



Early Years NEWSLETTER

Issue 05
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SPOTLIGHT: Speech, language and communication

Inside

- Celebrations
- Focus on practice
- And more!

A newsletter
for childcare
providers
working with
children aged
0-5 in Reading



www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Hello!

Welcome to our termly Early Years and SEND Team newsletter for childcare providers in Reading. We aim to celebrate the early years workforce and raise the profile of the sector in Reading.

Our spring newsletter has a particular focus on speech, language and communication, the launch of a new hub for local practitioners and a celebration of the 'Playful Beginnings' conference.

The spotlight is on you! This is yet another fantastic opportunity to showcase the work of local early years providers who are celebrating training achievements, long service awards, committed practice and so much more.

Thank you for all the personal contributions. We hope you enjoy it!

Becky Gibson
Early Years Team Manager

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Speech, language & communication

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. It is important that all children have the opportunity to connect with adults and engage in high quality interactions and conversations.

There are lots of opportunities for all Reading early years practitioners to access training, support and resources to help the development of children's speech, language and communication:

Local training

- ❖ Speech, Language and Communication Needs Champions Network
- ❖ Quality Interactions
- ❖ Signing and Communication Friendly Environments
- ❖ Speech and Language UK: Early Talk
- ❖ Speech and Language UK: Early Talk Boost
- ❖ [Speech and Language Virtual Workshops](#)

Coming soon...

- ❖ Singing, Percussion and Movement with Berkshire Maestros
- ❖ Interactive Story Telling with Cassandra Wye
- ❖ Reading SLC Pathway Explained

[Click here](#) to see the EY training and network programme.

National Training

- ❖ [DfE Professional Development Programme \(PDP3\)](#)
- ❖ [DfE Child Development Training](#)

Support for Professionals

- ❖ Prime Area EY Advisors
- ❖ [Speech and Language Surgeries \(SALT & SEND\) bookings](#)

Support for Families

- ❖ [Baby Boost project delivered in the community](#)
- ❖ [Tiny talker sessions](#) provided by Reading Children's Centres

Resources

We have worked together with our partner agencies, community groups and Speech, Language and Communication Champions to produce tools to help local practitioners ensure a high-quality offer for children in the setting, at home and in the community:

- ❖ [0-5 Pathway for Speech, Language and Communication](#)
- ❖ [The Reading Communication Friendly Reflection](#)
- ❖ [The Reading Early Communication Action Tool](#)
- ❖ [Tips for Supporting Children Learning English as an Additional language](#)
- ❖ [BfC Early Years SEND Strategies](#)
- ❖ [SENCo Toolkit](#)

This term we are pleased to announce the launch of our [Early Years Speech and Language Hub](#), developed to centralise information and resources for the early years workforce in Reading.



Celebrations!



Early years 'Playful Beginnings' conference

On Saturday 25 February the Early Years and SEND Team welcomed local childminders, teachers and early years practitioners to the 'Playful Beginnings' conference held at The Holiday Inn. The event sold out quickly and all 80 participants arrived excited to learn, network and immerse themselves in a world of play.

We were delighted to welcome so many excellent presenters, all specialists in their areas of work with a wealth of experience shared within each workshop and keynote:

Dr Helen Bilton - The journey to outdoor education



Kym Scott – The Power of Play



Elaine Bennett – Maths Mastery



Cassandra Wye – Interactive Storytelling



Danielle Ballentine-Drake – Singing, Percussion and Movement



We were reminded of the power of play and how children can be naturally challenged every day when the conditions are right. Together we reflected on the importance of connection and how we can encourage children to be adventurous and trust in their abilities.

There was time to network and enjoy each other's company and participants said that they left the conference feeling 'inspired, revitalised, and looking to the future'.

Conference Raffle Winners

Congratulations!

❖ *Katherine Yarwood - Caversham Heights Pre-School*, who won a one-year subscription to Kym Scott's [The Place to Learn](#), plus a selection of dual language books and wooden dolls.

❖ *Louise Annetts - Blagrove Nursery School*, who won a whole team Attention Autism training session, a selection of dual language books, wooden dolls and a bucket!

❖ *Rhiannon Fumio - Greyfriars Day Nursery*, who won a session with [Berkshire Maestros](#), plus a selection of dual language books and wooden dolls.



Celebrations!

Two Year Old Practitioner of the Year Winner!

Last term we asked you to nominate your 'Two year old Practitioner of the Year' and we received lots of excellent entries which made it a tough decision for the panel. **Rozeena Farakh, from Kennet Day Nursery, was selected for the award** because of her outstanding contribution to the sector. The team at Kennet Day Nursery share why they nominated Rozy:

Rozeena Farakh



“Rozy goes above and beyond for the children and families. She is dedicated and passionate about providing high quality care and support holding the children at the heart of everything she does.

Rozy will frequently stay on when her shift has finished and ensures that she supports her team and provides regular meetings with them, to keep them up to speed and to give opportunities to discuss the children, families and their own support needs.

Rozy has been a member of the nursery team for 25 years and her attendance, flexibility and reliability are outstanding. She strives to ensure that her pedagogy is always evolving and stays abreast of changes in legislation, practice and contemporary theory. These adopted new practices are always embedded into

Rozy's provision for the children, families, and staff to deliver best practice.

Rozy networks and works collaboratively with other professionals and has impeccable communication when liaising with these groups, ensuring that her ethics and confidentiality are always upheld. Rozy makes sure she gets the support and information she needs for the children and families.

