



Early Years Team

Email: eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 844048

Our Ref: EYB219

Date: 19th April 2024

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Summer Term!

The launch of the first phase of the Childcare Expansion programme has now taken place and take-up within Worcestershire is looking really positive. This will hopefully put us in a good position for phase two in September.

There are lots of diary dates in the Training News section of this bullet: Early Years Update Meetings, Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting, Early Years DSL Forum and NEF Briefings, all available to book via WCF:CPD. The Early Years Community Hub date is also fast approaching, which is a fantastic opportunity to network, access peer support and to share good practice. Bookings for the Community Hub should be sent directly to the Early Years Team using the contact details below.

As ever, we'd love to include articles in the bulletin that come directly from the Worcestershire sector; if you have anything you'd like to share, please send it to the team for inclusion in future editions.

If you need any advice or support, please email the team on EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or submit a request via our [request for Early Years Support online form](#).

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
BPIC Worcestershire Libraries.....	4
Recruitment Reminder.....	4
Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders	5
Ofsted Big Listen	5
Childminder Recruitment and Retention Consultation	5
Measles, the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination and managing outbreaks.....	5
Research into Midlands Early Years Creative & Cultural Provision - Mapping survey	6
Tick Awareness.....	6
Upskilling to a L3 EYE Diploma (FREE AND STUDY IN YOUR OWN TIME)	9
Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding.....	9
Safeguarding Guidance April 2024.....	9
Worcestershire Neglect Pathway	9
Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision	10
Wraparound Schools Survey.....	10
UN adopts annual International Day of Play	10
The Power of Play: Building a Creative Britain	10
Ofsted Registers: Are you on the right one?.....	11
Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team	12
Transitions for Children with Additional Needs Meeting	12
Inclusion Surgeries with the Area SENCos	12
Early Years Inclusion Process Evaluation	13
Early Years Bulletin: Training news	13
NEF Expansion – What do we know so far?.....	13
Early Years Update Meetings.....	13
Transitions for Children with Additional Needs Meeting	14
SENCo Forum / Clusters	14
Early Years DSL Forums: Summer 2024	15
What is the SCERTS Approach?.....	15
Communication Champion Training	16

Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Nursery Education Funding

Summer Term Actual Claims

Just a reminder that the Online Provider Portal closes on Friday 26th April for your Summer Term Actual Claim for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year-old children.

Please ensure that you have valid Eligibility Codes with a Start Date on or before 31st March 2024 and an End Date on or after 1st April 2024 for all 2, 3 and 4 year-old children accessing funding under the Working Families criteria. You will not be able to claim funding for a child if their Eligibility Code is not valid.

Reminder: The maximum funding claim for a two-year-old is 15 hours per week; this is the same whether the child is accessing Two Year Old Funding (for families in receipt of additional Government Support) or the new Working Family criteria.

Two Year Old Funding Codes

Thank you to everyone who managed to submit their funding claims early for the new cohort of two-year-old children. As of Wednesday 17th April, 86% of Worcestershire Eligibility Codes have now been checked. If you haven't yet checked Codes for the Summer Term, we would urge you to confirm that the Codes are valid for the Term as soon as possible.

Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund

As previously communicated, Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is now available for eligible two-year-old children. To claim for EYPP, you must enter the parents details and tick the 'consent for EYPP' box. For children who have previously accessed Two Year Old Funding, you may need to obtain an updated Parent Declaration Form to request the appropriate details and consent to complete the check.

The same applies for two-year-old children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance; Disability Access Funding is now available for eligible children and needs to be included on the Provider Portal.

Applications for Children Under Two

[Childcare Choices](#) will start accepting applications from Working Families with children who will have turned 9 months by 31st August 2024, from Sunday 12th May. Please ensure that you check Codes as soon as you receive them to confirm eligibility.

Please be aware that families applying during May will need to refresh their Code before the end of August; the Code must be valid on 1st September as Grace Periods do not apply unless the child has previously received funding at your setting.

Childcare Choices Communication Toolkit

Have you accessed any of the [Childcare Choices](#) provider resources, published via their [Communication Toolkit?](#) They have a range of resources, including posters, leaflets and social media assets, all of which are free to use.

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

Come and join our growing network of early years leaders, childminders, and practitioners at our next Early Years Community Hub meeting, taking place on **Thursday 20th June 6:30 -8:30pm** at the University of Worcester, St Johns Campus.

