, DfE-funded, professional development course being offered from autumn 2022 to leaders and aspiring leaders of early years settings. It is designed to support early years leaders to develop expertise in leading high-quality education and care, as well as in effective staff and organisational management.

The NPQEYL has been designed with leaders and practitioners in mind, using the latest and best available evidence and collective wisdom of the profession to ensure every child in every setting gets the best start in life.

The NPQEYL is aimed at leaders qualified to (at least) Level 3 with a full and relevant qualification, who are, or are aspiring to be:

- managers of Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries,
- Headteachers or leaders of school-based and maintained nurseries, or
- childminders with leadership responsibilities.

Early years professionals helped us design this course to fit around busy schedules. On average participants will need to spend between 1 and 2 hours per week working towards this NPQ.

Once you have [registered](#) and had confirmation that you're eligible to access this course for free, you will be able to apply directly to one of the approved course providers.

Early Years Child Development Training

Available to all early years practitioners, [Early Years Child Development Training](#) is an online programme designed to help practitioners improve their knowledge and understanding of child development so that they can support children in early education settings.

Delivered virtually, the first 4 modules are now [available](#) to access. Subsequent modules will be added during 2022/23.

Reminder - Childminder Mentor Programme

In October 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the [Early Years Education Recovery Programme](#) to help address the impact of the pandemic. This includes the early years COVID-19 recovery experts and mentors' programme.

The DfE early years COVID-19 recovery experts and mentors programme currently supports private, voluntary or independent (PVI) nursery settings, maintained nursery schools and school-based nurseries. **The DfE have now expanded this offer of support to childminders.**

Going live from April 2023, the [Childminder Mentor Programme](#) will offer bespoke support by trained early years professionals in the role of area leads and mentors, to childminders across the country. If you are interested in becoming either an area lead or a mentor, applications are now open; an Expression of Interest must be submitted by **16th December 2022**.

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding Update

Education Referrals to the Family Front Door

Worcestershire Children First continue to work cross agency to review and reflect on referrals to the Family Front door from all education providers. The [7 Minute Briefing](#) identifies what is working well within education and social care, as well as opportunities for improvements. If you have any questions about the information provided, please email sbarrett@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Early Years Operation Encompass

NEF registered settings will shortly be receiving an email containing an Early Years Operation Encompass welcome pack. Please look out for the email and pass it onto your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to complete.

Early Years Bulletin: Ofsted

Early Years Blog

Have you subscribed to the [Ofsted Early Years blog](#)? With regular updates about their early years education, care and regulatory work, the blog is specifically for the early years sector. Recent articles include:

- [Streamlining the early years registration process](#)
- [Giving children the best start in life](#)
- [Committee-run childcare – what you need to know](#)

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion team

Supporting children with complex communication needs and/or autism

A comprehensive [guide](#) to support children potentially on the spectrum in the early years is available.

The document produced by ASD info Wales contains a range of insights and advice and guidance for early years settings.

Early Years settings who have children known to Preschool Forum with complex communication needs can also access the Complex Communication and Autism teams Early Years training for free. If you haven't already been invited to the training please contact the inclusion team on eyinclusion@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to receive an invite to the Virtual training.

Additional advice is also available:

- Resource for Aiding Interaction and Developing Shared Attention: The Inclusion Team has produced an information leaflet listing a selection of resources, toys and ideas that may be useful to support children with interaction, shared attention, turn taking and early communication.
- The resources should be used by parents and carers and practitioners for developing shared attention with an adult in the first instance. When children are confident in this skill, adults should then introduce another child to the activities to develop interactions and shared attention with the child's friendship and peer group. It can be requested from eyinclusion@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Via the inclusion team website:

Top Tips for Supporting Children with Complex Communication Issues

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCFEducationServices/download/downloads/id/62/top-tips-for-supporting-children-with-social-communication-issues.pdf>

Advice sheet on supporting children with their sleep

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCFEducationServices/download/downloads/id/171/supporting-sleep-for-children-on-the-autism-spectrum.pdf>

Information on sensory processing can be downloaded here:

[sensory-processing-low-res.pdf \(cerebra.org.uk\)](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

Early Years Community Hub

Would you like to be part of an early years' community? A network to share good practice in all things early years? Are you interested in exploring and learning about early years, finding ways to reflect and strengthen your own practice? Then we would love you to join us for our first meeting!

We are excited to invite you to the launch of the Early Years Community Hub, a joint venture between WCF and the University of Worcester.

Cost: **Free**

- Thursday 12th January, 19:00 – 20:30, Course Code: **10302**
Venue: Room EE G020, University of Worcester, St Johns Campus WR2 6AJ
Free car parking is available in car parks M and R.

The session will be led by Worcester University and will focus on Motivation.

Early Years Update Meetings – Spring Term

An opportunity to hear the latest Early Years news on policy, Ofsted and best practice within the sector.

