



Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Autumn Term. We hope you managed to find some time over the Summer to relax and recover from a very busy year, in preparation for the term ahead.

There are several dates for your diary contained within the Bulletin, including:

- Autumn Term Provider Update Meetings
- Early Years Inclusion Conference
- Early Years DSL Forums
- Childcare Expansion - NEF Briefing

Please make sure to book a space using the details provided.

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

Nursery Education Funding

Autumn Term Actual Claims

The Online Provider Portal is now open for your Autumn Term Actual Claims. **The deadline for submission is Friday 22nd September.** Headcount week is Monday 18th September to Friday 22nd September; notice must therefore be given by Friday 22nd September by any parent/carer wishing to transfer the funded hours during the Autumn Term.

Early Years Supplementary Grant

As communicated on 19th July, a temporary supplementary rate will be applied to all funded hours during the Autumn Term:

Funding Type	Worcestershire Rate	Supplementary Rate	Total Rate Payable (as Part of Actual Payment)
Two Year Old Funding	£5.50	£1.72	£7.22
3 & 4Year Old Funding	£4.60	£0.33	£4.93
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	£0.62	£0.04	£0.66
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	£828	£30.92	£859

Early Years Deprivation Supplement

As previously announced, from September the Annual Deprivation Supplement has been replaced with an hourly rate. For 3 & 4 year old funded children only, the supplement will be automatically allocated based on the child's home postcode:

IDACI Band	Hourly Supplement
A	£1.00
B	£0.70
C	£0.40
D	£0.10
E-G	-

Within 48 hours of submitting your Actual Claim, any Deprivation allocations should be viewable in the Provider Portal.

30 Hour Code Issue

We have been made aware of a system issue that Childcare Choices experienced during August. As a result of this issue, parents who applied for their 30 Hour Code before 31st August may have been issued a Start Date in September; you will be unable to submit a claim for the Extended 15 Hours for these families.

If a parent has a start date of early September and believes they applied for the Code before the end of August, please contact Patrick or Hana on 01905 844494 who will be able to conduct a separate check to confirm their application date. **Before calling to discuss, please ensure you have**

submitted the child record with all of the required Code details. If a family did successfully apply before the deadline, the Code will be honoured.

Unless you have received confirmation from Patrick or Hana, please do not offer the Extended 15 Hours to any child whose Code has a start date on or before 1st September 2023.

Childcare Expansion

As we move towards April 2024, we have arranged an NEF Briefing for the end of September to highlight any updates communicated over the Summer and to capture any questions you may have about the rollout. **Please see page 9 below for booking details.**

Early Years Wellbeing Event

Join Nurture Families for yoga, mindfulness, and educator community connection at Croome, National Trust on 16th September. Learn research-backed tools to manage stress, regulate your nervous system, and enhance your ability to co-regulate and attune with young minds. Funded for all early childhood educators by Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire, in collaboration with Nurture Families.

WHAT: Wellbeing in the Early Years

WHERE: Croome, National Trust

WHEN: Saturday 16th September 10.30am to 12.30pm

[Nurture Families - Wellbeing in the Early Years](#)

All About Me @ 2

Starting Well have a flyer available for parents and carers that explains the Integrated Two Year Check process, including information about the purpose of the check as well as the different functions that health visitors and Early Years setting fulfil.

The flyer is available to download: [All About Me @ 2 Leaflet](#)

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 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 Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been updated to reflect the changes within the ratio requirements that became statutory on 4th September 2023:

- Staff:child ratios for 2 year olds has changed from 1:4 to 1:5.
- Childminders can care for more than the specified maximum of three young children if they are caring for siblings of children they already care for, or if the childminder is caring for their own child.
- 'Adequate supervision' whilst children are eating mean that children must be within sight **and** heading of an adult.

Copies of the EYFS can be download here: [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115222/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-statutory-framework-2023.pdf)

DfE Survey on Assessment

The Department for Education has launched a short survey to see the views of early years practitioners, teachers and school and setting leaders on assessment in the EYFS. The survey includes questions on, assessment of children with special education needs and disabilities, the early learning goals and the EYFS Profile. Feedback from the sector will help shape future policy development in this area. The survey is available [here](#) and will remain open until **Tuesday 3rd October**.