This is a fantastic opportunity for settings to come to together, share good practice, learn from each other, and talk about the issues that matter to you.

Our agenda for the evening will include:-

- Positive behaviour in early years, with a focus on **emotional coaching** and its benefits to children and their behaviour- **a discussion lead by colleagues at Little Hands Daycare.**
- A brief introduction to the Education Endowment Foundation (EFF) Early Years Toolkit and how this could be used within early years settings to improve practice.
- Plus, lots of opportunity for you to chat with other settings over a nice cup of tea, in a relaxed and welcoming environment!

If you would like to attend the meeting, please email Sharon Jones via the early years email address eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk , include name of attendees and setting.

Booking is essential for this event due to venue capacity and refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you there!

BPIC Worcestershire Libraries

Worcestershire Libraries Business & IP Centre (BIPC) offers a suite of business workshops, events and resources. To find out more information and to register for events, please visit [here](#).

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

Ofsted Big Listen

The [Ofsted Big Listen](#) seeks views from all areas that they work within, including Early Years and schools. It is an opportunity for professionals, parents and children to feedback on Ofsted and to inform their thinking going forward.

Further information about the Ofsted Big Listen can be found [here](#).

Childminder Recruitment and Retention Consultation

The Department for Education are consulting on new proposals and gathering evidence to improve the recruitment and retention of childminders and to support the role of childminder agencies in the sector. The [consultation](#) seeks your views on three proposals which aim to address issues that childminders have raised:

- Simplifying the registration process for new childminders by allowing a wider range of regulated healthcare professionals within a GP surgery to complete new childminder health declarations.
- Ensuring local authorities pay entitlements funding monthly where this is the provider's preference.
- Offering flexibilities to childminder agencies to enable them to thrive and grow.

The consultation also seeks to gather evidence on a range of other issues that impact childminder recruitment and retention such as property barriers, and support for childminders to remain in the profession. The consultation is open to all early years' providers, closing on Friday 10th May.

[Childminder recruitment and retention consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Measles, the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination and managing outbreaks

On Monday 4th March, the DfE hosted a webinar on measles, with speakers from the UK Health Security Agency, the NHS and the Inspire Education Trust.

[Access recording of the webinar](#)

We encourage you to view and share the recording which includes the expert commentary accompanying the slides. You can also see the updated section of the DfE measles blog [DfE measles blog for schools, nurseries and other education settings](#) to answer some of the questions raised in the webinar.

Further information about Measles can be found on the [NHS website](#).

Research into Midlands Early Years Creative & Cultural Provision - Mapping survey

Call out to Midlands-based early years, creative and cultural organisations and individuals - we need your help!

Arts Council England's Let's Create Strategy 2020-2030 recognises the importance of early years and, through its various funding streams, already supports a range of activity for Early Years children (defined as children aged 0-5 years old) and their families. However, it also knows that access to culture and creativity remains unequal and that complex barriers to access and participation prevent some families from taking part at all.

[CREC](#) has been commissioned by The Arts Council (Midlands' region) to help it quickly consolidate what it knows about the current state of creative and cultural provision for Early Years children and their families *in the Midlands* so that it can take an informed approach to where and how it might target development work most effectively in the future.

As the first part of our mapping process we are asking all organisations & individuals (in the early years, creative and cultural, sectors) working in the Midlands region to complete this: [online survey](#).

We would also appreciate it if you can please share this survey with any early years, creative or cultural networks that you have contacts with. The survey will take 5-10 minutes to complete depending on you how much early years creative and cultural work you have to share.

[Access survey on the CREC website](#)

Should you have any questions or wish to provide any additional information about your practice/provision please email us via: enquiries@crec.co.uk

Thank you so much for contributing to this research and helping to collate what is happening in early years in the Midlands. This research will help in advocating to Arts Council Midlands that there needs to be more support for children 5 and under, and their families, to engage in quality arts and culture at such a critical time of their lives.

Tick Awareness

As we head into spring and summer, we are reminding people to be 'tick aware' as they enjoy the great outdoors.

Ticks are small, spider-like creatures that are found in leafy, grassy areas and feed on the blood of animals and humans. Ticks can be active all year round, but they are most active in the months April to July. Ticks live in many different outdoor environments, but they are particularly common in grassy and wooded areas. You are therefore more at risk of being bitten if you take part in activities such as hiking, cycling, or camping. You might also be exposed to ticks while on a walk in some urban parks and gardens.

