



Worcestershire's Early Years SENDCo Spring term Cluster 2025

Housekeeping

- This meeting is a live event – please mute yourself. If you want to ask a question, please type your message in the chat and we will respond
- Please note we may not be able to cover all questions raised today, but please do not hesitate to contact one of the team after the event if you need further information or guidance



Agenda



- Dingley's Promise welcome!
- Angela Broadbent – PD Outreach support
- Jenna White & Tricia Griffiths-from SENDIASS
- Karen Perry, working with parents
- Reminders from ISS –Transition documents
- Early Years Inclusion Team updates/reminders
- What Focus for our next cluster meeting? Over to you



South Worcestershire Enhanced Provision update

- Dingley's Promise have been commissioned to provide two enhanced provisions in central Worcester and Droitwich.
- Droitwich centre is now open!
- Worcester is operating on an outreach only basis at the moment.
- Referrals for an Enhanced Provision Place can be made through a health professional and/or your Area SENCo.
- Providers can refer families directly to the Dingley's Promise webpage for family support (coffee mornings, stay and play etc. [Dingley's Promise - Homepage - Dingley's Promise](https://www.dingleyspromise.org.uk/)).

Welcome to Dingley's Promise colleagues !



ENHANCED SEND PROVISION

Opening Soon in Droitwich and Worcester

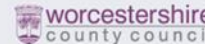
Dingley's Promise, specialists in early years SEND education, are opening 2 enhanced provisions in Worcester and Droitwich. The centres will provide specialist learn through play sessions with targeted child-centred interventions and an enriched and varied curriculum. Our aim is to support developmental progress and support with transition to the child's next setting to give every child the best start in life.

The centre will also offer outreach support for families of children with SEND, providing practical and emotional support as well as signposting to local services and helping families to access their entitlements. We will offer coffee mornings, stay and play sessions and information sessions to develop networks of support. There will also be holiday playschemes for children which offer an array of themed activities for children to engage in, whilst providing vital respite for parents.


To find out more about Dingley's Promise visit www.dingleyspromise.org.uk


For more information email info@dingleyspromise.org.uk

Dingley's Promise Droitwich
WANDS Children's Centre
Farmers Way
Droitwich
WR9 9EQ



Dingley's Promise Worcester
Bluebell Wood Children's Centre
St Albans Close
Worcester
WR5 1PP





Dingley's Promise is the working name of Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres, a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Company Registered in England and Wales No. 07279320. Registered Charity No. 1137609. Registered Office: Kennel Walk Community Centre, Kennel Walk off Kenaston Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3GD

PD Outreach Support

Angela Broadbent



Angela works in South Worcestershire and is based at Regency High School

Chadsgrove are the North Worcestershire PD Outreach Team

[Physical Disability Outreach team | Worcestershire County Council](#)



Physical Disability Outreach Support Team



Supporting children with physical disabilities and/or complex health needs in early years settings

Angela Broadbent
Senior Assessment Teacher
E: abroadbent@regency.worcs.sch.uk
T: (01905) 456602

Overview of the Physical Disability Outreach Team:

- ▶ There are two teams -one in the north based at Chadsgrove School and one in the South based at Regency High School;
- ▶ The South team is comprised of assessment teachers who have a background in teaching in special schools for many years;
- ▶ We have a caseload of over 200 children aged 2 to 19-some have very complex needs who we see regularly and others we see infrequently or at key points in their school life e.g. when they move schools;
- ▶ We aim to support children in early years settings and schools so they are included as much as possible alongside their peers in their local nursery or school.
- ▶ **Link to our brochure:**
- ▶ <https://regency.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/PD-Brochure-2024.pdf>

Physical Disabilities Explained

- ▶ The PD Outreach team supports children with a diagnosed physical disability and or medical condition which affects their physical functioning and access to a mainstream nursery curriculum. This includes a wide range of conditions such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and spina bifida.
- ▶ Some children do not have a diagnosis but their physical functioning is such that they require input and the provision of specialist equipment to access the curriculum. E.g. children with global developmental delay, some children with Downs Syndrome.
- ▶ Some children have experienced medical trauma which has had impact on their physical functioning e.g. Acquired Brain Injury, sporting accident.
- ▶ Some children have co-ordination difficulties, particularly in early years or may be delayed in physical skills such as walking and need support for a short period of time.
- ▶ Some children may have learning difficulties and sensory impairments in addition to a physical disability.

