



Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

It's been a pleasure seeing so many people at our Early Years Provider Update Meetings this week. If you have any topics or questions that you would like to be included within the Summer Term meetings, please email the team and let us know; we would really value your input to ensure that we are covering key areas within the Early Years sector.

We're excited to be able to announce that we will be hosting an Early Years Conference on 17th and 18th March. With a focus on SEND issues, alongside other key issues currently impacting the sector, speakers will include James Hemsall OBE from [hemsall's](#). Further details and booking information is included within the attached flyer.

As always, if you need any advice or support, please contact the team via EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Best regards,

The Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Professional Development Programme - Phase 3

The DfE have provided updated information about Phase 3 of the [Professional Development Programme](#) (PDP3). Available to practitioners nationally, PDP3 will be targeted towards reaching disadvantaged children. The Programme is designed to support level 3 qualified practitioners who have not already completed PDP1 or PDP2.

We will be looking for providers to join a cohort in September 2023. Practitioners will have around 7-8 months to complete 3 modules covering:

- Early communication and language
- Early mathematics
- Personal, social and emotional development

We will be actively recruiting providers during the Summer Term but if you would like to register your interest now, please email EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Nursery Education Funding

The Provider Portal has been reopened for any funding claims for late starters. If you have any children attending that you have not yet submitted a claim for, you can do so up until Friday 17th February.

If you have any mid-term changes for children already submitted, the Portal will reopen for Adjustment Claims on Monday 27th February 2023.

Closure of the LORT and IPC-COVID-19 services

The locally based COVID-19 response teams will end their work on Friday 31 March at midday. The two teams are the Local Outbreak Response Team and the IPC COVID-19 Team.

All advice on any issue related to infection control and outbreak management for COVID-19 after that date, will be directed to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

The branch of UKHSA that provides services to Worcestershire is the **West Midlands - WEST Office**. Their daytime and out of hours numbers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-health-protection-teams#west-midlands-west-hpt>. Please note they do not monitor emails out of hours. Always contact by phone outside of working hours.

Public Health would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, pupils and parents for their engagement, dedication, co-operation and forbearance during the pandemic. They recognise this has been at personal cost and appreciate all that you have done to support these efforts.

SEND Local Offer Survey

The All Age Disability Service have been asked to look at the current webpages of the SEND Local Offer, as this is being updated by Digital Design in order to move it onto a new platform with refreshed graphics and easier navigation.

As you know, the Local Offer provides information about the provision and services that families can expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have a Special Educational Need (SEN) or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Children First need to ensure that everything included on the current website makes sense and is helpful and relevant.

As part of this they are keen to look at the way the site is structured to ensure that it is easy for parents, young people and professionals to navigate and find the information they are looking for. They will be looking at the content itself in other activity, but this is about the way the information is organised.

They would be grateful if you could complete the following [short survey](#) and also please share it with young people, parents, carers, stakeholders and professionals to complete.

The survey closes on Sunday 12th March 23:59.

Recruitment Reminder

Please don't forget that we can include any staff vacancies you are currently advertising via the WCF Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Please email comms@worcechildrenfirst.org.uk with the following information if you wish to make use of this service:

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

Early Years Inclusion Funding – Summer Term applications

If you wish to request top up (GR4 challenge, exceptional, non NEF or holiday and out of school) inclusion funding for new children who will be attending in the Summer Term please do so by the 5th March on the Summer Term 2023 on-line application which can be accessed here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Sgx5xYFgYx>

Remember if you have accessed GR4 challenge or exceptional we will send you a link to the monitoring forms which will extend the funding into the new terms.

Triple P Positive Parenting Programme: One Off Digital Sessions

On behalf of Action for Children and Worcestershire Starting Well Partnership can you please share the following information with your parents and carers where appropriate.

Do you have a child or children aged 2 to 10 years old?

Do you want to manage or prevent some of the challenging behaviours that do and can occur?

Then come along and join one or more of our one-off discussion groups and meet other parents in similar situations and get some advice, hints, tips and strategies to help make parenting children easier and less challenging.

Each session is 2 hours long and is delivered digitally via Microsoft TEAMS

- Wednesday 8th March, 6pm to 8pm - Hassle Free Meals with Children
- Tuesday 21st March, 9:30am to 11:30am - Managing Fighting and Aggression

Book your place via [Trybooking](#) or by visiting the following Starting Well Facebook pages:

[Starting Well Partnership - South Worcestershire Facebook](#)

[Starting Well Partnership - Wyre Forest Facebook](#)

[Starting Well Partnership - Bromsgrove and Redditch Facebook](#)

Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

Childminder Mentor Programme

As previously announced, the Childminder Mentor Programme is part of the Covid-19 [Early Years Education Recovery Programme](#). Focused on supporting childminders to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the youngest and most disadvantaged children, trained early years professionals will provide support which could include:

- Identifying strengths and areas for development
- Improving your confidence in or knowledge of child development
- Implementing the [early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)
- Planning an effective curriculum
- Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Supporting children with English as an additional language (EAL)
- Building strong relationships with parents and carers

For further information and to apply for support, please visit: [COVID-19 Recovery Childminders | Hempsalls](#). Applications must be submitted by 17th February 2023, with support due to start in May 2023.