Ticks can carry infections, including [Lyme Disease](#) and, very rarely, [tick-borne encephalitis](#) (TBE).

In the UK, the most important tick species to human health is *Ixodes ricinus*, more commonly known as the sheep, castor bean or deer tick. This species can be found feeding on humans and is the principle vector of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne infections.

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that can be spread to humans by infected ticks. Studies in Europe estimate that 1% to 5% of tick bites can lead to Lyme disease. It is easier to treat if diagnosed earlier.

One of the most common symptoms of Lyme Disease is a spreading, 'bullseye' rash at the site of the tick bite which typically develops 3 to 30 days after being bitten. This rash does not occur in all cases. Other symptoms include mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache and fatigue, a facial droop, nerve pains and numbness or tingling in the hands or feet.

Lyme disease should not deter you from enjoying the outdoors because you can reduce your chance of infection by following the precautions below.

[More information on Lyme disease treatment can be found on gov.uk.](#)

Tick-Borne encephalitis (TBE)

Tick borne [encephalitis](#) (TBE) is a viral infection which can also spread via the bite of infected ticks. Although it is prevalent in many parts of the world, including several European countries, in the last few years, ticks carrying TBE have been found in a few areas in England. A very small number of human TBE cases have been diagnosed that are thought to have been acquired in the UK.

Most people with TBE do not have any symptoms. Those that do develop symptoms tend to become unwell 7-14 days after being bitten by an infected tick. Symptoms may be a mild flu-like illness, but some people will develop severe infection in the central nervous system such as meningitis (infection of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord) or encephalitis (swelling of the brain).

Symptoms of severe disease can initially include a high fever with a headache, vomiting and neck stiffness. This can then progress to confusion, seizures or fits, weakness of the arms or legs reduced or loss of consciousness.

If you think you, or someone you know might have severe TBE dial 999, mention if you have been bitten by a tick or have been travelling as TBE is much more common in many other countries than in the UK.

Remember that advice and treatment is readily available through the NHS. If you think you have been bitten by a tick and have symptoms, contact your GP and accept the treatment that is offered to you.

How to avoid tick-borne infections

While walking in green spaces, stick to clearly defined paths and try to avoid brushing against vegetation where ticks might be present. Also consider wearing clothing that covers your skin such as long trousers or long sleeved tops. This will make it more difficult for ticks to access a suitable place to bite.

Use insect repellent (for example DEET) and regularly check clothing or exposed skin so that you can spot any crawling ticks and brush them off.

After spending time outside, it's very important to check yourself, clothing, pets, and others for ticks. Remove any attached tick as soon as you find it using a tick-removal tool or fine-tipped tweezers. Fine-tipped tweezers are different from regular tweezers that might be used to remove eyebrow hair. They are very narrow and pointed at the tip and ensure that ticks are not squashed during removal.



Additional resources to raise awareness of ticks, including a leaflet and poster can be found via the following link: [Tick bite risks and prevention of Lyme disease: resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/resources/leaflets-and-posters/tick-bite-risks-and-prevention-of-lyme-disease)

Upskilling to a L3 EYE Diploma (FREE AND STUDY IN YOUR OWN TIME)

To support the government's campaign "Do something big, work with small children", Telford College are pleased to be able to share not only an apprenticeship model but also an opportunity for those in the early years sector to upskill to a L3 EYE Diploma as a standalone qualification.

Telford College's apprenticeship model supports those coming into the sector as well as those who feel this way of learning meets their needs. An 18-month programme of study with some of the statutory Off The Job hours being met with a teaching delivery at a local satellite learning hub.

The standalone model supports those L2 EYP's or unqualified but experienced staff who can reflect on practice and use this to fulfil the unit criteria within the L3 EYE Diploma. This is a 12-month programme of study and is completed online with assessor support and visits to assess practical competencies.

If you are interested in either of the above, or wish to discuss any aspect of upskilling across the early years and education workforce, (we also work with schools re TA's), please get in touch at sue.williams@telfordcollege.ac.uk

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

Safeguarding Guidance April 2024

The safeguarding guidance (previously the yellow folder) has been updated to reflect changes in the [EYFS statutory framework 2024](#), [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) and the [Prevent Duty 2023](#). The guidance provides information on developing a positive safeguarding culture for all providers. Included on our [WCF website](#) are a selection of policies and templates which can be adapted to meet the needs of your provision.

