

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

There are **NEF Briefings** taking place straight after half-term. These are our annual Summer Term briefings to look at any changes to the Worcestershire Provider Agreement, which will include the move to 30 hours funding for Working Families from September 2025.

The **Early Years Update Meetings** are also taking place after half-term, providing you with an opportunity to hear the latest news on policy, Ofsted and best practice within Early Years and childcare.

Following on from the successful Playwork Conference held last week, we have more training opportunities available for Out of School and Holiday providers, including an accredited Level 3 award.

If you have not yet booked your place on any of the briefings or training mentioned above, please see the Training section for dates and booking information for [CPD](#).

If you need any advice or support, please email the team on EYCC@worcestershire.gov.uk or submit a request via the [website](#).

Regards,

The Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Nursery Education Funding

Working Family Funding from September 2025

Applications are now open for families to apply for 30 hours of Working Family funding from September 2025. Families who apply early will need to refresh their details before the end of August so please check Start Dates before offering a funded place.

Children already accessing 15 hours of Working Family funding will be eligible for 30 hours of funding from September, as long as their Eligibility Code is still valid; families will not have to make an extra application, simply refresh their details as required.

Reminder: Early Years Pupil Premium

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is available for all funded children who meet the EYPP criteria, irrelevant of their age. However, to make a successful claim, the 'consent to check EYPP' box must be ticked on the Online Provider Portal. An EYPP check will not be conducted if the EYPP consent box is not ticked and therefore no supplement will be paid, even if the child is eligible.

EYPP is now £1.00 per hour, for a maximum of 15 hours per week.

Statutory Guidance Changes

Following the recent changes to the [NEF Statutory Guidance](#), we are continuing to offer 1:1 support sessions to discuss your plans and answer any questions you may have. Additional dates are being offered across the Summer Term: [NEF Support Sessions](#).

Education Planning Obligations - Consultation on proposed policy changes

Worcestershire County Council is consulting on proposed updates to its Education Planning Obligations Policy, which guides how housing developers contribute to local education infrastructure. New housing developments often lead to increased demand for school and early years places. Where this demand can't be met through existing provision, developers may be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of increasing local education places. The updated Policy reflects national and local changes, rising demand for specialist SEND provision, and the latest Department for Education guidance. If approved, it will apply to planning applications submitted from 1 September 2025.

We could encourage schools and settings to take part in the consultation. Find out more and respond here by 17th June: [Education Planning Obligations - consultation on proposed policy changes | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Progress and Assessment at the end of Reception

If you would like any support with progress and assessment at the end of Reception please contact Vicky Dunn, Learning and Teaching Adviser for Early Years via vdunn@worcestershire.gov.uk

The deadline for submitting EYFS data is Friday 27th June. Further information about this will be sent out shortly.

For those who are interested, we are holding a series of collaborative discussions on Progress and Assessment in Reception. Please visit [CPD](#) or contact Vicky for more information.

Reminder: Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub is a networking and peer support session for early years leaders, childminders, practitioners, and EY teacher's working with children within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It's a collaboration between University Worcester colleagues enhancing practice for UW students, WCC early years team and **YOU** our Early Years providers.

The next meeting is taking place on **Thursday 26th June 18:30-20:30** at the University of Worcester, St John's Campus, Henwick Grove, St John's, Worcester, WR2 6AJ.

By request, our discussion for the evening will focus on **working towards cultural humility in early years settings**. Cultural humility is a practice of self-reflection combined with an openness to understanding other cultures.

Book via [CPD](#) online, Course Code **10529**

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 ensure the information is written in a way that is suitable for social media – we can't use PDF attachments of job descriptions, or include long lists of information. Please email ChSComms@worcestershire.gov.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

Free access to 'Maths Champions'

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is offering free access to [Maths Champions](#), a professional development programme that has demonstrated positive impact on children's mathematical attainment.

Delivered by the [National Day Nurseries Association](#), Maths Champions builds the knowledge of nursery practitioners to support children's early mathematical development. A senior member of staff will receive one-to-one support to drive improvement in maths practice across their setting, in addition to bespoke online training and resources.

All PVI, maintained and school-based nursery settings in England with at least six 3&4 year olds attending are eligible to participate. Settings must nominate a Maths Champion and a Deputy Maths Champion who are qualified to Level 3 or above.

The deadline for sign-up is 31st May.

