



**Early Years Team**

Email: [eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

Tel: 01905 844048

Our Ref: EYB209

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you are well and enjoying the recent sunny weather.

We wanted to take the opportunity to remind you that we are here to support you. If you have concerns or issues, it is always worth contacting the Early Years Team for advice; depending on what you need, we may be able to provide a support visit.

If you are due inspection an Early Years Improvement Advisor will offer to visit your setting and provide appropriate support. This is in addition to the support available via the helpline, termly Update Meetings, DSL Forums, NEF Briefings and Early Years Bulletin that are all in place to support your ongoing practice.

There is also a range of training courses available via [CPD](#), including our newly refreshed 'Preparing for ~~Inspection~~ Children' and our growing package of webcasts that can be used within the setting.

As always, if you need any advice or support, please contact the team via [EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

Best regards,

The Early Years Team.

## Contents

Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders .....	3
Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub.....	3
Worcestershire Libraries - Business Events .....	3
Professional Development Programme Phase 3 .....	4
Recruitment Reminder.....	4
Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders.....	5
Early Years Child Development Training.....	5
How Does Reading Benefit Children? .....	5
National Smile Month .....	5
Early Years Bulletin: Early Help and Safeguarding Update .....	7
Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership .....	7
Summer Term DSL Forums - June 2023 .....	7
Early Help and Levels of Need Masterclass .....	7
Never, Ever Shake a Baby.....	8
Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team .....	9
Early Years Inclusion Funding - Autumn Term 2023 .....	9
Transition Support .....	9
Early Years Bulletin: In the setting .....	10
Window Displays.....	10
The Level 3 Early Years SENCO qualification.....	10
Early Years Bulletin: Training news .....	12
Early Years DSL Forum .....	12
Summer Term - Early Years Update Meeting .....	12
NEF Provider Briefing .....	13
SENCo Forum/Cluster .....	13
NEF Childminder Briefing .....	13

## Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

### Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

Following on from the success of our first meeting back in January, we would like to warmly invite you to our next meeting taking place on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 6:30pm - 8:00pm** at the Conference Centre (Worcestershire Room) at University of Worcester, St Johns Campus.

#### **This is a free event**

As requested by setting leaders who attended the first meeting in January, our focus for this meeting will be **Supporting Wellbeing**; this will include your own and/or the wellbeing of staff teams.

**Creating a culture that supports wellbeing within early years settings is so vital. So come along and lets chat, share and explore this important topic together.**

Along with sharing some findings from current research into the area of wellbeing, you will have lots of opportunity to share examples of how you support wellbeing within your setting. So please come along and be prepared to share examples of good practice across our wonderful early years community, so that we can learn from and support each other.

#### **Also on the agenda**

- University of Worcester Placement Provision for Students 2023/24
- Networking 7:30—8pm

**Booking is essential** - to secure a place please email the Early Years Team at [EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) (Subject: Early Years community hub), making sure you include the name of attendees as well as the name of your setting.

**Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub** is a collaboration between leaders of early years settings, University Worcester and The Early Years Team at Worcestershire Children First, coming together to create a space to network, share, learn, create partnerships and grow together!

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June! Any questions please feel free to get in touch.

### Worcestershire Libraries - Business Events

Business & IP Centre Worcestershire is running and hosting a wide range of free business events both online and in Worcestershire Libraries. These include free business networking events, workshops, business support clinics and webinars on a range of business topics designed to help entrepreneurs, SME's and those who are yet to start their business.

For further information and to book, please visit: [BIPC Worcestershire: Free support for business](#)

## Professional Development Programme Phase 3

The early years team are seeking expressions of interest from settings to participate in the professional development programme beginning September 2023, if interested please email: [SBarrett@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:SBarrett@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) or call Sam on 01905 846343.

### Overview

The professional development programme (PDP) provides early years practitioners with training on communication and language, early mathematics, and personal, social and emotional development. PDP has been designed to ensure early years practitioners have the skills they need to support young children's development in the areas that make the most difference to long-term development and attainment. PDP3 builds on the success of PDP1 and PDP2, and has been made available to all local authorities in England through a mix of self-study learning and online webinars.

### Who will benefit?

PDP 3 is available to practitioners nationally, targeted at reaching disadvantaged children. PDP3 is designed to support level 3 qualified practitioners who have not already completed PDP1 or PDP2.

### The programme covers:

- Early communication and language
- Early mathematics
- Personal, social and emotional development (PSED)

### Programme length

It is expected that practitioners will complete the 3 modules in around 7 to 8 months.

### Programme funding

This programme is free to access. Support with backfill costs is available to settings via their local authority to help practitioners complete the training.

For further information please visit: [Early years education recovery programme: supporting the sector - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/programmes/early-years-education-recovery-programme)

## 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

## Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

### Early Years Child Development Training

The Department for Education has launched **free** child development training for early years practitioners. Delivered over 10 modules, the first 4 are now ready to access:

- Understanding child development and the EYFS
- Brain development and how children learn
- Supporting children's personal, social and emotional development
- Supporting language development in the early years

For further information and to register for the training, please visit: [Early years child development training : Home page \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/early-years-child-development-training)

### How Does Reading Benefit Children?

[BookTrust](#) has published a new interactive tool that demonstrates the impact reading has on children's development and progress.