Complex Health Needs Explained

- ▶ Children with complex health needs are supported by our team alongside health professionals such as the community nursing team -Orchard Service, specialist Epilepsy Nurse -Cheryl Byrd and other specialist nursing teams for continence, skin care and oncology.
- ▶ Children often have long term medical conditions which impact on their ability to access the nursery environment without some form of adult support and adaptations. We support post-operative children also.
- ▶ Such medical needs include children with long term heart conditions, breathing conditions, complex continence needs, complex epilepsy, as well as children going through treatment for cancer. Children diagnosed with diabetes may require additional support.
- ▶ There are a number of young children who require tube feeding in nurseries- training is provided by the Orchard Team.

Top Ten Tips For Creating A Physical Disability Friendly Environment:

- ▶ 1. Be inclusive from the first visit -welcome families and children and see solutions rather than difficulties, sometimes solutions are very inexpensive e.g. provision of a grab rail -if works need to be done -plan for them, consult owners -they will benefit a wide range of children who may attend the setting in the future;
- ▶ 2. Involve professionals and gain as much information on the child and their needs as you can and ensure support and paperwork is in place prior to the child starting -work as a team -as many relevant staff as possible should know about the individual needs of the child with physical disability -good practitioners regularly evaluate their practice, training must be started before the child starts and be on-going as the child's needs change;
- ▶ 3. Parents/carers are the experts as is the child themselves, often they will have worked out a solution before you -consult them;
- ▶ 4. Be creative with your environment, creating routes and clearing clutter to make spaces for a child with disability to get about can be hugely beneficial for all children in early years, not just children with physical disabilities;
- ▶ 5. Look at all areas of the curriculum and nursery -if it is not possible to make reasonable adjustments e.g. there are stairs/the environment cannot be adapted, what alternatives can be offered?;
- ▶ 6. Simple solutions for inclusive practice often work best, e.g. move more mobile children to the area the child with physical disability is playing rather than keep moving the child with a disability, make sure any equipment the child needs is in place and used as recommended as soon as possible e.g, a bath step;
- ▶ 7. No child learns well unless they can access their environment safely and comfortably -think of the best equipment to use for each activity-specialist chair?/Wheelchair? Bench? Standing frame? Walker? -all can be used creatively ;
- ▶ 8. Do not sit the child with physical disability on their own, even if they are in separate seating e.g. they cannot sit on the carpet -make sure they have a friend;
- ▶ 9. Children with physical disabilities may have individual targets such as regular physio routines -incorporate these into your planning in a fun and creative way -physical activities can be incorporated into movement sessions which will benefit all children;
- ▶ 10. children are very adaptable, they learn from each other and even young children quickly give time and space to a child with disabilities -communicate sensitively and set high expectations-most importantly have fun and enjoy every moment!

How to Complete Health Care Plans and Risk Assessments

- ▶ Involve professionals and parents/carers -meet together and go through all areas of the plan as a team;
- ▶ The health care plan and risk assessments need to be reviewed regularly - especially with young children who often progress with their skills; medical needs can change -make sure they are updated;
- ▶ The risk assessments for activities and the environment will be the same as for all children with specific additions for children with physical disabilities/medical needs -build on what you have, do not start from scratch.
- ▶ The PD Outreach team has 2 moving and handling trainers -we will complete training with staff and write physical management risk assessment and plans in conjunction with physios for settings.