Worcestershire Neglect Pathway

A reminder for all Designated Safeguarding Leads to access the [Regional Child Protection Procedures](#) for the West Midlands. On this site there is the Worcestershire Neglect Pathway and a toolkit to support the identification of neglect. Other useful tools include 'a day in my life' which tries to capture a child's lived experience, and SMART planning guidance. A presentation has been put together to support using the toolkit [WSCP Neglect Toolkit 2024](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision

Wraparound Schools Survey

We are requesting that all schools with children from Reception to Year 6 complete a survey about the wraparound provision that is available to their pupils. We would like all schools to submit a response, even if there is no wraparound provision available. The information provided will be used to inform LA planning as well as to inform parents and carers of the childcare available for their school age children.

The survey can be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/e/LvKXVTRMjK>

Please ensure you have submitted your response by **Friday 10th May**.

UN adopts annual International Day of Play

The United Nations has adopted a resolution for an annual International Day of Play, which recognises children's right to play and its importance for their wellbeing. The first International Day of Play will take place on **11 June 2024** and every year thereafter.

For more information <https://www.internationaldayofplay.org/>

The Power of Play: Building a Creative Britain

On the 10th April 2024, the Children's Alliance launched its new report [The Power of Play: Building a Creative Britain](#) and handed it in to policy makers at 10 Downing Street. This report focuses on the importance of free play in childhood to encourage imagination and creativity into adulthood to provide lifelong, multi-generational and community enhancing opportunity for all.

The report outlines 10 key recommendations to policy makers such as recognising play as fundamental right, integrating play into educational policies, and investing in provision to strengthen the play sector at both national and local levels.

[Read the report in full](#)

[The power of play in out of school settings: Play our way!](#)

I am interested in finding ways to shout out loud and proud about the value of play for children in out of school settings across Worcestershire. Can you join my tribe? Are you an out of school setting that values play? Could you provide me with an article to share in future bulletins that highlights the power of play in your setting?

If you could help me shout loud and proud about the power of play email Sharon Jones via: sjones20@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Ofsted Registers: Are you on the right one?

The Out of School Alliance (OOSA) recently made a statement on their social media channels to explain that they have been noticing that some out of school providers that have had recent Ofsted inspections have been caught out by there being different requirements across different registers.

Specifically, where these providers are registered on the voluntary part of the general childcare register (VCR) and find that they are not meeting the qualification requirements of this part of the register, resulting in a not met grade.

OOSA are recommending that only those that need to be on the voluntary are on it, and that other providers who meet Early Years or Compulsory childcare register are only registered on those registers.

What we say is it is really important for all out of school clubs to ensure that they are on the correct registers, dependant on the age groups of the children they care for and that they meet the requirements of the registers they are on.

For more information on Ofsted's registers and the requirements

[Childminders and childcare providers: The Ofsted Registers](#)

[Childminders and childcare providers: Registration Requirements](#)

[Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework 2024](#)

[Daycare providers on the compulsory Childcare Register: Ofsted Requirements](#)

[Daycare providers on the voluntary Childcare Register: Ofsted Requirements](#)

If you would like further support, please contact a member of the Early Years and Childcare Team on 01905 844048 eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

Transitions for Children with Additional Needs Meeting

The Early Years Inclusion Team will be holding an additional meeting in the summer term to discuss **transitions for children with additional needs**.

This meeting will communicate ideas of how to ensure a positive transition for children with SEND, through examples of staged approaches and a chance to network and share key resources. Research shows us that transitions need a collaborative approach between the giving and receiving provider and it is equally important for both establishments to allow the time to contact, visit and engage together with the child's family. This ensures that the appropriate support, adaptations, and reasonable adjustments are known and can be supported throughout the transition and beyond.

Birth to 5 matters states that **effective transition is a process rather than an event** and should be planned. Practitioners demonstrate this by enabling children and their families to become as familiar as possible with where children are going and with whom they will be building relationships before any move takes place.

- Transition is a process, not an event.
- High quality transitions recognise the importance of feeling "known".
- Some children are particularly vulnerable to at times of transition.
- Transitions are opportunities for professional dialogue.
- The key person makes essential connections.
- Transition includes moving from Early years settings (nurseries/ pre-schools/childminders) to Reception and beyond.

