



**Early Years Team**

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## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

With the ongoing concerns around recruitment, the Early Years Team took the opportunity to host a stand at the Worcestershire Skills Show this week. We talked to hundreds of pupils who are looking towards their future careers and hopefully helped to inspire the next generation of early years practitioners.

We're now looking towards the [Early Years Conference](#) which is taking place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. We're really looking forward to talking to as many of you as possible over the course of the day, in between sessions focused on SEND, recruitment and staff wellbeing, all key topics within the early years sector. There are a small number of tickets still available if you haven't yet booked.

As always, if you need any advice or support, please contact the team via email at:

[EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

Best regards,

The Early Years Team

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## Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

### Community Grant Funding

If you are a **registered charity**, you may be able to apply to Prime PLC for a grant of up to £6000. Looking to support charities in Worcestershire, they are funding projects that will benefit the local community. For further information and to submit an application, please visit: [Foundation Grant Application for Worcestershire | Prime plc.](#)

### Could you support the Training Team with a venue?

We are looking for venue's specifically in Pershore, Evesham, Bromsgrove and Redditch that could host face to face training. It maybe that your setting has a specific training room, or you visit/use a local community centre/hub that could meet our needs, or as a school you have the facilities we could use.

Our requirements are:

- Well-lit car park especially essential during winter months
- Adult sized chairs and tables
- Space to accommodate up to 30 delegates comfortably
- Access to a projector/screen and wi-fi
- Access to refreshments facilities
- Someone will be on site to provide access, ensure the space is set up as required, deal with any onsite issues and lock-up the building
- Confirmation if there are any accessibility limitations to the venue

If you are a school/setting that could meet these needs, or know of a venue that is within these areas Pershore, Evesham, Bromsgrove or Redditch that would meet our requirements, please contact Rachael Oakley, [roakley2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:roakley2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) with a contact name, number, email address and school/setting or venue name.

### 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@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:comms@worcschildrenfirst.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

## Ready Steady Worcestershire

If you offer holiday provision for children in Reception or above, you may want to consider signing up as a 'Holiday Activities and Food' (HAF) provider. For further information and to register as a Worcestershire HAF Provider, please visit: [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme in Worcestershire \(providers\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## School Readiness Sessions

Flyers advertising School Readiness sessions for parents and carers in Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest are available to download from [Google Drive](#) for you to share with your families.

## Family Hubs Surveys - Redditch and Wychavon

If you are a Redditch or Wychavon setting, can you please share the following with your young people, families and staff.

Worcestershire Early Help Partnership want to hear from parents, carers, children and young people in Wychavon and Redditch on what help, support and services they need and how they prefer to access this. The survey will help influence and inform how partner agencies deliver help and support to families in their community, bringing together the creation of Family Hubs.

In Worcestershire, we currently deliver help and support to families in many different ways, face to face, through clinics at libraries, children's centres, youth centres and schools, virtually or over the phone. Family Hubs focus on bringing services together and changing the way family help and support is delivered locally.

The survey will better enable us to provide joined-up help, support and services to children, young people, parents and carers from pregnancy through to the age of 19 years old or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Anyone who completes the Family Hub Consultation will have the opportunity to enter a free prize draw to win one of four £50 supermarket shopping vouchers. The surveys are anonymous, confidential and open to everyone living in Wychavon or Redditch and can be found on in the County Council website at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhub>.

Alternatively, you can access the surveys via the following direct links:

[Redditch Family Hubs Survey](#)  
[Wychavon Family Hubs Survey](#)

**The surveys close at midnight on Sunday 30 April 2023.**

If you require a Word version of the survey or need this information in another format, language or easy read, please email your details to [YourSay@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:YourSay@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

## Nursery Education Funding

### NEF Claims

The Online Provider Portal is currently open for Spring Term Adjustments and Summer Term Estimates; the deadline for submission is Friday 17th March.

### 30 Hour Codes

For children accessing 30 Hours funding during the Summer Funding Period (1st April 2023), they must have a valid code with a Start Date of 31st March or earlier and an End Date of 1st April or later. Please use the Eligibility Checker on the Online Provider Portal to check Codes before the end of the Spring Funding Period (31st March 2023).

