

## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

And just like that, 2024/25 is over! Thank you for all your hard work this year and also good luck to those providers and practitioners who are moving on.



For those of you who are open throughout the Summer, we hope you still manage to get some time to relax and recover, ready for the Autumn Term! There will be cover within the Early Years Team throughout the holidays, so please continue to get in touch if you need any support.

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

Regards,

The Early Years Team

## Contents

<b>Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Nursery Education Funding.....	4
Early Years Community Hub.....	5
Family Fun & Support Worcestershire.....	5
Recruitment Reminder.....	5
<b>Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life Strategy .....	6
Early Years Foundation Stage.....	6
Education Inspection Framework Engagement Programme.....	6
Early Years Education Recovery Programme Evaluations .....	7
Do Something Big Campaign.....	7
Ofsted Academy: Inspector Training Videos.....	8
New Disability Guidance and Training for Early Years Providers.....	8
HEART Midlands Stronger Practice Hub .....	8
<b>Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision .....</b>	<b>9</b>
National Playday: Spaces for Play .....	9
Creating enriched play environments for Out of School settings .....	10
Wraparound Funding .....	11
<b>Early Years Bulletin: Early Help .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Reducing Parental Conflict workshops .....	11
<b>Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding.....</b>	<b>12</b>
NSPCC Podcast: Protecting babies from the effects of domestic abuse .....	12
The Solihull Approach: Free CPD .....	12
Supporting CPD: Child Criminal Exploitation .....	12
Updates on EYFS Requirements and CPD Resources.....	13
Keeping Children Safe in Education Settings .....	13
<b>Early Years Bulletin: Inclusion .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Self-Evaluation Tool for Inclusion in the Early Years .....	14
Autumn term Early Years SENCo Cluster meeting.....	14
Early Years Inclusion Funding.....	15
Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS.....	15
Supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities .....	17
DIAL South Worcestershire .....	18

<b>Early Years Bulletin: Training .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Early Years Update Meetings: 2025/2026 .....	19
Domestic Abuse Training .....	19
Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Champions Training.....	20
Play Matters: The 8 Principles of Playwork.....	20
Level 3 Award: Transition to Playwork .....	21

## Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

### Nursery Education Funding

#### Worcestershire Provider Agreement

The Worcestershire Provider Agreement 2025/26 was emailed to all current NEF providers at the beginning of July. Providers wishing to continue offering funded provision from September 2025 must complete the Provider Declaration Form 2025/26, which can be found on the [Online Provider Portal](#) under 'Forms'.

**The deadline for submission is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July.** If you no longer wish to offer funded early years provision, please email [NEF@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:NEF@worcestershire.gov.uk) to confirm.

#### Summer Term Adjustment Claims

The [Online Provider Portal](#) remains open for any Summer Term adjustments to be submitted.

**The deadline for submission is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.** It will not be possible to submit or be paid for any Summer Term related claims after this date.

#### Autumn Term Estimate Claims

The [Online Provider Portal](#) is now open for Autumn Term Estimate Claims. When calculating your Estimate Claim, please take into account the increase in Working Family entitlement, from 15 hours to 30 hours per week, for children aged 9 months to 3 years of age.

**The deadline for submission is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.** Please note that Estimate Payments will only be made to providers who have completed the Worcestershire Provider Agreement 2025/26 and are therefore registered to offer funded provision.

#### Working Family Funding from September 2025

At you receive Eligibility Codes for children due to start accessing the 30 Hour Working Family Entitlement from September 2025, please ensure that you use the Eligibility Checker on the [Online Provider Portal](#) to confirm it is a valid Code, with a Start Date of 31<sup>st</sup> August or earlier **and** an End Date of 1<sup>st</sup> September or later.

**To date, only 26% of new Codes for September have been checked.**

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> September 18:30-20:30** at the University of Worcester, St John's Campus, Henwick Grove, St John's, Worcester, WR2 6AJ.

We will be exploring '**Leading with Intent: Nurturing Values, Vision and Professional Identity in your teams.**'

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

## Family Fun & Support Worcestershire



The [What's on for families website](#) (Family Fun and Support Worcestershire) has been updated to include loads of activities over the summer in Worcestershire (with lots of free events too!)