How to Refer to the Team:

▶ **Who Can Refer?**

- ▶ Most children are referred via the Early Years Inclusion Process via Liquid logic.
- ▶ Parents/Carers.
- ▶ Sencos from nurseries, pre-schools.
- ▶ Area Sencos/Portage.
- ▶ Health professionals -physios, pediatricians, OTs, Speech and Language Therapists.
- ▶ Parental/carer consent is required prior to a referral.
- ▶ Follow the link for our referral form:
- ▶ <https://regency.worcs.sch.uk/early-years-referral-form-april-2022/>

The Support Parents/Carers Will Receive:

- ▶ Regular communication from the referral process in relation to their child to build up a relationship that lasts many years -some of our children are doing degrees and we are still in touch with their families!;
- ▶ Offer advice on accessible nurseries and following on from this accessible schools;
- ▶ Assist with transition and often lead on transition into school;
- ▶ Liaise about the EHCP process if relevant or any other support their child may need in relation to accessing nursery and then school;
- ▶ Offer advice on support available in conjunction with other early years colleagues e.g. in relation to all areas such as sport/swimming/DLA.

The Support Early Years Setting Will Receive:

- ▶ **Early Years:**
- ▶ On-going assessment of the child's needs.
- ▶ Provide reports to contribute to EHCP process.
- ▶ Provide advice to parents/carers re accessible nurseries/schools.
- ▶ Liaise with physio/OTs to ensure appropriate equipment/furniture is in place so child can access the environment.
- ▶ Offer support to parents/carers re assessment process.
- ▶ Training to setting on risk assessment of physical needs, safe moving and handling, fire evacuation, IEP targets, promoting independence, safe use of equipment, use of ICT and disability awareness and access to learning.
- ▶ Co-ordinate transition to school and promote effective communication between settings, including parents/carers.

PD Net:

- ▶ This is a national organisation which we are part of - anyone can join - parents/carers/all staff.
- ▶ The link to join is as follows:
- ▶ <https://pdnet.org.uk/>
- ▶ The organisation provides a forum for discussion, on line resources which are free to download and level one training on physical disability which is free. It is interactive and only takes a short time to complete.
- ▶ <https://pdnet.org.uk/pdnet-level-1-training/>

Outreach Support Teams Contact Details

Please see link to our section on the Regency High School website:

<https://regency.worcs.sch.uk/outreach/meet-the-pd-team/>

Senior Assessment Teachers:

Angela Broadbent -01905 456602 abroadbent@regency.worcs.sch.uk

Sara-Jane Corbishley -01905 456602 S.corbishley@regency.worcs.sch.uk

Bridget O’Kane-01905 456602 B.okane@regency.worcs.sch.uk

Heather Walker- 01905456602 h.walker@regency.worcs.sch.uk

Administration:

Jane Ford -Mon-Fri 9am-1pm -01905 456602/01905 454828 J.ford@regency.worcs.sch.uk

SENDIASS

Jenna White & Tricia Griffiths

Welcome to SENDIASS Herefordshire and Worcestershire |
Worcestershire County Council



**Information, Advice
and Support Service**
**Herefordshire &
Worcestershire**



Information, Advice
and Support Service
**Herefordshire &
Worcestershire**



SENDIASS

Supporting SEND families and the professionals working with them

SENDIASS Provide free, impartial information, advice and support on matters relating to children and young people (0-25) who have or may have Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND)



01905 768153 (8.30am-4pm, Mon-Fri, 24hr answerphone service)



sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk



www.hwsendiass.co.uk

SENDIASS Training Workshops



A guide to SEND Support including The Graduated Response.

What does a good Education Health Care Plan look like?

How to check a draft EHCP.

SENDIASS Information session.

Autism & Me as told by Autistic Young People.

What you need to know if your child/young person has an additional need/disability.



Information, Advice
and Support Service
**Herefordshire &
Worcestershire**



Workshops available to book now

SCAN ME



Parent Carers

[SENDIASS workshops for parent and carers](#)

Professionals

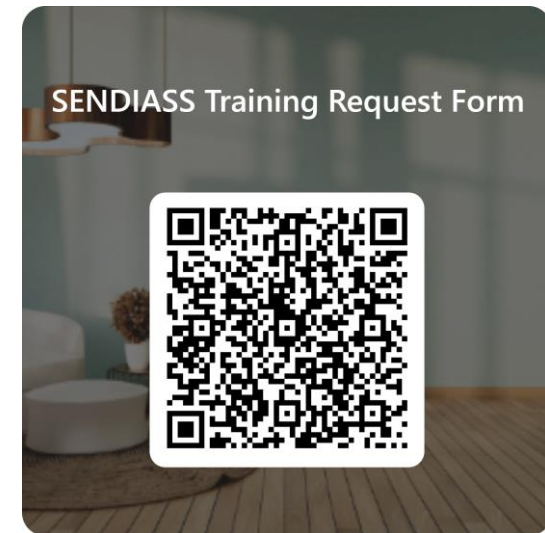
[SENDIASS workshops for professionals](#)