## HANDi App: Information and guidance on common childhood illnesses

The HANDi Paediatric app is now available to parents across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, free to download onto any Apple device via the App Store or any Android device via the Google Play Store. A poster advertising the app is available to [download](#).

The HANDi Paediatric app, developed by NHS organisations across Worcestershire, provides advice and support to parents and carers of children up to eleven years of age when their child is unwell. It contains information about when and how to ask for help thereby giving parents more confidence in dealing with minor childhood health care conditions. The HANDi app offers simple and straightforward advice for the following conditions in children:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- High temperature
- 'chesty baby' illnesses, such as bronchiolitis, asthma, and croup
- 'chesty child' illnesses such as wheezing and asthma
- Abdominal pain
- Common newborn problems.

## Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

### Tax-Free Childcare

Take-up of Tax-Free Childcare continues to be high on the national agenda, to support families with the cost of living.

All Ofsted registered providers can register for Tax-Free Childcare. If you are not registered, information about how to do so can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sign-up-to-tax-free-childcare-if-youre-a-childcare-provider>

There are a range of [communication](#) resources available for you to use to advertise the financial support available for families, including Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare and Universal Credit for Childcare. The resources include [posters](#) and [social media graphics](#), which are all free to use:

### Professional Development Programme – Phase 3

As previously mentioned, you can now submit an [Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) for Phase 3 of the [Professional Development Programme](#) (PDP3). The EOI must be submitted by the lead practitioner at your organisation.

To be eligible for the training, your setting must offer childcare to children between 2 and 4 years of age, with priority given to applications from settings that meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Provide to at least one child with an Education, Health and Care Plan or Disability Access Fund indicator
- Provide to at least one child in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)
- Provide to at least one child taking up the disadvantaged two-year-old offer

EY providers which do not meet the above criteria but where local intelligence suggests disadvantaged children would benefit from their practitioners receiving additional CPD support, may also be eligible. Please email [EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) if you do not meet these criteria but would like to be considered.

#### **Additionally, participating practitioners must:**

- Be qualified to at least level 3
- Be currently working with 2-4 year olds (e.g. a manager who does not spend any time with the children is not eligible)
- Not have completed a previous version of the early years professional development programme delivered by Education Development Trust.

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](mailto:EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

## Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

### Inclusion Webcasts

The Early Years Inclusion team have created free inclusion workshops for the topics that they regularly support setting SENCOs with. The workshops are between 30 mins to an hour long, providing bitesize and accessible information and advice:

- Applying for Challenge Funding: [https://youtu.be/X55\\_YOrW80Q](https://youtu.be/X55_YOrW80Q)
- Tips for promoting positive behaviour: <https://youtu.be/Ln9FGmG6F0U>
- How to write a support plan: <https://youtu.be/wgozpApBKXE>
- How to use EYFS Early Support: <https://youtu.be/g-MpYuNyCrE>
- Visual Support in the Early Years: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYsjcKTom-w>
- Accessing small group or circle time activities: <https://youtu.be/hY1NTSkHBO8>
- Intensive and shared interactions for children in early years settings: <https://youtu.be/WNcSOBel2IA>

### Speech and Language UK

[Speech and Language UK](#) have a huge range of free resources for both parents and [professionals](#) to support speech, language and communication:

- Early Years poster: [I can stages of Development.pdf, page 1 @ Preflight \(speechandlanguage.org.uk\)](#)
- Ages and stages of children's communication development from birth to 5 years: [tct\\_univspeak\\_0-5\\_update.pdf \(speechandlanguage.org.uk\)](#)
- Resource library for parents/carers: [Resource library for families \(speechandlanguage.org.uk\)](#)
- Factsheets for professionals: [Professionals' FAQs \(speechandlanguage.org.uk\)](#)

### Inclusion Funding

The on-line application is available for Summer Term 'top up' inclusion funding applications. I.e.:

- GR4 challenge funding applications (for new children)
- Exceptional early years funding (for new children)
- Non-NEF funding for new and existing children
- Out of school and holiday provision for new and existing children

All funding streams can be applied for via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Sgx5xYFgYx>

Summer applications are currently being considered, with a further meeting taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May – so please get you applications in now to ensure you are aware of the funding you will be allocated. If you are already in receipt of GR4 challenge or exceptional funding, you do not need to reapply – however you are required to complete a termly monitoring form no later than the **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June**. On-line monitoring forms will be uploaded to the [WCF EY Inclusion website](#) at the beginning of June ready for completion.