Family Fun and Support Worcestershire is a large directory of activities, events and sessions for families with children aged 0-16 years as well as support and classes for expectant parents.

[Family-Friendly Events in Worcestershire | Activities for Kids & Teens](#)  
[Facebook - familyfunandsupportworcestershire](#)

## 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](mailto: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

### Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life Strategy

The '[Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life](#)' strategy was published last week, which brings together early years and family services, putting children's first years at the heart of work to improve life chances.

This publication sets out the first steps in a decade of renewal, with government spending close to £1.5bn over the next three years to begin the hard work needed. It builds on the commitments made in the Plan for Change and lays the foundations for further reform.

The changes include expanding and strengthening family services, making early education and childcare more accessible and affordable, and improving the quality of early education and childcare to make real change and deliver stronger outcomes for our children, our families and our society. It also sets out a vision for long term reform.

### Early Years Foundation Stage

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework has now been updated to include:

- Strengthened safeguarding requirements
- New nutrition guidance
- An update following the introduction of the Experience-Based Route
- An update to Annex B of the group and school-based provider EYFS, to reflect the inclusion of additional digital elements of the Reception Baseline Assessment

[EYFS statutory framework for childminders \(effective from 1 September 2025\)](#)

[EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers \(effective from 1 September 2025\)](#)

### Education Inspection Framework Engagement Programme

From September 2025, providers can attend live webinars that will set out the main changes to education inspections from November 2025.

The programme of webinars for early years and school settings will be recorded and available on the Ofsted YouTube channel.

For more information and to book onto a webinar, please visit: [Education inspection framework: engagement programme - GOV.UK](#)

## Early Years Education Recovery Programme Evaluations

Evaluations of the post-pandemic recovery programmes have now been published, including:

- Early Years Professional Development Programme (PDP3)
- Early Years SENCo Training Programme
- Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs

Key findings across the reports include:

- High levels of satisfaction and engagement across all programmes.
- Evidence of improved practice, confidence and knowledge among participants
- Tangible benefits for children and settings as a result of participation.

The full evaluation reports can be found here: [Early years education recovery programme: evaluations - GOV.UK](#)

## Do Something Big Campaign

The summer wave of the [Do Something Big campaign](#) is running until 14 September 2025, encouraging more people to explore a fulfilling career in early years and childcare.

New adverts include 15-second social videos that challenge common barriers to joining the sector, alongside new content specifically designed to encourage more men to consider working in early years roles. The campaign is running across TV, radio, digital, social media, billboards, and the rail network.

Please keep an eye out for the new adverts and use the [available resources](#) in your own recruitment activity.



The [campaign website](#) also directs thousands of potential applicants to [Find A Job](#) every week and providers can advertise roles on there for free, which will ensure they are seen by a large pool of candidates.

Watch these [video tutorials](#) for help creating a Find a Job account and posting your jobs (make sure you include the term '**early years**' in your job advert titles and select '**Education and childcare jobs**' as the job category).

## Ofsted Academy: Inspector Training Videos

Are you aware that you can view the training that Ofsted inspectors receive?

[Inspector training videos | GoToStage.com](#)

## New Disability Guidance and Training for Early Years Providers

The Council for Disabled Children has published [guidance and training](#) to help early years practitioners, governors and trustees understand their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to disabled children.

These free resources, commissioned by the Department for Education, support inclusive practice and aim to improve outcomes for disabled children. The training is designed to help early years providers to meet their legal duties and create environments where every child can participate and thrive.

The training includes four short modules:

- Knowing who's disabled
- Understanding your duties under the Equality Act
- Making reasonable adjustments
- Taking a whole-setting approach

## HEART Midlands Stronger Practice Hub

The Heart Midlands Early Years Stronger Practice Hub continues to provide support for providers within the Midlands, including settings based in Worcestershire.

They have a range of resources available, including free webinars and workshops, along with networking opportunities with fellow early years practitioners. For further information, please visit: [HEART – Midlands Early Years Stronger Practice Hub | Stronger Practice Hubs](#)





## Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision

### National Playday: Spaces for Play

Article provided by [Evesham Adventure Playground](#)

Having a safe space to play is important in children (and adults) lives.

If you talk with children about what they would like in their spaces, they come up with standard replies of swings and slides – probably because they don't know what sort of things could be in their spaces.