Ofsted

Have you subscribed to the [Ofsted Early Years Blog](#)? Publishing information specifically for the Early Years sector, you may find it a useful source of information. A recent article details information about the resources they have available to support you: [Early years resources, information and updates - Ofsted: early years \(blog.gov.uk\)](#), which includes [free videos](#) answering some questions frequently asked by Early Years providers.

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help and Safeguarding Update

Early Years Safeguarding Guidance and Policies

The following documents have been reviewed and amended to reflect changes in legislation and to incorporate Early Years Operation Encompass and MARAC:

- [Safeguarding guidance](#) (formerly the yellow folder)
- [Safeguarding policy for group settings](#)
- [Safeguarding policy for childminders](#)

Safeguarding Audit

The [Safeguarding Self-Assessment Tool](#) has been updated for September 2023, including a new section focusing on the safeguarding of babies. The Audit is a reflective tool for settings/childminders to complete to review the effectiveness of safeguarding practice within your setting.

Child Sexual Exploitation: Learning from case reviews

The NSPCC has published the document [Childcare Sexual Exploitation: Learning from case reviews](#), which highlights the findings from case reviews published between 2014 and 2023. To download the document, or learning from other case reviews, please visit: [Child sexual exploitation: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning](#)

Triple P - Positive Parenting Programme

Free one-off sessions are available for parents and carers with children aged 2-10 years.

- Developing Good Bedtime Routines
Thursday 21st September 2023
6pm-8pm
Via Microsoft TEAMS
- Understanding your children's behaviour
Monday 16th October 9:30-11:30am
Oasis HUB
- Dealing with disobedience
Monday 13th November 9:30-11:30am
Oasis HUB

Anyone wishing to book a space should contact Oasis Hub, Oasis school or Tracy Duncan on tracyjayne.duncan@actionforchildren.org.uk.

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

Enhanced Early Years Provision

Worcestershire Children First (WCF) are looking to broker Enhanced Early Years Provision (EEYP) for children whose identified complex needs make it difficult to attend an early years provision. The intention is to deliver EEYP within South Worcestershire as a pilot.

WCF are looking for provision within Worcester City or Malvern and have assessed the current sufficiency need could be up to 35 children a year.

WCF are also looking for a provision in Wychavon and have assessed the current sufficiency need could be up to 25 children a year.

The contract will be for 3 years starting 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2026, with an option to extend for a further year, plus a further year (maximum 5 years) dependent upon the success of the pilot.

This tender is open to all providers. You may be a childminder, private, voluntary or independent (PVI) early years setting, an academy or maintained school or a charity organisation.

Information is available on the [Nursery Assessment Unit Review](#) website.

If you would further information of the tender, please follow the link to the [Tender on Intend](#) The Project is titled EDU23024 Enhanced Early Years Nursery Provision Reference WCC 00003444.

The closing date for submission of completed tenders has been extended to **4pm on 20th October 2023**.

Early Years Inclusion Conference

We are excited to announce that there will be a **free** Early Years Inclusion Conference taking place on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st October. The Early Years Inclusion Conference is a one day event focusing on supporting SEND within the early years, with introductions to the Early Years Inclusion Notifications and Inclusion Support Services. The Conference will include four workshops designed to meet a range of developmental needs, sharing practical strategies to use in your setting, delivered by the Complex Communication Team (CCN), Early Years Educational Psychologists and the combined Early Years' teams.

To book your place, please email the Conference Team: conferences@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Please download the flyer from [Google Drive](#) for more details.

Early Years SENCO Level 3

The Department for Education has announced an expansion of the fully-funded, accredited Level 3 Early Years SENCO training offer.

An additional 2,000 places are available between now and August 2024, with particular focus on training SENCOs in areas currently underrepresented in training uptake, including the North East and North West of England. This offer is part of the early years education recovery programme and will mean up to 7,000 SENCOs will be trained by August 2024.

Existing Early Years SENCOs with a Level 3 EY educator qualification, or those due to take up the role of SENCO, including childminders, are eligible for the training.

To apply and find out more, please visit: [Early Years SENCO - Level 3 | Best Practice Network](#)

Free Training Webcasts

The Early Years Inclusion Team are excited to offer several free bitesize training webcasts on our YouTube platform. These are aimed at Parents, Settings, and Individual Practitioners. The aim is to help promote good practice and support tricky areas of children's development.