[Maths Champions - scale-up evaluation | EEF](#)

Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance, April 2025

The DfE is committed to ensuring that all children in early years settings have the best possible start in life. As part of this, they have introduced new nutrition guidance in the EYFS statutory framework, which will replace the 'Example menus for early years settings in England' guidance from September 2025.

The new guidance has been developed with nutrition and sector experts. It will help early years providers understand how to meet the existing EYFS requirement: 'Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious.'

From September 2025, providers will be required to have regard to the new nutrition guidance, meaning they must take it into account and should follow it unless there is good reason not to.

[Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition - GOV.UK](#)

DBS Check Guidance

Ofsted have updated their guidance on DBS checks for those living or working in a childcare setting to include 'childminder without domestic premises'. The updates also include clarification on the type of DBS checks needed and include links to Ofsted DBS guidance.

[Get a DBS check if you live or work in a childcare setting - GOV.UK](#)

DfE Consultation: Space Requirements in Early Years Childcare Settings

The DfE are consulting on potential options for amending the EYFS indoor space requirements to support childcare provision to expand. The options they are considering are to:

- Include free-flow outdoor space in the EYFS space requirements (without a cap)
- Include free-flow outdoor space in the EYFS space requirements (but with a cap on numbers to prevent overcrowding).

The deadline for responses is Friday 11th July 2025.

[Space requirements in early years childcare settings in England - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

Ofsted: early years Blog: Using Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Following the publication of the DfE's recent [guidance for local authorities on the use of EYPP](#), the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) has also published [guidance for early years providers](#).

In the Ofsted: early years Blog, Ofsted provide information on how they will look at the use of EYPP when inspecting Early Years providers.

[How we look at the use of Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\) in our inspections of early years settings – Ofsted: early years](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision

National Wraparound Childcare Programme Support

The National Wraparound Childcare Programme supports the Government's ambition for all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need term time, childcare during the hours of 8am to 6pm, to be able to access it in their local area by September 2026. Schools are central to the delivery of the programme as they operate at the heart of the community, understand the needs of local families, and are usually the first port of call for parents for wraparound childcare.

The expectation is that most parents can access childcare through provision on a school site (either provided directly by the school or by an external provider). Where there is a strong rationale for this not to be the case, the minimum expectation is for schools to work collaboratively with their local authority to ensure parents are, at a minimum, signposted to appropriate provision.

Childcare Works have produced a series of recording to support schools to understand and the deliver the Wraparound Childcare Programme and is relevant to:

- Maintained school and trust leaders
- School business/finance professionals
- Governing boards in maintained schools
- Academy trust boards and local governing bodies
- Practitioners and teaching staff

Please see the [attached information sheet](#) for details of each recorded session and access links, along with the [Wraparound Checklist for Schools](#) to ensure you are ready to meet the Government's ambition by September 2026.

Creating Inclusive Provision Toolkit

The DfE have launched a '[Creating Inclusive Provision Toolkit](#)', developed in partnership with Mott MacDonald and Nasen. It is an interactive digital toolkit developed to support schools, private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers, childminders, and local authorities in creating inclusive wraparound provision that is accessible to families of primary aged children with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes breakfast clubs, after school childcare and holiday provision.

[Creating-Inclusive-Provision-Toolkit.pdf](#)

Alongside the 'Creating Inclusive Provision Toolkit', Childcare Works and NASEN have developed a suite of ten bitesize webcasts to support Wraparound providers to offer inclusive environments for all children, including children with SEND.

Please see the [attached information sheet](#) for details of each recorded session and how to access them.

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

7 Minutes of Safeguarding (webcasts)

In recognition of the complexity of safeguarding threats to our children and families we wanted to design an easy way to upskill knowledge for your teams, across many safeguarding themes.

7 Minutes of Safeguarding is simply that, webcasts based on a specific safeguarding topic which give you information, shares research and highlights the relevance to your role and responsibilities. Reflection points allow for further learning and to identify any gaps in knowledge. This short and impactful format makes them ideal as an agenda item for team meetings or could be a great complement to your induction process and on-going commitment to CPD.

There are currently two webcasts in the series for you to access for free. Future webcasts will be added throughout the academic year.

