

## Early Years & Childcare Update

18 October 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

#### **BfFC Early Years and SEND Conference: Understanding the Unique Child**

We were delighted that so many of you were able to join us on Saturday for our EY and SEND conference, 'Understanding the Unique Child'. Brian Grady, BfFC Director of Education, opened the event by highlighting the importance of children's earliest years and thanked the sector for their commitment to Reading's children.

We welcomed leading experts including:

**Kerry Murphy**, Early Childhood and Neurodiversity Specialist, who focused on a strengths-based approach which both empowers and celebrates children.

**Jenna Redmond**, BfFC SEND Consultant, introduced us to the work of the RISE (Reading Inclusion in Schools) team and how their work is helping to develop a fully integrated SEND service in Reading.

**Sharon Priest**, BfFC SEND Consultant, encouraged us to think about the provision that is ordinarily available for all children in our settings and the graduated response process.

**Joanna Grace**, an author and trainer, helped us to consider all the ingredients of a super sensory story with an insight into their power to engage learners of all ages and abilities.

**Liz Pemberton**, Early Years Anti-Racist Trainer and Consultant, focused on the impact of structural and systemic racism on children and how we can take practical steps to address this in our work.

There was also an opportunity to enjoy great food and networking together. Thank you to all those who attended and for all your contributions. Also, thank you to Lorna McGifford, EY and Childcare Project Officer, for organising such a special event for the sector.

#### **DfE press release – EYFS Safeguarding**

The Department for Education (DfE) has published its response to the consultation on proposals to strengthen EYFS safeguarding requirements, which ran from 22 April to 17 June 2024.

Based on consultation responses DfE will proceed with implementing all the proposals consulted on, including:

- safer recruitment
- child absences
- safer eating
- safeguarding training
- paediatric first aid training

Additionally, there are two new proposals on providing employment references and to support whistleblowing. The DfE intends to implement the EYFS safeguarding reforms from 1 September 2025.

Read the full outcome here - [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) safeguarding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **DfE press release - School-based nurseries**

Primary schools can now apply for up to £150,000 of £15 million capital funding, with the first stage of the plan set to support up to 300 new or expanded nurseries across England.

Read the full press release here: [School-based nurseries plan kicks off with £15 million funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **All Providers Marketplace**

The EY, Childcare and SEND team would like to invite Reading providers to come together, network and gather a wealth of local information all in one place.

**Date:** Thursday 24 October 2024

**Time:** 6.30-8pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Reading

**For:** This event is suitable for all Reading childminders, early years practitioners/apprentices, leaders and teachers, out of school practitioners/apprentices, playworkers and leaders.

We are delighted to welcome the following Reading services to support this event:

- EY and Childcare advisors
- EY SEND advisors
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Children's Single Point of Access (CSPoA)
- Reading Information and Advice Service for SEND (IASS)
- Health Visiting team
- Thames Valley Stronger Practice Hub
- Family Information Service (FIS)
- Portage Service
- Reading Inclusion Support in Education (RISE)
- BHFT Speech and Language Therapy
- BFFC Virtual Schools
- Children's Centres
- New Directions
- Reading University
- Job Centre Plus
- Mike Cooper – history of nurseries in Reading
- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme
- One Reading Partnership
- Get Berkshire Active

You will be able to access the information at your own pace, talk to service providers, enjoy light refreshments and meet other local professionals working with children.

Please confirm attendees and setting name(s) by Friday 18 October in an email to [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

### Helping children learn to use the toilet

ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity, is the UK's leading charity supporting children and young people to attain good bladder and bowel health. ERIC have recently developed an e-learning course, that is designed to help staff feel more confident supporting children and their families with this.

At the end, participants receive a certificate confirming their completion of the course.

The course costs £15 per person, with discounts available for group bookings.

[Training for early years practitioners - ERIC](#)

### Thames Valley Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs

Are you signed up to receive updates from the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs?

The early years stronger practice hubs programme launched in November 2022 as part of the [early years education recovery support](#) package and is funded until late March 2025 to provide advice, share good practice and offer evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners.

The latest autumn newsletter from the hub includes details of recorded webinars and forthcoming events, including opportunities for face to face training:

### Greg Bottrill on 6 December at Reading Holiday Inn



The award winning author of "Can I Go and Play Now?"

will be putting two sessions live at the Holiday Inn, Reading on 6 December. **Exploring Co-playing from 10am-12pm** and then **Story Dough! from 1-2.30pm**

Get your places early book for one or both sessions – they will fill up fast!

Email: [admin@tveysph.org](mailto:admin@tveysph.org) to book your place

[Planning in the Moment with Anna Ephgrave - 14 November \(campaign-archive.com\)](#)

Click here to register for email updates from the [Thames Valley Early Years Stronger Practice Hub](#)

### Virtual School Trauma Informed Training

The [Virtual School Team](#) has now supported a large number of early years providers to experience trauma informed training using virtual reality. The programme is designed to enable users to understand the impact of trauma, abuse and neglect through the eyes of the child from prebirth to adolescence to improve the care, support and guidance that children and young people are provided with.