SENDIASS Training at Your Venue

- If you would like us to deliver any of our workshops at your setting or organisation, please complete our SENDIASS Training Request Form.
- If you have any further questions about our workshops, contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk



Information, Advice
and Support Service
**Herefordshire &
Worcestershire**



SENDIASS Leaflets



Information, Advice
and Support Service
**Herefordshire &
Worcestershire**



Information, Advice
and Support Service
Herefordshire & Worcestershire

Training and Development

Inform Empower Improve
Free Training Workshops
for Parent Carers



Do you have a child with an additional need or disability?

Join one of our workshops across Herefordshire
& Worcestershire to increase your knowledge and
understanding of Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND).


Workshops available include

- SENDIASS information session
- SEND Support & the graduated
approach/response
- What does a good Education,
Health & Care Plan (EHCP) look like?



Visit
hwsendiass.co.uk
or scan the QR
code to find out
the next available
sessions



www.hwsendiass.co.uk



Information, Advice and Support Service

Herefordshire & Worcestershire

Providing FREE impartial information, advice
and support on matters relating to children
and young people who have or may
have Special Educational Needs/Disabilities.



Find out more online: www.hwsendiass.co.uk



Information, Advice
and Support Service
Herefordshire &
Worcestershire

SENDIASS • Supporting Worcestershire Families

Do you have a child/young person with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)?

Do you think your child might have Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

SENDIASS provides **FREE**, impartial & confidential information,
advice and support on all matters relating to children and
young people (0-25) who have or may have SEND

We can help you if...

- You have concerns about your child's progress at their education setting
- You would like to know more about the support available for children with
SEND and their families
- You would like to know more about Herefordshire's and Worcestershire's
SEND policies and procedures
- You need information and guidance on the Education, Health and Care Plan
(EHCP) process

Call: 01905 768153
(24hr answerphone service available)

Contact us: Monday - Friday
8.30am - 4pm

Email: SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk



www.hwsendiass.co.uk



Information, Advice
and Support Service
Herefordshire &
Worcestershire



www.worcestershire.gov.uk/education

If you would like extra leaflets for your setting/ families, please email SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk

 **worcestershire**
county council

Karen Perry

Engaging with parents
Droitwich Salvation Army



SEN Cluster Meeting

Droitwich Salvation Army Pre-School



- 4th March 2025
- Relationship with Parents

THINGS WE DO DAY TO DAY...



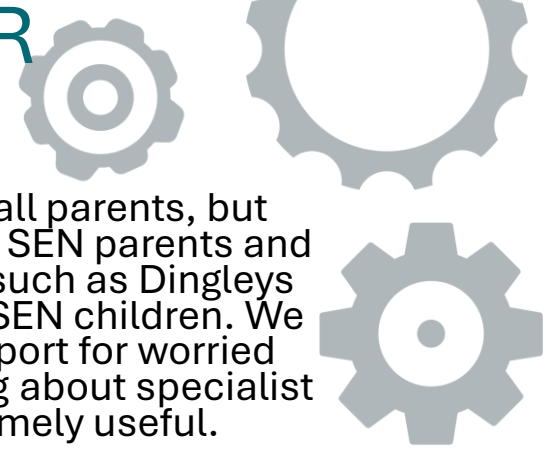
- We have a lending library where parents and children can borrow a book, story sack or game to use at home.
- We offer settling in sessions for all children but we are so flexible that these can be extended for as long as needed, we also allow parents to sit in the room upstairs, we feel this helps makes the transition easier and smoother for them.
- Since September we have started a sign of the week (signalong) we upload to our Facebook page so parents can learn it to.
- We share activity ideas for example playdough recipes and attach them to our newsletter and upload them to tapestry.
- All our children receive free snack, and there are no consumable charges for any of our parents. We offer pay weekly for parents that do pay fees.