Please see training section below for booking information.

Inclusion Surgeries with the Area SENCOs

The Area SENCO Team will be offering surgery support sessions every half term. These are dedicated afternoon surgeries for Early Years SENCOs, giving the opportunity for a 30-minute meeting (currently delivered via the telephone).

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss more complex Inclusion issues with an Area SENCO.

Dates:

- 15/05/24 13:30-14:00 14:15-14:45 15:00-15:30
- 26/06/24 13:30-14:00 14:15-14:45 15:00-15:30

Booking is essential as places are limited. To book your place you will need to add your name and number onto our booking document. [booking document](#)

Early Years Inclusion Process Evaluation

We are seeking feedback from providers on the Early Years Inclusion Process.

[Provide anonymous feedback on the Early Years Inclusion Process](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

NEF Expansion – What do we know so far?

Specifically for providers offering Nursery Education Funding (NEF) in Worcestershire, this is an update session to highlight any changes for September, including the 2024/25 Worcestershire Provider Agreement and the expanded Early years entitlements from September 2024.

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

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 20 June 2024, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code EY 10407 / 84512
- 21 June 2024, 10am – 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code EY 10407 / 84513

Book your place via [WCF: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 Spring Term agenda includes a session on Supporting Behaviour. **The childminder sessions also include the SENCo Cluster meeting.**

Cost: Free

Dates:

Childminders

- 22 May 2024, 7pm – 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10273 / 84071

Group Settings

- 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

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

Transitions for Children with Additional Needs Meeting

The Early Years Inclusion Team will be holding an additional meeting in the summer term to discuss **transitions for children with additional needs**. (*see News from the Inclusion Team above for more information*)

For anyone who works with Early Years children within nurseries, pre-schools, childminding settings and school run settings, including Reception.

Cost: Free

Date: 30 April 2024, 6pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code 10472 / 84910

Book your place via [WCF:CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10472. Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

SENCo Forum / Clusters

SENCo Forum / Clusters are now county wide to support the sharing of information and are free to attend.

Broad aims:

1. To bring together EYs SENCo's from Worcestershire Early Years Settings to share good practice and discuss common issues in order to continue to improve outcomes for children.
2. To update staff on National and Local Early Years and SEND initiatives to inform further CPD needs.
3. To raise awareness and expectations re Special Needs Education in the Early Years including issues and developments around planning, transition support, assessment and tracking tools, and current developments.
4. To develop a continuing working and supportive partnership between the Early Years SENCo's and Early Years Inclusion personnel.

Cost: Free

Date: 11 June 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, course code: 10160 / 81547

Book your place via [WCF:CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10160. Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Early Years DSL Forums: Summer 2024

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

We have run and 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 across the county

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 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

Book your place via [WCF: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.

What is the SCERTS Approach?

SCERTS: Social Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional and Support

SCERTS is an evidence-based framework for assessing children who need support with their social communication and emotional regulation skills, including autistic children. Transactional support is the support given to children to reach their goals and achieve their potential. The SCERTS approach is not a prescriptive curriculum, and it works alongside practice in settings and home. Designed to be collaborative and to value the contributions made by settings and families to a child's development, setting goals to reflect what the child can do with the right support. A strengths-based approach, so it starts with what a child can do instead of what they can't do.

To find out more about SCERTS, access Stage 1 of the programme: **a free webcast**. Once your setting / school has watched Stage 1 you can progress onto Stage 2.

We are soft launching "What is the SCERTS Approach" from 15 April 2024 until 12 May 2025. Those who are working with EYFS children in Settings / Reception / School run nurseries can access this webcast.

When booking via [WCF:CPD](#) search course code: 10462. Only one member of staff needs to be booked to get all the Stage 1 information, as once you have the webcast it can be shared amongst your EYFS team.

From Stage 1 schools / settings can access Drop-In Sessions if they have questions and then if they wish to progress onto Stage 2 and access the full training then simply contact the training team by emailing workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Communication Champion Training

Worcestershire NHS Speech and Language Therapy Team are offering free Communication Champion training for early years settings. The focus for the training this term is 'Supporting Social Communication and Transition to School'.

For further information, please download the [Communication Champion Training flyer](#).

Date: Tuesday 4 June, 4:00pm to 5:30pm, virtual delivery

Book your place by emailing: WHCNHS.SLTBromsgrove@nhs.net