- [7 minutes of safeguarding - Introduction](#)
- [7 minutes of Safeguarding - Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

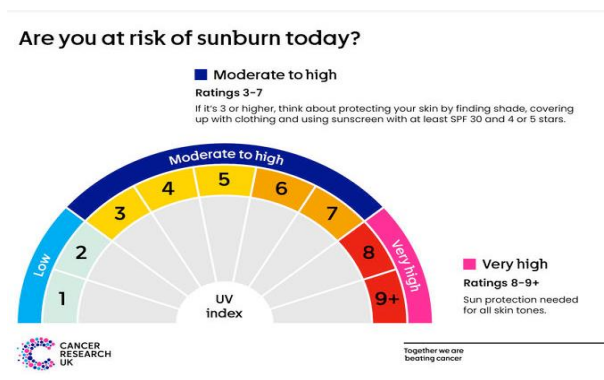
Sun Safety for Children

Early years practitioners have a duty of care to keep children safe and healthy. Children are cared for throughout the year and every season presents its own challenges: during the summer practitioners must consider sun safety.

There is guidance for schools/early years settings regarding hot weather: [Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals](#)

Good practice is to ask parents for a labelled bottle of sun cream early in the year along with a cap or sunhat which can be stored in the provision ready for the warmer weather. Parents must also sign a permission form to give practitioners permission to apply sun cream through the day – this can simply state ‘I give permission for my setting/childminder to apply sun cream to my child’s skin throughout the day’. You would then note when the cream has been applied, for parents to sign on collection.

It is also good practice to consider the times in the day and length of time children are outdoors during warmer days. It is important to note the UV index alongside the temperature as this tell you how strong the sun is. The Met office forecast will show the UV index.



UV 1-2 – Low levels. No sun protection needed.

UV 3-7 – Moderate to high levels. Be sun safe and consider protecting your skin.

UV 8-9+ – Very high levels. Everyone should protect their skin.

More information about the UV index and sunburn risk is available from [Cancer Research](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

Worcestershire Family Hubs

Family Hubs provide a welcoming place for families and expectant parents to access information, signposting, and services in the community. There are nine family hubs across the county and a number of outreach locations, providing a range of support to families with babies and children.

To find out more, refer a family, or get in touch with your local hub visit [Local Family Hubs | Worcestershire County Council](#).

Services and support offered from Family Hubs could include:

- Midwifery
- Health visiting
- Speech and Language
- Infant feeding
- Baby and toddler groups
- Healthy start vitamins
- Workshops, courses and groups for parents/ carers
- Health and wellbeing, housing, finance and debt support

[A leaflet that you can share with families is attached.](#)

To find out more information about what support Family Hubs can provide, free webinars are available over the Summer Term. Please see the [attached flyer for dates and booking information](#).

Best Start Worcestershire Website

Worcestershire County Council has launched its new [Best Start Worcestershire Website](#) which brings together the wide-ranging support, information, and services for expectant parents and families with babies and young children. This includes:

- Pregnancy and postnatal
- Feeding; sleep; bonding; crying; toilet training etc
- Child development including speech and language; milestones and behaviour
- Timetables of baby and toddler groups
- Family hubs single point of access
- Workshops; courses and groups for parents/ carers
- Support for dads
- Health and wellbeing, housing, finance etc

[A leaflet that you can share with families is attached.](#)

BBC Tiny Happy People Training

The [BBC Tiny Happy People](#) initiative supports parents and carers to help develop their little ones' language and communication skills in the home learning environment. To support the initiative, they are offering Champions Training to professionals working in Early Years.

This **free** one-hour virtual session will reveal everything you need to know about BBC Tiny Happy People to feel confident about recommending this service to the families that you work with. The session will explain Tiny Happy People's approach, show you easily shareable content on the website and highlight the key language techniques and resources that you'll want to share.

BBC Tiny Happy People Champions Training is accessible and relevant for those working as - or studying to become - early years practitioners or healthcare professionals.

[Tiny Happy People Champions Training 2025 - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Inclusion

Fully Funded Early Years SENCo Training

Aiming to increase the number of qualified SENCOs available to children in group-based settings and childminder settings, who have the knowledge and skills to properly fulfil the role of a SENCO described in the [code of practice and in the role description](#), the DfE have announced 1000 fully funded Early Years SENCo training places.

Delivered by Best Practice Network (BPN), training is open to Early Years Level 3 educators who are currently working as, or due to start working as, a Special Educational Needs Coordinator in their setting in a private, voluntary, independent or childminding setting.

