



**Early Years Team**

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## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

It was fabulous to see so many people at the recent Early Years Update Meetings. As promised, an overview of the slides are available to download from [Google Drive](#) for reference. The dates for the Spring and the Summer meetings can be found in the Training of this bulletin and are now available to book via CPD.

As mentioned at the recent Update Meetings, we have been updating our website and have created an [Early Years Toolkit](#); there are a range of free resources available to support your setting in delivering the EYFS.

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) or submit a request via the [website](#).

Best regards,

The Early Years Team.

## Contents

Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders .....	3
Nursery Education Funding.....	3
Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub.....	4
Recruitment Reminder.....	5
Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders.....	5
Childcare Choices Update .....	5
Midlands Stronger Practice Hub: HEART .....	5
Ofsted Big Conversation.....	5
Early Years Practitioner Wellbeing Support.....	6
Childminder Mentor Programme .....	6
Early Years Professional Development Programme Phase 3 (PDP3).....	7
Early Years Foundation Stage Consultation Response .....	7
Early Years Flu Vaccination Programme .....	7
Early Years Bulletin: Early Help .....	8
Early Help Webcasts.....	8
Parent Courses .....	8
Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team .....	8
Early Years Inclusion Process .....	8
Early Years Inclusion Team Support Provider Feedback Questionnaire.....	9
Learning Support Team.....	9
Early Years Bulletin: In Your Setting.....	9
Developing your Maths Curriculum .....	9
Early Years Bulletin: Training news .....	11
Early Years DSL Forums: Autumn, Spring and Summer 2024 Dates.....	11
NEF Expansion – What do we know so far?.....	11
Early Years Update Meetings .....	12
Communication Champion Training .....	12
Free Autism Training .....	12
Autism in the Early Years .....	13
Transition in the Early Years .....	13

## Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

### Nursery Education Funding

#### Early Years Funding Formula Consultation

In advance of the Childcare Expansion programme taking place from April 2024, the Local Authority needs to develop a funding model to determine the hourly rates for funded children under the age of three. In an attempt to ensure that the hourly rates can be communicated as early as possible in the Spring Term, we are consulting on the model now. The timeline should be as follows:

- LA Consultation 27<sup>th</sup> October – 14<sup>th</sup> December
- LA receives funding allocations from the DfE – mid-December
- Results of the consultation will be taken to Worcestershire School Forum – 11<sup>th</sup> January
- Cabinet sign-off of proposed funding model – end of January
- Publication of hourly rates – late January/early February

The consultation can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/11prHWwujT>

The deadline for responses is **5pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**.

#### Early Years Funding Dates

The [Provider Portal](#) is now open for any adjustment claims. The deadline for submission is **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**.

The Provider Portal will open for Spring Term Estimate Claims on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**, again closing on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Early Years Supplementary Grant

Following the information provided during the Summer Term regarding the Early Years Supplementary Grant, we are now in a position to confirm that the arrangements put in place for the Autumn Term will continue into the Spring Term. The supplement will be added to your Actual payment at a rate of:

Funding Type	Supplementary Rate
<b>Two Year Old Funding</b> – Hourly supplement	£1.72
<b>3&amp;4-Year Old Funding</b> – Hourly supplement	£0.33
<b>EYPP</b> – Hourly supplement for eligible 3&4-Year-Old Universal Hours	£0.04
<b>DAF</b> – Annual supplement for eligible 3&4-Year Old children	£30.92

As previously communicated, this is a short-term grant provided by the Government and will not continue into the Summer Term. The rates for April 2024 - March 2025 will be communicated in the Spring Term, following the estimated timeline above.

## Early Years Provider Survey

We are asking all Early Years providers to complete a short [survey](#) regarding the Childcare Expansion, which will feed into Local Authority planning. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and the results will be published in a Bulletin later this year.

## Sufficiency Data

To enable the Local Authority to accurately assess the sufficiency of Early Years provision across Worcestershire, we are asking all NEF registered settings to complete sufficiency data for the Autumn Term 2023. If you haven't already done so, could you please complete the Sufficiency Table as soon as possible.