Group Settings

Cost: **Free**

- Thursday 9th February, 18:30-20:00, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10272**
- Friday 10th February, 10:00-11:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10272**

Out of School Settings

Cost: **Free**

- Wednesday 8th February, 10:00-11:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10274**

Childminders

Including Inclusion updates from Becky White

Cost: **Free**

- Wednesday 8th February, 19:00-20:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10273**

To book onto an Early Years course:

- WCF:CPD <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx> using your CPD leader login details
- Confirmations will be issued to the delegate email provided at the point of booking, please ensure junk / spam folders are checked
- Joining instructions will be included within the body of the confirmation email

- If you have not yet had access to the new booking site organised or resolved please do not attempt to create an account. Please contact the training team directly by emailing workforcesupport@worschildrenfirst.org.uk to get this resolved.
- If you encounter any other issues when booking please contact the training team for support

LADO Conference 2023

The Worcestershire Children First Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Service is holding its first conference for managers and partner agencies on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at County Hall, Worcester from 2pm to 5pm.

This half-day conference will give key safeguarding partners and leads the opportunity to:

- Support building relationships between the LADO Service and partner agencies
- Develop your knowledge of Management of Allegations against professionals in a Position of Trust working with children
- Support your application of LADO Thresholds and your role within the Management of Allegations process
- Develop awareness and responses to managing low level concerns.

The Conference is suitable for managers in safeguarding agencies working with children, Worcestershire based Residential Settings and Independent Fostering Agencies.

The Conference is free of charge and places will be allocated on a first come basis. We anticipate that this session will be in high demand, so please allocate one place to your agency to support a wide range of professionals to attend.

[Book your place on LADO Conference](#)

Self-Regulation in the Early Years - SAVE THE DATE

Worcestershire Virtual School are excited to invite you to join us for a virtual training session by Diana Lawton, one of the specialist trainers from [Inspired Children](#). Diana is an ex-clinical psychologist who now owns 4 early years settings and has an absolute passion for self-regulation and how we support it in our young children. She is a highly accomplished trainer and has been asked to speak at the Nursery World business summit on multiple occasions and is part of a group developing qualifications for the industry.

Who is the training for? All early years' practitioners from nursery and pre-school settings, childminders, reception teachers and teaching assistants, senior leads, social workers with early years children on their caseloads.

When? Wednesday 1st February 2023 from 4pm-6.30pm (Virtually via zoom)

Further information and joining instructions will be emailed out after Christmas!

Training Reminders

Due to the change of booking system the training team wanted to remind settings / childminders / schools and governing boards of a few key things:

- Joining instructions, if the training is virtual, are now included within the body of the confirmation email.
- Confirmation emails are sent to the email address linked to the delegate attending the course – CPD Leaders currently do not get copies, this is a development request for our second phase of work.
- If for any reason you do not have joining instructions then we advise contacting the team at least 5 days before the course is due to take place. This allows sufficient time for the team to re-issue the joining instructions in multiple ways if necessary and also ensures the training team can respond in a timely manner.
- Terms and conditions are agreed to at the point of booking, they are available to view on our website <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCFEducationServices/info/2/training-conferences/60/training-booking-terms-conditions>, and will be followed in light of non-attendance.
- Certificates for training are issued via email to the email for that delegate booking and course. Certificates are issued once the register is received back from the trainer.
- To support the new system we recommend that you ensure that the following email address CAP-DoNotReply@worcestershire.gov.uk is set as a safe sender, any emails received from this address go into main inboxes (not junk / spam folders) and will not go into any quarantine filters (this may apply more to school email addresses than personal emails).
- If for any reason you are a CPD Leader and still do not have access to the new CPD site please contact the training team to get this resolved. CPD Leaders due to the financial and staff cover implications would generally sit with Owners / Managers / Childminders /Head Teachers or Deputy Headteachers / Business, Office or Finance managers. Individual staff are not provided with access due to the financial and budget implications.
- The training team contact details are workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

Christmas Active Story Workshop

As we get into the Christmas swing, we wanted to share some story joy: We have opened up our Christmas session (for FREE!) to everyone in Worcestershire to enjoy! Please use the links below to access a **FREE** active story workshop to run at school/nursery or at home.

The session starts with a warm-up, followed by a heart-warming Christmas story. After the story there are games and activities to choose from - where the children can experience the story physically and vocally.

Please use the **coupon code XMAS** (all capitals) at checkout for free access!

- **If you have a big screen**, use [this link](#) and run a group workshop at school/nursery! (This version comes with a learning pack which links activities to the EYFS)
- **If you don't have a big screen**, please feel free to [share this link](#) with parents so that they can enjoy at home!

Click unlock, go as if to pay, then use the coupon code **XMAS**. You do not need to add any payment details.

Any questions, contact hello@animateys.com

Communication Champion Training

The Speech and Language Team are offering free training to all early years' settings in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wychavon. Training will focus on a new speech and language topic each term; the topic for Spring 2023 is Speech Sound Difficulties.

For further details and information about how to book a place, please download the poster from [Google Drive](#).