See feedback from previous sessions below:

*'Very powerful, thank you so much!*

*'Interactive and impactful'*

*'Thank you this was a very useful training which provoked a deep understanding of children's lived experiences'*

*'This was an amazing course, and it truly had a positive impact on my perspective on behaviour and trauma. The VR experience really put you into the perspective of the child and how our role as practitioners can offer a child the care and opportunities they need.'*

Book your space now via email to [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) for the next FREE session taking place on **8 November, 10am** at the Civic Offices.

### Childcare Sufficiency Parent Surveys

As part of our annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, we would like to collect the views of parents regarding childcare provision in Reading. We are running two surveys, one will cover the use of early years childcare and the other will cover the use of wraparound care for primary aged school children.

For the Early Years Childcare Sufficiency, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/e/AdjwvKV4UD>

For the Wraparound Childcare Parental Survey, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/e/KrGgAkRiRG>

We are trying to reach as many parents as possible, therefore, we would be grateful if you could please share the survey links with the parents of the children currently attending your provision.



### Half term activities

Please share the following link with your families for activities taking place in and around Reading during the October half term [Reading Directory | Activities in Reading during October Half Term 2024](#)

### Updates from the team

We are keen to know what you think of the updates you receive from us and their frequency and would be grateful if you could spend a couple of minutes completing the following form by **Wednesday 23 October**: <https://forms.office.com/e/1AsN90vxv1>

### Portage Workshop

#### A Small Steps Approach to Learning for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Do you want to improve your everyday practice to the benefit of all children, not just those with additional needs? Do you want to develop and achieve real, meaningful inclusion in settings?

The two and half day course consists of 7 modules plus an opportunity for practitioners to reflect on their learning and consider the implementation of the Portage model into daily practice.

- The Portage Model Supporting the development of play
- Helping Children Learn - Using Clear Language
- Helping Children Learn – Planning for Success
- Helping Children Learn – Planning, Recording and Sharing Children’s Goals
- Helping Children Learn - Using a Small Steps Approach
- Positive Approaches to Children’s Behaviour

By the end of the training participants will be able to:

Identify the Portage partnership model of working with parents, use good practice principles and approaches in their settings with young children in particular those children with SEND, Plan for success using clear language, Use a small steps approach in teaching children new skills through play and Identify methods of working in partnership with parents and other professionals

**When:** Thursday 7 and Friday 8 November, 9am-4pm

**Where:** Civic Offices, Reading

**Follow up day:** 6 December, 9:30-11am on Teams

**Cost:** £60pp

## Training

### Early Years team training

#### Training sessions in October

Date & Time	Title	Delivery/Venue	Cost
24 October 10-11.30am	<b>Introduction to Speech, Language and Communication</b>  We have now replaced the Speech, language and communication champions network with an annual Introduction session. This training has been developed to support practitioners in understanding the different types of need within SLC, the pathways to finding support both for	Teams	<b>FREE</b>

	practitioners and where to signpost parents. The role that both practitioner and the environment have in making a quality provision for all children.		
<b>24 October</b>  6.30-8pm	<b>Annual Provider Marketplace Event</b>  An in-person event designed for you to meet and speak to local companies relevant to your business. You will be able to gather information and make new contacts. Zones of support include training providers, the local authority advisory teams, safeguarding, SEND and others.  This is also an opportunity for you to sit down and have light refreshments whilst networking with other local private and voluntary childcare providers.	Civic Offices, Reading	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Advisory Support</b>			
<b>First Four Tuesdays of the month</b>	<b>SEND Contact Day</b>  On Tuesdays you can phone to speak with an advisor for advice and guidance about a child or SEND provision  <b>22 October</b> – Angela, 0118 9376726 or 07973689426  <b>5 November</b> – Samantha, 07970725152	Via telephone	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Third Thursday of the month</b>	<b>SALT Surgery</b>  On the third Thursday of each month you can book a 15 minute slot with a Speech and Language therapist to discuss and receive advice about a child for who you may have speech and language concerns. This can be anonymous  Please book <a href="http://office365.com">EYSALTSurgery (office365.com)</a>	Teams	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Fourth Wednesday of the month</b>	<b>Early Years &amp; Childcare Advisory Virtual Support Session</b>  Childminders, daycare, sessional and wraparound and holiday providers are invited to book a slot to meet virtually (via TEAMS) with a member of the EY advisory team to discuss a topic of their choice  <a href="#">booking form</a>	Teams	<b>FREE</b>

To view our autumn term training programme please click [here](#)  
Please book via the [SLA](#) or by emailing [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org).

Kind regards

## Early Years Team

### Brighter Futures for Children

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Web: [www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org](http://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