To find out more information about the importance of reading and to download the interactive resource, please visit: [How does reading benefit children? | BookTrust](#)

### National Smile Month

**This week sees the start of National Smile Month.**

[National Smile Month 2023](#) runs from 15 May to 15 June, led by the Oral Health Foundation, to promote the benefits of having a healthy smile. Every year National Smile Month raises awareness of important health issues that affect not only our smile, but general health too.

On the website you will find information about oral health, activities and competitions to take part in.

### Oral Health in The Early Years

From September 2021, the EYFS 3.44 added the requirement to promote oral health of children attending Early years settings. The Revised Development Matters Document says 'Talk to children about the importance of eating healthily and brushing their teeth. All child care providers need to consider how to support oral health'. Did you know, tooth decay is the most common oral disease affecting children and young people in England? Just under a quarter of all children in England have experience of tooth decay by the age of five.

**Worcestershire Oral Health** have a Facebook page and a Twitter account and post on both regularly with tips and news: <https://www.facebook.com/HWHCTSmileSquad/>

Below are links to apps and songs which can support you and your children with toothbrushing:

- <https://www.brushdj.com/> An app to make toothbrushing fun!
- <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/townscape-oral-health/> learn about oral health and how you can support children and families
- <https://youtu.be/u3vdGjj89k8> Hey Duggee toothbrushing song (Cbeebies)

**Did you know children with SEN are more prone to gum disease?** Brushing teeth before bed and at one other time in the day can help prevent tooth decay and gum disease.

If you have a child with SEN needs there are a range of different resources to support oral health, these include non-foaming toothpaste and specialist toothbrushes.

It's important to note that even children who are tube fed, need to have their teeth brushed. Brushing teeth regularly removes bacteria, reduces plaque and tartar build up, bad breath and bleeding gums. Brushing teeth works different muscles in the mouth and can improve muscle tone. Dentists no longer recommend rinsing your mouth after brushing, just spit the toothpaste out into a bowl or onto a paper towel. This means toothbrushing can be done anywhere!

Do all of your children have access to a dentist? For children under 16 who are unable to access a general dentist practitioner due to their particular need, may be referred to the NHS specialist services by:

- General Dental Practitioners
- General Medical Practitioners (GP)
- Any other health or social care professional (Health visitor/school nurse)

[Find out more information including the criteria for referrals](#)

## Early Years Bulletin: Early Help and Safeguarding Update

### Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership – May 2023 newsletter can be found here: [Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership - May 2023 Newsletter \(office.com\)](#)

The newsletter includes:

- Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-2022: annual report (October 2021-September 2022): [Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021 - 2022](#)
- Access to a recorded briefing on 'Professional Curiosity and Disguised Compliance', produced by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Links to the training available through the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership: [WSCP Training and Events - Worcestershire Safeguarding Boards](#)

### Summer Term DSL Forums - June 2023

WCF are privileged to be able to have the Co-Creator of Operation Encompass, Elizabeth Carney-Haworth OBE join us to explain Operation Encompass to Early Years providers who may, or may not, have already joined the pilot. This meeting will provide insight into how children at your setting will benefit from being registered to receive domestic abuse notifications. DSL's will have an opportunity to ask questions and gain valuable advice.

Further information, including how to book, is available in the 'Training News' section below.

### Early Help and Levels of Need Masterclass

WCF Safeguarding Team are offering Early Years providers an opportunity to engage in a [Masterclass](#) with Schools, focusing on the Levels of Need and Early Help. With speakers from St Joseph's Catholic School, Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy and Regency High School, they will share their good practice experiences in supporting families.

Taking place on Thursday 29th June, please see [CPD](#) for more information.

## Never, Ever Shake a Baby

### **New short videos launched for parents in Herefordshire and Worcestershire**

Check out our two new, short videos for parents, with a strong message to **never, ever shake a baby**.

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has identified that non-accidental injuries to babies under 1 year old consist of 27% of serious incidents where a child has suffered serious harm or died. Abusive Head Trauma can occur if a baby is shaken and this carries a high risk of significant long-term problems, or even death.

These short videos have been developed to help raise awareness that:

- Infant crying is normal
- Comforting methods can help
- It's OK to walk away
- Never, ever shake a baby

Follow these links to access the videos:

- [Home from Work – Herefordshire and Worcestershire](#)
- [Morning at Home – Herefordshire and Worcestershire](#)

For more information about baby crying and resources for parents and professionals, visit [ICON Cope](#).



## Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

### Early Years Inclusion Funding - Autumn Term 2023

If you wish to request top up (GR4 challenge, exceptional or non NEF) inclusion funding for new children who will be attending in the Autumn Term 2023, please do so by the 2nd June 2023 on the Autumn 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 term.