It's our role as playworkers to provide the safe space, structure and materials to let them explore what is possible- using lots of loose parts to do this is a great way of giving them the tools to do this.

This year we are exploring spaces in our playground based around the four elements;

**Earth** – digging holes, planting wild areas, sand pit, mud

**Air**- building high play structure, open spaces for kites, bouncing net

**Fire** -fire pit cooking, clay ovens, building a forge for pewter smelting

**Water** – creating a large pool, misting area, building streams and canals

We are lucky to have our space, but you could change yours for just the day - an alien planet, underground cave or a circus tent- spark their imagination and let them go.....

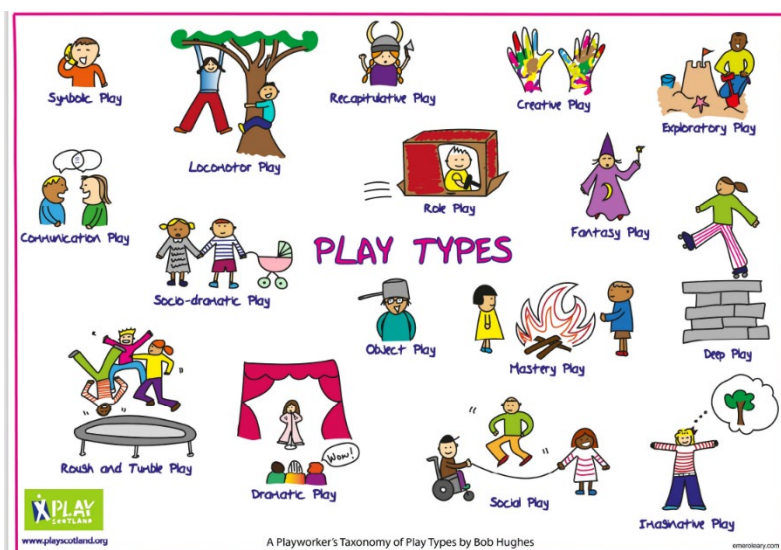


## Creating enriched play environments for Out of School settings

If you are looking to make your play spaces **inviting and exciting** for children and young people, you could also reflect on Bob Hughes' criteria for an enriched play environment, adapted from Hughes (1996b) A Playworker's Taxonomy of Play Types.

**Play provision should provide opportunities for:**

- **A varied and interesting physical environment.** Examples: Things at different levels, spaces of different sizes, places to hide, trees and bushes as well as things that have been made, places to inspire mystery and imagination.
- **Challenge in relation to the physical environment.** Examples: activities which test the limits of capabilities, rough and tumble, sports and games, chase.
- **Playing with the natural elements - earth, water, fire, air.** Examples: campfires, digging, playing snowballs, flying kites.
- **Movement - e.g. running, jumping, rolling, climbing, balancing.** Examples: beams and ropes, soft mats, bike riding, juggling equipment, ladders, space.
- **Manipulating natural and fabricated materials.** Examples: materials for art, cooking, making and mending of all kinds; building dens; making concoctions; using tools; access to bits and pieces of all kinds.
- **Stimulation of the five senses.** Examples: music making, places where shouting is fine, quiet places, different colours and shapes, dark and bright spaces, cooking on a campfire, rotting leaves, a range of food and drink, objects that are soft, prickly, flexible, large and small.
- **Experiencing change in the natural and built environment.** Examples: experiencing the seasons through access to the outdoor environment; opportunities to take part in building, demolishing, or transforming the environment.
- **Social interactions.** Examples: being able to choose whether and when to play alone or with others, to negotiate, co-operate, compete and resolve conflicts. Being able to interact with individuals and groups of different ages, abilities, interests, gender, ethnicity and culture.
- **Playing with identity.** Examples: dressing up, role play, performing, taking on different kinds of responsibility.
- **Experiencing a range of emotions.** Examples: opportunities to be powerful/powerless, scared/confident, liked/disliked, in/out of control, brave/cowardly.



Again, use Bob Hughes Play Types, to ensure you are offering children a wide range of opportunities within your out of school settings. Download the [Play Scotland Play Types Poster - Play Scotland](#) and the [Play-Scotland-Play-Types-Toolkit-bringing-more-play-into-the-school-day.pdf](#)

## Wraparound Funding

Are you a PVI provider, Childminder or School with a growing demand for wraparound? Do you need financial support to help you to grow your business, for example to help with the costs of staffing, resources or staff training to support children with SEND?