THINGS WE DO TO HELP OUR FAMILIES...

- We can help families with foodbank donations and we have also had families in the past whose fridges have broken, we have done a full shop for them.
- We also have donations from Waitrose and Tesco of Fairshare food that we leave out for our parents to help themselves to.
- The Salvation Army had uniform donated from Asda which was then given to our parents.
- We share activity ideas for example playdough recipes and attach them to our newsletter and upload them to tapestry.
- We also share cheap and free things to do in the school holidays with their children.
- We work closely with our Droitwich Salvation army charity shop, if we have families that are struggling for coats or shoes etc, we can access these things from our charity shop.



THINGS WE DO TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES



- We offer regular coffee mornings for all parents, but we also have coffee mornings for our SEN parents and we have people come in and speak, such as Dingleys promise and past parents who have SEN children. We find our previous parents a great support for worried parents and parents that are worrying about specialist placement, so parents find this extremely useful.
- We hold regular stay and plays for families to come into pre-school and get involved with activities with their children.
- We have a detailed transition for our SEN children to school, we have meetings with schools and parents and talk through any worries or concerns.
- We have in the past had anxious parents who were nervous about their child going to school so we have gone with them to visit settings to help them feel at ease.
- When we go out on trips we welcome parents along, so that we don't exclude our SEN children.
- We invite parents to community events within the salvation army as well as the children's events at pre-school.
- We have in the past facilitated supervised contact for one of our parents, so that it didn't disrupt the child's nursery day, and to save mum having to travel to Birmingham.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PROFESSIONALS...



- We have a partnership with action for children, they come out and deliver a few different workshops for parents, recent ones are healthy eating and positive behaviour. they also ran meal masters which was a course for parents to make meals on a budget and how to make your food go further, all parents that did the course left with a slow cooker and some pantry food items.
- We have Speech and Language therapists coming out to our setting regularly, this is especially helpful if we have parents struggling to get their children to appointments.
- We have health visitors coming out to us to do 2 year checks and SOGS assessments. This is if parents are struggling to get to appointments with their child.
- Starting well partnership come out and do sessions with out children, for example oral health, healthy eating and they regularly give us free toothbrushes and toothpaste for our children with fun activity packs too. We have also a partnership with Gentle Dental in Droitwich, where all our children can go and be registered and they often come out and do workshops with us.

ISS Reminders

Early Years Transition Toolkit Suggested timeline for children with SEND

Transition (change) in early years (SEND) | Worcestershire County Council

ELSA training Session code: 90937

- Introduction to Elsa
- Supporting Early Years children with loss and bereavement
- Understanding and supporting sense of belonging with early years children
- Understanding emotional literacy and developing active listening skills in an Early Years setting
- Developing self-esteem with early years children
- How to write Social Stories and therapeutic stories for early years practitioners
- Developing strategies to support early years children with managing emotions
- Supporting attachment and security within an early years setting
- Supporting early years children with social and friendship skills



capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CourseBooking.aspx?CourseId=943&CourseSessionId=0&WaitlistGUID=&CourseGUID=&CourseSessionGUID=



Early Years ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) modules

Cost: each module is £35 + VAT per delegate

Modules available to book:



1. Supporting Early Years children with loss and bereavement (CPD code 10541)
2. Understanding and supporting sense of belonging with early years children (CPD code 10542)
3. Understanding emotional literacy and developing active listening skills in an Early Years setting (CPD code 10543)
4. Developing self-esteem with early years children (CPD code: 10544)
5. How to write Social Stories and therapeutic stories for early years practitioners (CPD code: 10545)
6. Developing strategies to support early years children with managing emotions (CPD code: 10546)
7. Supporting attachment and security within an early years setting. (CPD code: 10547)
8. Supporting early years children with social and friendship skills (CPD Code: 10548)
9. Introduction to ELSA - Becoming an emotional literacy support assistant within an early years setting (CPD code: 10549)

All modules are suitable for Early Years practitioners working within the EYFS in PVI nurseries, pre-schools, Childminders or School ran/ governor-led nurseries across Worcestershire

Early Years Providers can use their Early Years Inclusion Funding to pay for training to enable staff to better support specific children with SEND.