### To complete the data:

- Log onto the [Provider Portal](#)
- Click on Sufficiency (instead of Funding)
- Select the appropriate Year (2023/24) and Term (Autumn)
- Click Edit to fill in the table
- Click Save once you have entered all of the information (the number of places you offer and the number of spaces/vacancies you have available)

## NEF Briefing – What do we know so far?

An NEF Briefing has been arranged for January 2024, to highlight any new NEF information. We are hoping that the Statutory Guidance will have been released as scheduled on 1<sup>st</sup> January and that the Worcestershire funding rates will be ready for publication. Dates and Course Codes can be found in the Training section of this bulletin.

## Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

The next Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub meeting is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6:30pm – 8pm at Worcestershire University, St John's Campus.

To secure a place, please email [EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) (subject: Community Hub).

**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!

## 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

### Childcare Choices Update

The [Childcare Choices](#) website has now been updated, providing information for parents about the upcoming changes to the early years' entitlements and more detailed information about what they are entitled to. Parents can register their details to be kept informed as the new entitlements come into place.

Working parents with two-year-old children will be able to apply for their Code from 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

The [Communication Toolkit](#) has also been updated to include marketing materials for the new entitlements, which you can use to advertise the new and existing funded entitlements.

### Midlands Stronger Practice Hub: HEART

Part of the DfE's Early Years Education COVID-19 Recovery Package, Stronger Practice Hubs aim to support settings to address the impact of the pandemic on young children by sharing effective practice and building lasting local networks.

With a range of training and tools available on their [website](#), the Midlands Stronger Practice Hub has also just released a 'save the date' for an Early Years Conference on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024. To register your interest and suggest topics for discussion, please complete this [form](#).

### Ofsted Big Conversation

The Ofsted Big Conversation: West Midlands is taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Birmingham City Football Ground. Ruther information and booking details can be found on the [OBC flyer](#).

## Early Years Practitioner Wellbeing Support

The DfE has published an [Early Years Practitioner Wellbeing Support](#) resource on the [Help for Early Years Providers](#) platform.

The resources bring together:

- Information on the benefits of investing in staff wellbeing in early years settings.
- Case studies from four early years settings who have shared their insights on best practice to support staff wellbeing.
- A list of external resources for early years practitioners and managers.

## Childminder Mentor Programme

**Places are available for the spring term 2024, the deadline for applications is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

The childminder mentor programme offers bespoke support to childminders across England. Experienced early years professionals will support childminders to help children recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes narrowing the gap between disadvantaged children and others. Trained early years professionals will provide support to childminders in the roles of area lead and mentor. Area leads and mentors may support childminders to:

- identify strengths and areas for development
- improve your confidence in or knowledge of child development
- implement the [early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)
- plan an effective curriculum
- support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- support children with English as an additional language (EAL)
- build strong relationships with parents and carers

### Who can apply

Childminders must currently be providing childcare to at least one child aged between 0 to 5. You can apply for support as an individual, or with other childminders as part of a small group (of up to 4 people). If you apply as an individual, you'll be placed in a group with others.

### What you'll get

You'll get support and advice from mentors who have at least 3 years' experience in the childminder sector. You'll also have an opportunity to network with other childminders in your area who are part of the programme.

Support is free and will be mainly virtual. If suitable, there will be an option to meet face-to-face. You'll get up to 4 days of support over one term. The 4 days will be split into hours, to suit the mentor and the childminders they are supporting.

To apply follow the link <https://www.hempsalls.com/covid-recovery-childminders>. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Sam Barrett on 01905 846343.

## Early Years Professional Development Programme Phase 3 (PDP3)

Places are filling quickly for the January 2024 roll out of the [PDP3](#) programme.

The programme provides support for practitioners to:

- Improve skills to identify children at risk of speech, language and communication needs
- Provide an understanding of the theory of child development in early mathematics
- Develop skills to support children's self-confidence, relationships, and self-awareness through expertly developed Personal, Social and Emotional Development training
- Improve engagement with parents and carers to support the home learning environment

For further information about the programme, please download the [PDP Brochure](#).

If you would like to discuss anything about PDP3, please contact Sam Barrett on 01905 846343.