Calculating holiday entitlement for part-year and irregular hours workers

Following the Supreme Court judgement on [Harpur Trust v Brazel](#) regarding the calculation of holiday pay and entitlement of a permanent part-year worker on a zero hours contract, the Government is now consulting to enable them to understand the implications this has on different sectors.

For more information and to respond to the consultation, please visit: [Calculating holiday entitlement for part-year and irregular hours workers \(accessible HTML page\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Responses must be submitted by 9th March 2023.

Early years initial teacher training: 2022 to 2023 funding guidance

On 26 January, the Department for Education updated the funding guidance for early years initial teacher training (EYITT) providers for 2022 to 2023 to clarify how the employer incentive should be used and the types of company that can receive it.

[Download Early Years Initial Teacher Training Guidance 2022/23](#)

Ofsted Early Years Blog

Ofsted's 2023 Priorities for Early Years

Ofsted have published a new article on their Early Years Blog: [Ofsted's 2023 Priorities for Early Years](#), which includes a review of 2022 along with an outline of their focus for 2023. Their Annual Report has also been published: [The Annual Report of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2021/22](#), which includes a section specific to [Early Years](#).

Inspection Preparation

Another article published on the Early Years Blog is: [What do I need to do to prepare for my inspection?](#) Answering some of the most commonly asked questions, Ofsted provide some guidance on what to do during your Early Years inspection.

Shaping Us Campaign

The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood's campaign launch preview of their major new '[Shaping Us](#)' campaign which aims to increase public understanding of the crucial importance of the first five years of life.

Shaping Us kickstarts with the release of a short film highlighting the incredible rate at which our brain develops before the age of five and how this can shape the rest of our lives. The campaign also highlights how every single person in our society has a role to play in creating change.

Shaping Us is a new long-term campaign from The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood which aims to transform the issue from one of scientific interest, to one of the most strategically important topics of our time. The 90-second claymation film shows how a little girl named Layla develops from pregnancy to age five and how she is shaped by her interactions with the people and environment around her. The short film, which features a track by Lokki entitled "Breathe a Breath of Me", will appear on Piccadilly Lights at Piccadilly Circus and will be screened in cinemas across the UK from Friday.

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help and Safeguarding Update

The Spring Term Provider Update Meetings this week have focused on Early Help. An outline of the presentation can be downloaded from [Google Drive](#) for reference. Please email EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk if you need any further information.

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

Early Years Inclusion Funding – Monitoring Form deadline 15th February 2023.

If you have accessed either exceptional early years funding or GR4 challenge the deadline for the monitoring forms is fast approaching. Completion of the forms are required to release the Spring term funding which will be paid alongside the NEF actual payment run.

The Spring term **exceptional** monitoring form can be accessed from this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VJ1PK392CR>

The Spring term GR4 challenge monitoring form can be accessed from this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ReBRuEV51d>

We would also appreciate you passing on the Parent Carer monitoring form to all parents whose children are in receipt of inclusion funding, so we can capture their thoughts on the impact of the funding on their children's development. <https://forms.office.com/e/EwxbpB0H7n>

We would appreciate the monitoring form being completed no later than the 15th February. If this causes any issues for you please do not hesitate to contact me or Maddie Spares on 01905 843 099 or via email.

If you have applied for out of school or non-NEF funding and have had a contract issued, please ensure that this is signed and returned in order for the funding to be released.

Do you have a child with sensory processing difficulties in your setting?

Children with sensory processing difficulties may experience difficulties figuring out what is going on inside and outside of their bodies. They may have an aversion to anything that triggers their senses, such as light, sound, touch, taste, or smell. Children may present with different types of sensory difficulties.

The nervous system processes this information and generates a response or reaction to what is happening around the child. Sensory experiences can help children understand their environments and support them to feel safe and secure.

Worcestershire Children's Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Team have set up a support Facebook page to support children with these difficulties. From the page you can access links to useful clips to support all areas of sensory processing difficulties via YouTube.

These can also be accessed via their webpage: [Paediatric Therapy - Information, advice and resources | Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/paediatric-therapy-information-advice-and-resources)

These are useful for you as practitioners as well as for parents/carers.