If the answer is **yes**, then I would love to hear from you, please drop an email to Sharon Jones at [wraparound@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:wraparound@worcestershire.gov.uk).

Up to £500 **per place** is available to support the costs of expanding your provision.

You can also check out our [website](#) for full details on how to apply for wraparound funding and to access the online application form.

## Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

### Reducing Parental Conflict workshops

Harmony at Home has been Worcestershire's approach to the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) initiative in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Worcestershire County Council is no longer commission the targeted delivery. Therefore, please can we encourage you to visit our [Harmony at Home website](#) which we continue to update with advice and guidance, resources, helpful links and signposting. This is for both practitioners and families to access.

We are currently updating the Harmony at Home practitioner's toolkit which is being designed specifically for practitioners to support you in direct interventions with parents and includes assessment tools, questionnaires and templates for discussion. This toolkit offers guidance between 1-5 planned sessions for parents/carers who are parenting together or apart which can be adapted based on the family's needs, or to offer some intervention as part of your existing plan. Each session is designed for parents, carers, and families to explore specific themes together, with guidance from a practitioner.

The team are running Harmony at Home workshops to help them review how to best use the toolkit in practice to help our families reduce parental conflict, to improve family life and communication for children and young people. If you are interested in joining a workshop please book your place on - [Reducing Parental Conflict \(Harmony at Home\)](#)

## Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

### NSPCC Podcast: Protecting babies from the effects of domestic abuse

Research by For Baby's Sake suggests that domestic abuse was a factor in almost 50,000 babies a year being referred to children's social care in England between 2021 and 2023.<sup>1</sup>

The NSPCC Helpline domestic abuse project lead, Paddi Vint, spoke with Lauren Seager-Smith, CEO of the [For Baby's Sake Trust](#), about this research and what we can learn from it.

The discussion covered:

- the difficulties with working out exactly how many babies are impacted by domestic abuse
- the importance of services for pregnant families and babies being able to identify concerns and provide support
- taking a trauma-informed approach and examining the root causes of abusive behaviour
- blockers to parents seeking support
- how important accurate language is to reduce shame and stigma around domestic abuse.

[Podcast: Protecting babies from the effects of domestic abuse](#)

### The Solihull Approach: Free CPD

Worcestershire has partnered with the Solihull Approach to sponsor FREE online courses developed by psychologists and professionals. Supporting a Trauma Informed workforce with these self-directed, 24/7 online eLearning courses for all professionals, in any setting.

- Understanding **trauma** introduces the complexities of trauma; recognising, processing and recovery
- Understanding **brain development** from antenatal to adolescence and its significance for mental health and emotional wellbeing in children and teenagers
- Understanding attachment supporting **healthy attachment** and the value of containment and reciprocity for the quality of attachment

[solihullapproachparenting.com/worcestershire/](https://solihullapproachparenting.com/worcestershire/)

Access code PARENTSROCK\_PRF

### Supporting CPD: Child Criminal Exploitation

The NSPCC has released a series of expert insight videos on **child criminal exploitation**, which may be valuable for ongoing staff training and professional development [Child criminal exploitation: expert insight videos | NSPCC Learning](#)

## Updates on EYFS Requirements and CPD Resources

From September, updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework include additional requirements aimed at promoting safer eating practices.

### Allergy Management

Providers must now have *ongoing discussions* with parents and/or carers—and where appropriate, health professionals—to develop **allergy action plans** for managing known allergies and intolerances. These plans must be:

- Individualised to each child
- Kept up to date by the provider
- Shared with all relevant staff

Providers are encouraged to refer to the [British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology \(BSACI\)](#). A useful **BSACI Allergy Action Plan** template is embedded within the EYFS framework document and can be adapted for individual children.

The DfE have also provided these [FAQs](#) to answer some of your questions about the safeguarding changes, which includes clarification on the frequency of safeguarding training and information for childminders.

## Keeping Children Safe in Education Settings

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 has been published, for information only, pending publication of the final version which will come into effect in September 2025.