## Early Years Foundation Stage Consultation Response

As you are aware, the DfE consulted during Summer 2023 on a number of proposals, aiming to offer early years providers increased flexibility and make the EYFS framework easier to navigate and implement.

The official [response to the consultation](#) has now been published. The DfE have decided not to take forward the following proposals:

- Reducing the percentage of level 2 qualified staff required per ratio from 'at least half' to 30% or 40% of all other staff (group and school-based providers only).
- Changing the qualification requirements outside of peak hours (group and school-based providers only).

## Early Years Flu Vaccination Programme

This year's flu vaccination programme is underway. Children aged 2 and 3 years old (on 31 August before flu vaccination starts in the autumn) are eligible for a free flu vaccine given as a nasal spray.

Annual vaccination of children helps provide protection to each child and reduces the spread of flu to their families and the wider community, protecting others who are at increased risk of becoming seriously ill from flu. The flu vaccine also promotes a healthy working environment in nurseries and childcare settings by reducing the risk of flu being spread to others including staff.

[A leaflet for early years providers](#) giving information about the programme is available and it includes details about how to [order free resources to display or give to parents](#) including translations in multiple languages.

## Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

### Early Help Webcasts

The Early Years Team have launched new webcasts to support you to deliver Early Help within your setting. Available for free, they are accessible via the Early Help section of the [Early Years website](#) and include:

- [Supporting families through Early Help](#)
- [Creating your 'Supporting Families' offer](#)
- Using Early Help Assessment Effectively [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#).

### Parent Courses

Starting Well are offering free courses for parents and carers, both of which are due to start in January 2024:

- [Understanding your baby](#)
- [Understanding your teen](#)

Please click on the links above to access course flyers which provide more information and details on how to book.

## Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

### Early Years Inclusion Process

We have launched a new Early Years Inclusion Process (EYIP) to make sure the right professionals put the right support in place for children aged 0 to 5 years who may have special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The new process is also designed to support education settings implementing the graduated response by providing additional support for children, families and settings.

We have created two new web pages, one for parents & carers and one for early years settings to explain more about the new process:

- [Early Years Inclusion Process for Parents and Carers](#)
- [Early Years Inclusion Process for Early Years Settings](#)

To help promote the new process with parents and carers, please download the [EYIP poster](#) and display it in your setting.



## Early Years Inclusion Team Support Provider Feedback Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire to enable the Early Years Inclusion Team to ensure we can provide you with the most appropriate support and guidance: [Early Years Inclusion Team Questionnaire](#)

### Learning Support Team

The Learning Support Team are available to offer observations and advice for pupils in nurseries attached to academies or maintained schools. As we are regularly in schools, we are aware of the next steps when these children leave their nursery settings and can advise on what can be put in place to better prepare them for those next steps.

If you are interested then please contact the team [LST@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:LST@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) We can advise on what we can offer your setting and how much time you would need to purchase.

## Early Years Bulletin: In Your Setting

### Developing your Maths Curriculum

Maths is one of the areas of learning that can cause anxieties in practitioners as they may have associated negative feelings from their own experiences of learning maths.

The EYFS therefore recognises the importance of children developing positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, looking for patterns and relationships, spotting connections, 'having a go', talking to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

The DfE [Help for Providers](#) webpage can support practitioners in their understanding of how we can teach maths as part of our daily interactions with children. This is really useful for all practitioners in your team, to get a good grounding of what Maths can look like in early years.

For those settings that wish to expand their knowledge and confidence further the [NCETM website](#) is an excellent resource which looks in more depth at the six key areas of mathematical learning with ideas of how to teach these. This website is aimed at reception upwards however is useful to early years providers as we can understand better how we can encourage a love for mathematics.

## Early Years Child Development Training – New Mathematics Module

A new module has been added to the [Early Years Child Development training](#).

Module 6: **Mathematics** is now available and covers:

- Nurturing mathematical development from birth
- Number including verbal counting, object counting and subitising
- Patterns and relationships
- Spatial reasoning, including shape, space and measures

This module is available now along with 5 other modules covering child and brain development, personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development. Further modules which will be added in the coming months.