If an Early Years setting / school wishes to have a member of staff train to become an Early Years ELSA



Are you waiting for an appointment with a children's health service in Worcestershire?

Please scan the QR code to access information and support available whilst waiting for your child or young person's appointment.



<https://www.hwics.org.uk/priorities/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/information-support-you-while-you-are-waiting-worcestershire>



Support available in Worcestershire while waiting for your appointment :: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System

Event for children with any level of deafness from the Sensory Impairment Team



What: The event is for our EY children with any level of deafness and their parents / carers. It's an opportunity for the children to see others wearing hearing devices and / or using sign language, and for parents / carers to meet and talk with others in the same situation. There will be time to play, and a group story / singing time with signing.

When: Wednesday 9 April, 1-2.30

Where: Buttercups Family Hub, Carnforth Drive, Worcester WR4 9HG

How much: It is free to attend

Please can professionals / settings encourage their families to attend if appropriate and ask them to contact their Teacher of Deaf Children to let them know they are coming (just so we can gauge numbers). If they do not have their teacher's contact details they can email the team at SensoryImpairmentCYP@worcestershire.gov.uk

Early Years Inclusion Funding dates

GR4 Challenge and Exceptional Funding Applications

[Online inclusion funding application process | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Deadlines for Funding applications:

Summer Term 2025 13th March 2025- for children known to the setting

Summer Term 2025 24th April 2025- for new children

Monitoring Form Return Deadlines:

Summer Term 2025 Between the 1st – 15th June 2025

DON'T FORGET TO APPLY FOR CHALLENGE and EXCEPTIONAL THE CHILD MUST BE KNOWN TO THE EYIP- please also look at the criteria on the website.

Spring/Summer Term 25 Training Courses



Some courses to look out for:

Autism in the Early Years

02 April 2025, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10003 / 90162

EY 10496 - Annual Reviews of EHCPs

13 May 2025 17:00 - 18:00, virtual delivery, course code: 90068

IPMs and Smart Outcomes

01 April 2025, 5pm to 6pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10494 / 90063

SCERTS: Social Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional and Support

Course code on CPD: 10462 – please only request Stage 1 for your lead SENCo / manager within your setting or school, it is their responsibility to share with the team

Next cluster date: 10th June 2025

Inclusion Conference: 25th June 2025- Develop your strategic oversight of SEND: by supporting the leadership and development of an inclusive culture, to achieve an ethos that enables your pupils/ teams to thrive and achieve their aspirations .

Our 2025 Inclusion Conference we aim to inspire every...

- Session code: 91334
- 25/06/2025 09:00 - 15:45
- Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa



Focus feature – over to you!

- SENDIASS 20 minute introduction
- Possible CCN focus

Please pop in the chat topics you might like to discuss in future SEND Cluster meetings:

Have you been given a strategy, and you are not quite sure what it means or how to deliver it? Or any of your own ideas? Let us know!

- Health services - Specialist Play
- Child Development Centre



Inclusion Surgeries with the Area SENCos offer

Inclusion Surgeries will continue this year. (The purpose of the telephone meeting is to discuss more complex Inclusion issues with an Area SENCo).

Our surgeries this term will be on:

Booking is essential as places are limited. To book your place you will need to add your name and number onto this document

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cWhuv7MJiQbV_gkskUGxfRnIADU7M7iPwhZT-SQv4sE/edit?usp=sharing

Further sessions will be available during the Summer term 2025



The Early Years Inclusion Team Inclusion Helpline

- Inclusion helpline and answer machine: 01905 843099
- Inclusion helpline email: eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook for updates

https://www.facebook.com/WorcsEarlyYears/?_rdr

Website:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-education-and-early-years-services/support-services/improving-schools-and-settings/information-early-years-and-childcare-settings/early-years-inclusion>



Thank you for your participation in the Spring term cluster!

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