[Keeping children safe in education 2025](#)

## Early Years Bulletin: Inclusion

### Self-Evaluation Tool for Inclusion in the Early Years

The Early Years Inclusion Team are pleased to share with you the **Self-Evaluation Tool for Inclusion in the Early Years**, now available to [download](#).

This tool has been created in response to the growing number of children being identified through the Early Years Inclusion Process (EYIP). Its aim is to help settings strengthen their **ordinarily available provision** and promote **high-quality, inclusive practice and environments** for all children.

By embedding inclusive practices into everyday routines, we can ensure that fewer children require formal identification through the EYIP—reserving additional support for only the most complex needs, addressed through a graduated response via the Inclusion Support Services.

#### What we'd like you to do:

- Use the tool to evaluate your current practice.
- Reflect on your inclusive offer and identify areas of strength and development.
- Then, get in touch with your Area SENCo or [eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk) to **arrange a visit, either virtually or in person**. This will be a great opportunity to:
  - Showcase your work
  - Share areas you're working on
  - Co-develop a plan for further support and guidance

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to inclusive early years practice.

### Autumn term Early Years SENCo Cluster meeting

#### Have you booked on yet?

This is where you'll hear about important updates and find a CPD slot.

Our next meeting is on **7th October 2025, 4:00–5:30 pm**, course code 10160

We have a number of guest speakers planned. We're also always looking for practitioners to share best practice with us. If you have something you'd like to share, please contact your Area SENCo, and we'll be happy to book you a slot!

If you are unable to attend the cluster meetings, they are recorded and can be found on our Early Years Inclusion website, under the A-Z of resources (look for 'C' for cluster), or on our YouTube channel. Please see the links below:

- [Early Years Inclusion A to Z of resources | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- [Worcestershire Children's Services YouTube Channel](#)

## Early Years Inclusion Funding

For any queries regarding Graduated Response/SEND funding please continue to email or call the Early Years Inclusion Team:

Email: [eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01905 843099

Challenge and Exceptional funding deadline: Autumn Term 2025, **22nd September 2025**.

## Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

[HW SENDIASS](#) is the Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

SENDIASS have a dedicated team of trained advisors offering information, advice and support on all matters relating to children and young people **(0-25)** who have or may have SEND. The service is **FREE, impartial, and confidential**.

If you identify children in your setting with SEND, you can signpost them and their families to SENDIASS for free information and support.

If you would like some free copies of SENDIASS leaflets and posters to display in your setting, distribute to your families, or include in your new starters packs, please contact [SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk). Digital copies are available to download from our [Google Drive](#).

SENDIASS can also provide general information, advice and support to professionals working with families of children/young people with SEND. You can contact them using the details below.

### Contact SENDIASS

Call: 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm (24hr answerphone service)

Email [sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk)

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their [SENDIASS Contact page](#) or follow them on social media: [Facebook-HWSENDIASS](#)

HW SENDIASS also have lots of useful information on their website [www.hwsendiass.co.uk](http://www.hwsendiass.co.uk)



## Free SEND Training

HW SENDIASS also provide **FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars** for parent carers and professionals. These workshops can help build knowledge and skills for families with a child or young person with SEND and any professionals that support them.

**They have released new dates for the Autumn Term.**

The workshop [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#) may be of particular interest to your families at the start of their SEND journey. It provides information about education, health, community support and finances for families of children with SEND.

Other workshops currently available for **Parent Carers**:

- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [How to check a draft Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)-HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)

Workshops currently available for **Professionals**:

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Response Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What Does a Good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)

Please direct your families to these opportunities. Flyers are attached for use in your newsletters or on social media.

If you would like SENDIASS to host a FREE session at your setting, please complete the [SENDIASS Training Request Form](#) or contact [SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk) for more information.