Users can now access the modules in any order at any time and will find this new module available from their 'My Modules' page. We do still **recommend** that the modules are completed in consecutive order as the training has been designed to build on previous modules, starting with child and brain development underpinning all the others.

## NDNA Maths Champions Programme

The NDNA have launched a free math's programme starting in February 2024.

[Math's Champions](#) is an online professional development programme with 12 months access. The aim of this innovative programme is to improve children's math's outcomes by providing access to a range of bespoke online training, evaluative tools and resources which can all be used to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of practitioners working in your setting.

PVI, maintained and school-based providers in England can access the programme at no cost.

To take part in the programme you must:

- Be an early years' setting, PVI, maintained or school based and take on 3-4 year olds.
- Be located in England\*
- Have at least six 3–4-year-old children attending for a minimum of 15 hours
- Have level 3 qualified practitioners lead the programme in the role of MC and DMC
- Commit to complete the 12-month programme

For more information and to register your interest, please visit the [Math's Champions website](#).

## Early Years Bulletin: Training news

If you have any queries regarding CPD, please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 / [workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

### 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
- 15 March 2024 09:30am – 11am, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83722 (**change of date/time**)
- 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.*

### 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:

- 24 January 2024, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10407 / 84219
- 26 January 2024, 10am to 11am, virtual delivery, course code: EY10407 / 84220

**To book:** via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10407.

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

## Early Years Update Meetings

An opportunity to head the latest Early Years news on policy, Ofsted and best practice within the sector. **The childminder sessions also include the SENCo Cluster meeting.**

Cost: Free

Dates:

### Childminders

- 8 February 2024, 7pm – 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10273 / 84070
- 22 May 2024, 7pm – 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10273 / 84071

### Group Settings

- 7 February 2024, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84072
- 9 February 2024, 10am – 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84073
- 23 May 2024, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84074
- 24 May 2024, 10am – 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10272 / 84075

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

## Communication Champion Training

Settings in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wychavon can access free training, delivered by the Worcestershire NHS Speech and Language Therapy Team. The focus for the training this term is 'Supporting Children's Understanding – Word Levels. For further information, please see the attached flyer.

**Audience:** Early years practitioners working in settings across Bromsgrove, Redditch or Wychavon

**Date:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 4:00pm to 5:30pm, virtual delivery

**To book:** Email [WHCNHS.SLTBromsgrove@nhs.net](mailto:WHCNHS.SLTBromsgrove@nhs.net)

## Free Autism Training

The Autism and Complex Communications (CCN) Team within WCF are offering two free Autism courses for all Early Years Settings / Childminders across the county. Since initially marketing these courses earlier this term, we have received valid feedback and taken the decision to amend the times on several of the courses.

If anyone is booked on the courses that have had a time change, they will have been contacted by the training team on 8 November 2023.

## Autism in the Early Years

An overview of how autism presents in Early Years Settings and a raft of strategies to support young children with a diagnosis.

The session covers:

- What is autism?
- What you might see in Settings.
- Top tips for teaching and supporting autistic pupils.

**Cost:** Free

**Dates:**

- 06 December 2023, 3.30pm to 5pm, Virtual Delivery, course code: EY 10003 / 84102
- 08 February 2024, 6.30pm to 8pm, Virtual Delivery, course code: EY 10003 / 84102 (**revised time**)
- 19 March 2024, 3.30pm to 5pm, Virtual Delivery, course code: EY 10003 / 84102
- 23 May 2024, 7pm to 8.30pm, Virtual Delivery, course code: EY 10003 / 84102 (**revised time**)
- 03 July 2024, 3.30pm to 5pm, Virtual Delivery, course code: EY 10003 / 84102

**To book:** via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10003.

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

## Transition in the Early Years

An overview of the issues impacting autistic children as they transition to Reception.

This session covers:

- Key issues for transition.
- The importance of transition planning.
- Strategies to support the 5 elements of a good transition plan.
- Resources such as the Transition Plan Template and the EY Transition Pack. Each delegate will develop the confidence to implement a robust transition.

**Cost:** Free

- 09 April 2024, 6pm to 7pm virtual delivery, course code: EY 10168 / 84000 (**revised time**)
- 12 June 2024, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10168 / 84001

**To book:** via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10168.

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