The bitesize courses can be used as part of staff CPD and can be accessed on an individual basis or shared in staff meetings as part of a whole team approach.

We are continuing to add to the current list regularly, below are the live courses currently available via the Early Years Inclusion webpage: [Early Years Webcasts](#)

- Biting in the Early years
- Top tips for observations
- Resources for developing shared attention and turn-taking
- Accessing circle time or small group activities
- Intensive and shared interaction
- Visual support in the Early years
- Graduated response in the Early Years
- Completing a Health care plan
- Completing a Risk assessment
- Developing and writing social stories
- Inclusion funding available to children in the Early years

Please let us know if there are any specific areas of development or need that you would like this format of training on by contacting the Inclusion team via: eyinclusion@worcesterschildrenfirst.org.uk

If you find these bitesize webcasts useful, there are more in-depth training courses available, which can be purchased via [CPD](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

NEF Expansion – What do we know so far?

An opportunity to look forward to April 2024, the start of the 'Childcare Expansion', hear about what we know so far and raise any questions that you may have.

Suitable for all early years' settings and childminders who offer NEF.

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 28 September 2023, 6pm to 7pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10407 / 83749
- 29 September 2023, 10am to 11am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10407 / 83750

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and the appropriate course code. Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Early Years Update Meetings

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

Cost: Free

Dates:

Childminders (including the SENCo Cluster Meeting)

- 19 October 2023, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10273 / 83752

Group Settings

- 18 October 2023, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 83753
- 19 October 2023, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 83754

Out of School Providers

- 18 October 2023, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10274 / 83751

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and the appropriate course code. Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Early Years DSL Forums: Autumn, Spring and Summer 2024 Dates

The Early Year's DSL Forums have been developed to support you!

We have developed these meetings over the previous 4 years, providing an opportunity to share good practice and to keep DSL's up to date with national and local statutory requirements.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other DSL's and Deputy DSL's from across the County.

Audience: Early Years Childminders / Nurseries / Pre-Schools and Out of school Club providers

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 14 November 2023, 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83719
- 16 November 2023, 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83720
- 05 March 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83721
- 14 March 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83722
- 12 June 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83723
- 13 June 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83724

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10400.

Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Changes to CPD

During the summer months the training team have been working with WCC developers to enhance the functionality of the CPD system. We are pleased to announce the latest updates will be rolled out during September:

- Passwords: when a CPD leader enters a password the "eye icon" is now shown which allows passwords to be double checked before pressing submit
- Confirmations now go to the delegate and the CPD Leader(s) for that school / setting / governing board.
- Any correspondence sent from CPD – cancellation / reminders / materials / evaluations etc will go to both the delegate and CPD Leader(s) as always it is the responsibility of the CPD leader to ensure the delegate is made aware of any changes.
- CPD site now has a link to our FAQ / Support guide on our website.
- Course search – now can use the course code i.e., 10140 and the pre-fix i.e. EY/SCH/GOV
- Basket function has been removed.
- Multi-booking function now available: CPD leaders can now book multiple places per course, up to the maximum available, at once.

- CPD leaders when booking training can now easily see who has been booked onto a specific course when requesting places.
- New colleagues can now also be added in at the point of booking training – there several safety measures in place to ensure duplicate profiles are not created. Any new colleague added this way will also automatically appear in your colleague list.
- Viewing training booked for colleagues has been developed to include:
 - Ability to access joining instructions for virtual courses.
 - Ability to request replacement certificates for attended courses.

We are still working through a number of developments to support CPD leaders in using our system.

The training and conference team recommend and encourage CPD leaders to go through their colleague list on CPD to ensure staff list are correct and up to date.

Our CPD support guides have been updated and can be accessed via our [website \(opens in new window\)](#) – broken down into Access / Bookings / Colleagues and Certificates. If for any reason you cannot find the answer to your query via our support guide, then please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

We would also like to remind CPD leaders that due to how the CPD system has been built and that it uses email address as usernames; if you access both systems (CPD and CHS Portal) and the email on both systems is identical, then any password changes made to one of these systems will automatically update the other. Please bear in mind this might impact colleagues with shared email accounts.