## Early Years Bulletin: Early Help and Safeguarding Update

### Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Resources

The [Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (WSCP) have a range of resources available for use by [professionals](#) including:

- Advice to practitioners regarding bruises on babies
- Neglect toolkit
- Multi-Agency learning briefings
- Guidance documents

### Early Years Bulletin: In the setting

#### Developing Outdoor Provider for Babies and Toddlers

Creating outdoor provision for babies and toddlers can be challenging. Safety, temperature control, parents' views, sleep routines etc. all play their part in what is provided daily in the routine.

The importance of being outdoors for babies and toddlers is clear. They have a right to outdoor play, being under the sky and experiencing the elements. It meets their strong need for exploration of the world around them and offers a wide range of sensory experiences which indoors cannot provide.

#### Sensory experiences

Safe plants can be planted, grown, smelled, picked and tasted by the children. The natural elements are great for first hand experiences. Babies and toddlers love to feel the wind on their face, notice trees and object moving in the wind. Hanging wind chimes, using windmills, ribbons etc will support these experiences.

#### Loose parts

Things that can be transported, collected, stacked, balanced, arranged etc. will offer a variety of learning opportunities which will engage the children more deeply.

#### Natural Materials

Babies and toddlers are drawn to natural materials such as soil, sand, water, pebbles, bark, plants etc. they are important for their developing understanding of the world. If the outdoor area is covered in a safety surface, consider how these can be incorporated.

#### The adult's role

Outdoors is very important for interactions. Talking with babies and toddlers about what they are exploring will support vocabulary. Supervision is also key and adult needs to ensure all children are safe while exploring their environment.



## Early Years Bulletin: Training news

### Reducing Parental Conflict

Harmony at Home is Worcestershire's approach to the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) initiative in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and organisations from our multi-agency Reference group.

This training will cover parental conflict, which can range from a lack of warmth and emotional distance, right through to swearing and showing, and is known to be a risk factor for poor child outcomes.

**Cost:** Free

**Date:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 6-7:30pm

**Venue:** County Hall

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

### ACEs and Speech and Language

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma and how these can impact on Speech, Language and Communication development:

- How ACEs can impact on a child's Speech, Language and Communication (SLC)
- How everyone can support children and families to reduce the impact on the child's SLC development
- Some examples from across the UK
- Looking after our own wellbeing and that of the EY workforce.

Delivered by Communicate SLT CIC, a not-for-profit organisation providing flexible and tailored speech, language, communication related services.

**Cost:** Free

**Date:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2-3:30pm

**To book:** [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\), how these can impact on SLC Tickets, Mon 24 Apr 2023 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## Supporting the Home Learning Environment with Tiny Happy People

### What is BBC Tiny Happy People?

The BBC Tiny Happy People initiative aims to reduce the 'word gap' by supporting parents to help develop their little ones' vocabulary in the home learning environment. Based on extensive academic and audience research, Tiny Happy People has a simple message at its heart - 'talk to your baby as much as possible from birth - we can show you how and why.'

### On the website parents will find:

- Activity Content showing parents how to support their children's language development with hundreds of fun simple activities, all organised by age.
- Child Development Content showing parents why supporting language learning is important. It is all about children's amazing brains and how they understand the world.
- Tips and Advice from speech and language experts, health care professionals and early years practitioners covering a wide range of parenting topics

### Free THP Champion Training:

This free, virtual, one hour training session will reveal everything you need to know about Tiny Happy People to feel confident recommending this service to families that you work with. The session will explain approach, show you easily shareable content on the website and highlight those key language techniques and resources that you will want to share.

Tiny happy people champion training is accessible and relevant for everyone - from entry level staff to senior practitioners

Following the presentation by the BBC there will be an opportunity to discuss with other delegates how you can use THP in your role.

**Cost:** Free

**Date:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2-3:30pm

**To book:** [Supporting the HLE with Tiny Happy People Tickets, Wed 22 Mar 2023 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## 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](mailto: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 can not 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](mailto: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](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).