

## Early Years & Childcare Update

12 July 2024

Dear Provider,

Welcome to the Early Years update that is delivered on a fortnightly basis so that news is timely and informative. Please share this email with staff in your settings and, as always, contact us if you have any questions.

### Essential Information

#### Secretary for State of Education

We are sure you are following the post-election news closely over the past few days. Bridget Phillipson has been appointed as Secretary of State for Education and has written to all those working in early years, children's services, schools, further and higher education. Read in full [here](#). You are also invited to join the [live event](#) taking place on Tuesday 16 July at 4pm with the new Secretary of State where she will share her vision for education, children's services and skills.

#### Early Years Conference 2024

Join us at our Early Years Conference 'Understanding the Unique Child' on Saturday 12 October 2024, featuring leading experts and keynote speakers Kerry Murphy and Dr Alec de Sausmarez. The conference will provide a valuable opportunity to network, participate in interactive workshops and connect with leading experts.

You can choose to attend **three** of five workshops:

1. Setting neurodiversity informed goals and targets - **Kerry Murphy**
2. Ordinarily available provision and the graduated response for early years - **Dr Alec de Sausmarez**
3. Why anti-racist practice is important in the early years' setting - **Liz Pemberton**
4. Understanding the sensory challenges around food - **Jenna Redmond**
5. The Ingredients of a Super Sensory Story - **Joanna Grace**

Book your place by emailing [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

Places are limited to three delegates per setting. There will be a waiting list for additional bookings.

**Reading delegate rate: £80**

**Existing Reading childminder partnership member: £60**

(Conference poster & booklet will be shared in due course)

#### Expression of Interest

The DfE childcare expansion capital grant funding has been provided to local authorities to pass through to providers to support the expansion of wraparound provision for primary school aged children and 30-hour entitlement places for children aged 9 months to 3 years. Find out more and apply for capital to support [EY expansion here](#) by **Saturday 13 July 6pm**.

Details for how to apply for wraparound expansion will be available very soon!

#### Elevate Careers Event

We will attend to promote early years and playwork careers at the Elevate event on Thursday 18 July. The event is for young people to get help in their next step into a career or education. If you are

recruiting apprentice positions and would like us to share your contact details, please email the [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) inbox by 16 July.

### Summer holidays activities

The [summer holidays activities page](#) is now live on the Family Information Service (FIS) website. The page will be updated regularly with fantastic opportunities for children and young people to take part in over the summer. Please share with your families.

### Max's nursery rhyme adventure

Danielle Ballantine-Drake is delivering a relaxed concert for Under 4's (older siblings are welcome) using the Harp and Oboe. Please share the attached poster with your families.

### St Michael's Pre-school closure

The committee and staff at St Michael's Pre-school in Tilehurst are sad to announce the closure of the setting at the end of this term. The pre-school has been a big part of the local community and has provided childcare for children in Reading since 1965.

If you are interested in any of the equipment at the setting you are invited on 18 July between 10-11.30am to have a look. Reasonable donations have been requested for big items, smaller items will be free and everything must be collected. Please contact the manager on 07594627139 for further information.

### SEND

Tuesdays are EY SEND advisor contact days when you can phone to speak with an advisor for advice and guidance about a child or SEND provision.

On the first and third Tuesday of each month (term time only) you can contact SEND Advisor, Sam on: **07970 725 152**

On the second and fourth Tuesday of each month you can contact SEND Advisor, Angela on: **0118 937 6726** or **07973 689 426**

Please note if you need a specific time for your call on a contact day, please email your SEND advisor and they can schedule a call at your preferred time.

### Safeguarding

Protect Duty May 2024 (Martyns Law Draft Bill– protecting public spaces). Consultation concluded March 2024.

Protect will be part of the government's Counter Terrorism Strategy, it aims to improve protection of the UK's publicly accessible places from terrorist attacks and ensure that businesses and organisations are prepared to deal with incidents. Apart from some sports grounds or on public transport, there are currently no requirements for organisations to take steps to prevent such incidents.

The Protect Duty legislation could change this, find out more here:

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law>.

For some, the law could mean that they are covered by much of what they do already. For others, it will mean that understanding how vulnerable their venue or event is to an attack must become part of day to day business.

The primary qualifying conditions are for premises where:

- a. Their capacity is 100 or more individuals
- b. They are wholly or mainly used for one or more specified uses including **Education and childcare**

### Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) for Education e-learning training

The training is aimed at staff working in education settings (Early Years through to the Further and Higher Education). Seven modules focus on embedding a security minded culture, identifying security vulnerabilities and suspicious activity and responding to incidents using core principles such as Run, Hide, Tell, the HOT Protocol and the power of hello. Access here [ACT for Education | ProtectUK](#)

### Setting Guidance

Read the Protective Security and Preparedness Guidance for education settings guidance [here](#) to embed your learning.

## Training

### Early years team training

The team is delivering the following sessions in July.

Please book via the [SLA](#) or by emailing [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org).

To view our full training programme please [click here](#)

| Title                                | Dates   | Delivery/Venue             | Cost  |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| SEND Contact Day                     | Phone during the day to speak with<br><b>16 July</b> - Samantha: 07970725152<br><b>23 July</b> - Angela: 0118 937 6726 or 07973 689426<br>for advice and guidance about a child or SEND provision.  |                            | <b>FREE</b>   |
| Childcare Expansion Advisory Support | Significant changes to childcare were announced by the government last year in a bid to increase the quantity and affordability of childcare to help working parents and increase employment. Childminders, providers and teachers are invited to book a slot to meet virtually with the EY & Childcare team to discuss.<br><br>Please complete the <a href="#">booking form</a> by <b>3pm Friday 12 July</b> | <b>15 July</b><br>10am-1pm | Teams<br><br><b>FREE</b>  |
| SALT Surgery                         | Book a slot with the Early Years team and a Speech & Language Therapist to discuss how children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) can be best supported within the Early Years setting.<br><a href="#">EYSALTSurgery (office365.com)</a>   | <b>18 July</b><br>1-3pm    | Teams<br><br><b>FREE</b>  |
| Childminder Network Meeting – Hybrid | All childminders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep up to date with local information</li> <li>Focus on best practice</li> </ul>  | <b>18 July</b><br>7-8pm    | Committee Room 1, Civic Offices/Teams<br><br>Please let the team know if you are<br><br><b>FREE</b> |

|  |   |                            |   |             |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|-------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network with other childminders</li> </ul>   |                            | unable to attend in person and a Teams link will be sent to you to join (you will not be shown on camera to those in attendance). |             |
| Early Years & Childcare Advisory Virtual Support Session | An opportunity to book a session with the EY & Childcare team to discuss any general questions. Please detail within the <a href="#">booking form</a> by <b>12pm Monday 15 July</b> | <b>24 July</b><br>10am-2pm | Teams   | <b>FREE</b> |

Kind regards  
**Early Years Team**

**Brighter Futures for Children**  
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