[SENDIASS Training delivered at your venue](#)



## Supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities

[Equality@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Equality@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### Top tips for Practice

- **Consider and offer translation, interpretation, and/or alternative formats** for people with low literacy or for whom English is an additional language.
- **Ask families how they prefer to receive information.** Consider using verbal explanations, audio or video recordings, props, and pictures to support communication.
- **Offer advocacy support** from a local Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) group or a trusted individual to attend meetings and provide additional guidance.
- **Ask respectful questions about the person's culture, values, and priorities** — do not make assumptions.
- **Always ask how families would like their ethnicity/identity recorded and described and** reassure them if they are concerned about discrimination.
- **Treat each family as an individual.** If you are unsure about something, ask the family for guidance to better understand their needs.
- **Build trust by listening, learning, engaging, and avoiding assumptions.**
- **Learn about Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller values and history** through ongoing research and education.
- **Engage in cross-boundary collaboration where appropriate** to provide continuity for nomadic families.
- **Challenge inappropriate language or assumptions from other professionals** when working with Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities.
- **Encourage and support families to register with a GP** to ensure access to healthcare.
- **Seek advice from school health teams, midwives, health visitors, adult social care, and mental health services** when additional needs are identified.
- **Respect cultural practices such as mochadi:** be mindful of what you touch in their spaces, sit only where invited, and avoid discussing topics such as childbirth, menstruation, or sexual health unless in private.

## DIAL South Worcestershire

[DIAL South Worcestershire | Disability Information Advice Line](#)



We are a registered charity set up to support disabled people and those living with long term health conditions. We aim to give the disability community greater control over their lives so they feel more empowered to make choices and maintain independence.

### What We Offer

- Information on a wide range of disability related issues.
- Welfare Benefit entitlement checks including eligibility, form filing benefit forms, challenging unfavourable decisions, appeals
- Blue badge applications
- Household Support fund vouchers
- Referrals and signposting to support groups and organisations.
- The DIAL Guide to Services is a comprehensive listing of services for disabled people in Worcestershire.

You can find it on this website using the links in [The Guide](#) panel.

### How We Can Help

DIAL offers free, confidential, and impartial information and advice on all aspects of welfare benefits. For clients who face difficulties in getting to us, we run an Outreach Service that provides benefits advice at different locations across Worcestershire.

For more details, and a current list of dates and locations to meet our outreach worker, visit our [Outreach Service](#) page.

### Opening Times

We are available for contact from Tuesday to Thursday between 9.00am and 3.00pm. Messages can be left on our answering machine outside these hours. You can call us on **01905 27790** or visit our [Contact Us](#) page to find other ways to get in touch.

## 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](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk).

### Early Years Update Meetings: 2025/2026

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)

- 15 October 2025, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10273
- 18 February 2026, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10273
- 20 May 2026, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10273

#### Out of School Providers

- 14 October 2025, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10274
- 17 February 2026, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10274
- 19 May 2026, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10274

#### Group Settings (All group based provision including school nurseries)

- 16 October 2025, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 17 October 2025, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 19 February 2026, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 20 February 2026, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 21 May 2026, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 22 May 2026, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: 10272

**Cost:** Free

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

## Domestic Abuse Training

The training supports professionals to better identify, signpost and support victims as well as considering safe ways of responding to perpetrators.

**Module 1:** Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse

**Module 2:** Working with Domestic Abuse within the context of Multi Agency Working – promoting critically reflective practice

**Module 3:** Understanding and Working with Perpetrators

**Dates:** various, please download the [training flyer](#) for more information.

**Cost:** Free

To book your place, please email: [bookings@sarahwigleyassociates.co.uk](mailto:bookings@sarahwigleyassociates.co.uk)

## Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Champions Training

**24 funded places each worth £2,500+**

I've spent years working with families, and I know you see it too - that moment when a parent struggles to connect with their baby, or when a toddler's behaviour tells you something deeper is happening. With unprecedented numbers of babies now in early years settings, you're witnessing firsthand the hidden struggles many families face.

The reality is striking: 1 in 7 babies experience disorganised attachment, rising to 1 in 3 in low-income families. In a typical baby room in Worcestershire, this means 2-3 children are likely experiencing attachment difficulties - even more in vulnerable communities. These aren't just statistics - they're the children you see every day, whose parents are doing their best while navigating challenges we might not see. Your observations and gentle conversations with parents can change everything. This Champion training gives you the confidence and skills to transform those crucial moments of concern into pathways of support. You already have the heart for this work - now let's give you the tools to make an even bigger difference.

**Only 24 funded places available.**

Apply here: <https://nurturefamilies.org.uk/resources-for-professionals/events-for-professionals/infant-mental-health-champions>

## 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 download the [Playwork 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:** Various

Book your place 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 to 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 [here](#).

**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

Book your place 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.