Rozy is a strong team leader with a focus that supports and drives their development, ensuring they can strengthen their knowledge, pedagogy and that their achievements, no matter how small, are acknowledged and celebrated. Rozy's passion is infectious. Rozy work with families set her apart. She contacts families that are struggling with challenges and makes sure they feel reassured and have a plan or direction. Even when she can't solve their problems, she will listen, support and guide them to an appropriate source with real genuine care.

Rozy has such a caring attitude that cannot be faltered. She is extremely sympathetic, sensitive and in touch. She is vigilant, attuned and incredibly responsive to the children. She is an amazing role model to others and uses all that she knows about the two-year-olds in her care to ensure that they develop to their full potential and developmental ability.

We sincerely have great pride in nominating Rozy for this award.”



Celebrations!



Two Year Old Practitioner of the Year Award

Nominees

Thank you to Fledglings Lodge, Monkey Moos and Pine Rivers for also highlighting the excellent work of your teams!

Fledglings Lodge nominated **Georgia Foster** because of her endless enthusiasm, positive attitude, reflective nature, and sharp focus on improving outcomes for children.



Georgia Foster



Shannon Allison

Monkey Moos nominated **Shannon Allison** whose dedication to children has been recognised by the parents, Ofsted and the team

Shannon is described as kind, compassionate, dedicated and inspirational.



Pine Rivers nominated **Ausilia Geraci**, who is an excellent role model to children, with her bubbly, cheerful manner, always singing and dancing. Ausilia has formed great relationships with parents to ensure a strong focus on children's individual needs.



Ausilia Geraci



Celebrations!

Speech, Language and Communication Champion of the Year

Next, we would like your nominations for those who truly champion speech, language and communication in your settings. The SLC Champion of the year will be recognised in this newsletter and awarded a £20 Amazon voucher.



Long Service

Crescent Under 5s Pre-school

Congratulations to Philip Giles, a playworker who has just celebrated working at Crescent Under Fives for 25 years!

Philip started his career as a parent helper in 1997 and has progressed from a parent helper, to volunteer and now playworker.

Thank you for your impressive dedication to the sector Philip!



Focus on practice

Little Badgers Pre-School

The Early Years SEND Advisory team would like to highlight the fantastic collaborative working at Little Badgers Pre-School to ensure the best outcome for a child:

“We would like to give a special mention to Little Badgers Pre-School which has worked so well with us and the Portage team. They have gone above and beyond to make as many reasonable adjustments as possible and remove all identified barriers to learning for a SEND child giving them the best chance of meeting their full learning potential with an equal emphasis on the child’s wellbeing. Well done Little Badgers, a great demonstration of your dedication to the needs of individual children.”

The Co-operative Childcare

Leanne Green, Senior Nursery Manager, would like to highlight the dedication shown by the Butterfly Team at the Co-operative Childcare:

“A big shout out to Lucy, Sarah, Anita, Sara, Leah, Shelley, Amy and Leanne from my fabulous Butterfly Team! It is a very busy room, but the children are so engaged, and the staff team are amazing at providing a fulfilling learning experience for the children. They know the children really well and are able to build such good relationships with the children and families.”

Welly Boot Lodge Childminding

Kellie Fairchild, Manager of Welly Boot Lodge Childminding would like to say a big thank you to her team:

“Welly Boot Lodge has had a very busy period of time recently. We continue to focus on our children’s well-being and how we connect with our parents.

The Christmas period saw our children perform their nativity at the United Reformed Church Tilehurst. Parents, grandparents and carers all gathered to watch their amazing little humans perform their nativity “Follow the Angels”. Children from 18 months to four years performed. The children remembered their short lines and sang amazingly. The feedback from parents was fantastic, giving us a great opportunity to praise and celebrate the children’s success - forming key relationships with families and promoting the children’s wellbeing. A big thank you to my staff and the local church for helping to support such a fantastic opportunity.

“The spring term has continued to be a great learning experience where we continue to promote the children’s well-being. This February saw us enjoy a Chinese New Year dance workshop. Don Rae Academy of Dance came to visit us and gave the children the most interactive learning experience. The expressions of joy on our children’s faces really made our hearts smile! The experience was so much fun that I have no doubt a memorable pathway for learning has been formed and the children will have really taken in the learning of China and its traditions. Again, a big thank you to my staff for their continued professionalism and enthusiasm to provide the very best learning environment for the children.”



The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

We have received several enquiries in relation to the role of the LADO and would like to remind you that you can find [local information here](#) to include in your policies and procedures and to share with teams. You can also book on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead Network where you can meet the LADO in person and hear more about the service.

Please continue to contact our team if you have any questions or require safeguarding support for your setting.

Family Information Service

Our [Family Information Service](#) would like to thank all the childcare settings who regularly update their information and vacancies. This information is vital for parent carers as they rely on this as a first point of contact in their search for childcare provision. FIS requests that you all regularly update your setting information, which can be done at any time. Regular updates help parents and carers find childcare places and this helps avoid childcare sufficiency issues arising in Reading.

Sign in to [update your information](#).

New Directions College

New Directions College offers regulated childcare courses from Level 1 to Level 3. Fully accredited with City and Guilds and offered from multiple venues across Reading. The offer is both work and classroom based and aims to develop the knowledge and skills required for an early years career.

[Find out more here](#).



Quick links

Useful links to assist your work

- ★ [Report concerns about a child](#)
- ★ [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#)
- ★ [Under 5s Services \(for professionals\)](#)
- ★ [Under 5s Services \(for parents/carers\)](#)
- ★ [Under 5s with SEND](#)
- ★ [Baby Boost](#)
- ★ [Reading Children's Centres](#)





We'll bring you our next
newsletter in the summer!



You can see all our Early Years
newsletters on the Brighter Futures
for Children website [here.](#)



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