Early Years Bulletin - In the setting

Edible Messy Play Ideas

Taste-safe playdough

Full fat plain yoghurt

Cornflour

Mix until no longer sticky

Gingerbread crumble sensory play

2-3 cups of flour

1-2 tsp of cinnamon

½ cup of oil

Blend until it's a crumbly texture to play with

Taste-safe sand

Ground crackers

Baby rusks / biscuits

More taste safe sand (different colour and smell to above)

Ground cereal such as Cheerio's

Chia Slime

¼ cup of chia seeds

2 cups of water

2-3 drops of food colouring

Jelly shapes in a tray

Cooked spaghetti with food colouring

Frozen orange segments in a tray

Dry food play (cous cous, cereal etc)

Aquafaba

Blend the left over from a can of chickpea with 1-2 tsp of cream of tartar

Taste-safe paint

Greek yoghurt with food colouring

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

Early Years Operation Encompass Launch - What happens next?

The Early Years and Education Safeguarding team are holding a virtual meeting to discuss the implementation of Operation Encompass within Early Years. The team will also be able to answer any questions surrounding Operation Encompass and the processes.

Cost: Free

Dates:

- Wednesday 15th February, 6:15 – 7:15pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10281**
- Thursday 16th February, 7 – 8pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10281**

To book: via [CPD](#) using the appropriate course code.

To book onto an Early Years course please visit [WCF:CPD](#) 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 encounter any issues when booking training courses, please contact the Training Team at workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844 420.

Early Help Training

These courses are being offered on a rolling programme of dates so please check the site regularly to find out more and to book:

- Completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA)
- Holding a Team Around the Family (TAF)
- How to creatively gather the child's voice
- What is Early Help?

Cost: Free

To book: <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnDevPublic>

- Search for the course
- Do you have an account – **No**
- Course price – course price is free so click **public**
- Select organisation from dropdown box – **Public**
- Put in your address
- Then click book course

If you require support with booking, please contact WCC Learning & Development team directly on 01905 844 544 or email LAdmin@worcestershire.gov.uk

Cost of Living: Supporting Families in the Early Years

[Anna Freud](#) National Centre for Children and Families is hosting a virtual event reflecting on what the cost-of-living crisis means for children in the early years, their families and early years providers.

Cost: Free

Date: 23rd February 2023 4:30 – 6pm, virtual delivery

To book: [Cost of Living: Supporting Families in the Early Years | Training | Anna Freud Centre](#)

Animateys Pancake Story Workshop

Following the enthusiastic response to our Christmas workshop in December, I am excited to announce that we have now opened up our **Pancake Story Workshop for FREE** for all nurseries, schools and homes in Worcestershire!

This workshop compliments our **Active Storytelling Training**: it gives further ideas for activities and gets the children experiencing a story through multiple senses. The professional version comes with a supporting EYFS learning pack.

If you don't have the facilities to share an active workshop with the children at your setting (ie. large enough screen and sound), please free to share the parents' version with your families - so the children can enjoy it at home.

Grandpa's Birthday Pancake starts with a warmup, followed by a fun story about a pancake. After the story there are games, songs and activities (that you can pick and choose from) - where the children can experience the story physically and vocally.

If you run it all in one go, it takes around 30 minutes. But you can dip in and out as you wish. Make sure to allow space for the children to move around and please be ready to get involved yourself. This is not a passive watching experience - so the adult is key in helping the children get the most from the experience.

How to access: Please use the coupon code **PANCAKE (all capitals)** at checkout for free access!

- For nurseries, childminders and schools - run the the professional workshop (facilitated by you, EYFS pack included): [Choose this link](#)
- If you prefer for the children to enjoy the experience at home, please [share this link](#) with parents.

For either option - please go as if to pay, then use the coupon code PANCAKE. You do not need to add any payment details.

For info: Pancake day is Tuesday 21 February this year.

Any questions - or to let me know how you got on - contact hello@animateys.com

Reminders from the Training Team

The CPD site website is: <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx>

Access to CPD: Each Early Years Setting and Childminder will have a CPD Leader account to access the new system. If you have not received your CPD Leader email welcoming you to the site then please let the training team know by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk so that this can be looked into and resolved accordingly.

Joining instructions for training: How do I receive them?

Please be aware that joining instructions for virtual training are now included within the body of your confirmation email. They will appear as hyperlinks. If for any reason they do not appear as a hyperlink then you will need to copy the link into a web browser/MS teams app (if you have it) or Zoom app if we are using that method, to allow you to join the training. Please ensure that there are no spaces before the “https” and the final character of the link.

Joining instructions: I have misplaced them what do I do?

If for any reason you cannot find your joining instructions, please ensure you contact the training team with a minimum of 5 days before your course to get them re-sent. The training team cannot guarantee availability on the day of the course to support you.

The team can be contacted by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Certificates for course since September 2022: How do I receive them?

The training team allow 10 days for a register to be returned from the trainer, once it's received and the course is marked as held on WCF:CPD booking system then certificates are issued. Certificates are currently sent via email (from the booking system) to the email held against the delegate for that specific course.

Certificates for courses that took place before September 2022

If for any reason you are missing any certificate for a course that took place before 01.09.2022 then please email the training team with the course title / date and the name of the delegate the certificate is required for. We are allowing 10 days to organise replacement certificates. The team can be contacted by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.