### Transition Support

It's that time of year when we need to consider planning for those children moving on. Every child in Worcestershire should have successful transitions throughout their early years and beyond. High quality transition planning can help children move into new environments with reduced anxiety and can support them to settle quicker. A major transition in a child's life is the move into reception class, and all early years' providers will begin to plan for all children's transitions in school in the Summer Term, in liaison with their new school.

For children with additional needs, early years providers will plan more activities to make the unfamiliar familiar. Check out the transition information and templates by following the link and select 'T': [Early years inclusion A to Z of resources | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## Early Years Bulletin: In the setting

### Window Displays

#### Wishing Well Nursery

Using our book of the week, we have a window display with a sensory tray, characters and keywords from the book. We also have a resource sheet with ideas on how to adapt the activity so that parents can share this with their children at home.

The displays support working in partnership with parents and helps them to guide their child's development at home. It promotes children's back and forth conversations with parents and also supports vocabulary development, all foundations for language and cognitive development.

#### A Squash and a Squeeze Display



## The Level 3 Early Years SENCO qualification

### Woodland House Group - Steph Grasby, SENDCo

After many years of not completing a formal qualification the thought of doing a level 3 was a little daunting.

But having been a SENCO for many years this course was just up my street. So I signed up for the introduction and awaited the email. The current waiting time to start the course is approximately 12 weeks from sending the email.

The programme structure is 4 online webinars with online study and 2 mentor meetings and completion of both units to achieve the qualification. During the webinars you will be given up to date information relating to SEND and also have time in breakout rooms to discuss the topic around the webinar. During the course I learnt how to identify when SEND is occurring in children, discuss EAL, explain how to actively engage the child and the child's parents/carers using the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' process and to explain what an effective support plan should include and why clear outcomes are important.

This course is accredited and fully funded by the Department for Education.

The units are split into 2; Unit 1 is based on roles and responsibilities of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator in the early years and Unit 2 is based on strategies and techniques for supporting children and families.

**Would I recommend this course?**

Yes! Ideal for Early Years SENCOs, or aspiring Early Years SENCOs!

This is a crucial programme within early years, after the impact of the pandemic has had on the children.

The course is on-line and for some this can be a little tricky to navigate but there are helpful videos for each session.

A number of us got together and started a Facebook and a WhatsApp group to support each other during the course.

I would recommend this to you all. I am happy for anyone to contact me for any more information on the course.

The course is being run currently by Best Practice Network: [Early Years SENCO - Level 3 | Best Practice Network](#)

The level 3 Early Years SENCO qualification is for level 3 practitioners in a private, voluntary or independent setting. It is also appropriate for childminders.

This is an important role to ensure the best possible educational outcomes are achieved for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

## Early Years Bulletin: Training news

### Early Years DSL Forum

Focused on Operation Encompass, we are joined by Elisabeth Carney-Haworth OBE, the co-creator of Operation Encompass, to look at the benefits of Operation Encompass for children.

Audience: DSL and Deputy DSL's working in Early Years, including nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and out of school/holiday providers.

**Cost:** Free

**Dates:**

- Tuesday 13th June, 6:15-7:30pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10269
- Thursday 15th June, 6:15-7:30pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10269

Book your place via [CPD](#) using the appropriate course code.

Confirmations are issued immediately and will include the MS Teams please ensure junk / spam folders are checked.

### Summer Term - Early Years Update Meeting

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

**Cost:** Free

**Group Settings**

- Wednesday 21st June, 18:30-20:00, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10272
- Friday 23rd June, 10:00-11:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10272

**Out of School Settings**

- Thursday 22nd June, 10:00-11:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10274

**Childminders**

Including Inclusion updates from Kelly Molnar

- Thursday 22nd June, 19:00-20:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10273

Book your place via [CPD](#) using the appropriate course code.

Confirmations are issued immediately and will include the MS Teams please ensure junk / spam folders are checked.

## NEF Provider Briefing

Specifically for providers offering Nursery Education Funding (NEF), this is an update session to highlight any changes for September 2023 within Worcestershire.

**Cost:** Free

**Dates:**

- Wednesday 5th July, 7-8pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10375
- Friday 7th July, 10-11am, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10375

Book your place via [CPD](#) using the appropriate course code.

Confirmations are issued immediately and will include the MS Teams please ensure junk / spam folders are checked.

## SENCo Forum/Cluster

Bringing together EY's SENCOs to provide an opportunity to discuss national and local SEND updates and initiatives, share good practice and discuss common issues in order to improve outcomes for children.

**Cost:** Free

**Date:** Tuesday 13th June, 6-7:30pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10160

Book your place via [CPD](#) using the appropriate course code.

Confirmations are issued immediately and will include the MS Teams please ensure junk / spam folders are checked.

## NEF Childminder Briefing

Specifically for childminders who are interested in offer NEF in Worcestershire, this course provides information about the statutory requirements of being a funded provider and details about the Worcestershire processes.

**Cost:** Free

**Date:** Tuesday 11th July, 7-8:30pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: 10105

Book your place via [CPD](#) using the appropriate course code.

Confirmations are issued immediately and will include the MS Teams please ensure junk / spam folders are checked.