For further information, including the application form, please visit: [Early Years SENCO - Level 3 | Best Practice Network](#)

Early Years Inclusion Website

The [Early Years Inclusion website](#) has recently been updated to make it easier to navigate. The information, advice and guidance available on the website includes:

- [The Graduated Response and Inclusion Funding](#)
- [Early Years Inclusion Process](#) – which also includes links to a range of free webcasts
- [A-Z of Early Years Inclusion Resources](#)

Provider Evaluation

We are seeking feedback from providers on the Early Years Inclusion Process and the support provided by the Early Years Inclusion Team. If you have recently received support from the Early Years Inclusion Team, please complete this short survey to provide feedback: [Inclusion Support Evaluation](#)

Reminder: Transition Support

As you support children's transitions, the following links will be useful:

- [Early Years transition toolkit | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- [SENDIASS guidance for tips for transitions | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Early Years Inclusion Surgery Slots with the Area SENCO team

A reminder that we hold regular Inclusion Surgery Slots with the Area SENCO team. Booking is essential as places are limited. Next date is 24th June for **all providers** and 25th June specifically for **childminders**. You can book on using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cWhuv7MJiQbV_gkskUGxfRnIADU7M7iPwhZT-SQv4sE/edit?tab=t.0

These are dedicated telephone surgeries for Early Years SENCO's/providers giving the opportunity for a 20-30 minute meeting via telephone call. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss more complex inclusion issues with the Area SENCO of your district.

SEND Stay & Play Sessions

SEND Stay & Play sessions for children under 6 are being held on Saturdays during May – July at Hartlebury Castle. The sessions are free but booking is required.

[Please pass the attached flyer onto your families.](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Training

If you encounter any issues when booking courses via CPD, please contact the Training Team directly via 01905 844420 or workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Early Years Update Meetings: Summer 2025

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

Childminders The childminder sessions also include the SENCO Cluster meeting.

- 11 June 2025, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10273

Out of School Providers

- 10 June 2025, 7pm to 8:30pm,
Evesham Adventure Playground, WR11 1XH, course code: 10274

Group Settings (All group based provision including school nurseries)

- 12 June 2025, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 13 June 2025, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: 10272

Cost: Free

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

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

NEF Briefing: Summer 2025

Specifically for providers offering Nursery Education Funding (NEF), 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 2025.

Suitable for all Early Years settings, including day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and schools, who offer NEF in Worcestershire.

Dates:

- 05 June 2025, 6:30pm – 8pm, virtual delivery, course code 10375
- 06 June 2025, 10am – 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code 10375

Cost: Free

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

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

Play Matters: The 8 Principles of Playwork

During the course delegates will explore what Wraparound Care is, understand the value of play, unpick and dissect the 8 Principles of Playwork and how to implement them into their setting to ensure play matters.

[For further details, please see the attached flyer.](#)

Audience: Specifically for practitioners working with primary school age children in wraparound provision. Open to both schools / settings who offer wrap around provision (before/after school or holiday clubs)

Cost: Free - the training is fully funded via the National Wraparound Programme.

Non-attendance charge: *When delegates do not attend, do not cancel in line with terms & conditions, and / or do not contact the training team on the day to explain their non-attendance, a charge of £30 + VAT per delegate will be applied.*

Dates:

Cohort 6:

- 11, 18, 25 June and 02, 09 July, 7pm – 9pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10583

Cohort 7:

- 11, 18, 25 June and 02, 09 July, 12:45pm – 2:45pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10583

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

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

Level 3 Award: Transition in Playwork

This course is beneficial for individuals looking to work in playwork settings or embrace The Playwork Principles in their current role, as it provides an understanding of playwork theories and practices. Designed to help learners develop their understanding of playwork, especially those with prior experience in early years or childcare when working in playwork settings.

[For further details, please see the attached flyer.](#)

Audience: Practitioners must be at least 19 years old and have a full Level 3 competency-based qualification in Childcare or Education and a minimum 2 years' experience working in a childcare or education setting.

Cost: Free

Dates: September 2025 – February 2026 (4 hours per week for 16 weeks),
virtual delivery, course code: 10588

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

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting: Summer 2025

This is where you will hear about important updates and there is a CPD slot. We have a number of guest speakers including a representative from pre-school CAMHS.

We are always looking for practitioners to share best practice with us too, so if you have anything you would like to share please contact your Area SENCo and we will book you a slot!

Date: 10 June 2025, 6pm – 7:30pm, virtual delivery: 10160

Cost: Free

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