

## Early Years, SEND and Childcare briefing 22 November 2024

Dear Provider,

Welcome to the Early Years, SEND and Childcare briefing delivered to you on a fortnightly basis to share with your teams and local networks.

### Safeguarding

#### Designated Safeguarding (DSL) network

It was great to get together with designated safeguarding leads and Sue Darby (LADO) last week to discuss the EYFS safeguarding reforms, early preparations and allegation examples. To secure your place on the next network (26 March 2025, 6.30-8pm) email:

[early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org).

#### Children in need plans

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a [new report](#) on child in need plans.

#### NSPCC blog

[Why Language matters: putting children first blog](#).

#### Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive publication

On Monday 18 November 2024, the DfE published 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive', the new children's social care policy statement. Read the [policy statement](#) in full and the [press notice](#) summarising the announcement.

#### Training:

- **Online consultation for children previously looked after**

Designated Teachers and supporting professionals can book a slot to discuss children previously looked after on **10 December** via Teams.

For more information and to book on please email:

[cathy.mccarthy@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:cathy.mccarthy@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

### Leadership

#### Register for a live online event with Stephen Morgan, Minister for Early Education

Join Stephen Morgan, Minister for Early Education, for a live [online event](#) for those working in the early education and childcare sector on **Wednesday 4 December 2024** at 6pm. The Minister will reflect on his work so far, priorities and will answer questions from the live chat.

#### Recruitment

The Department for Education's [Do Something BIG](#) recruitment campaign is continuing to highlight the huge difference early years educators make to young children and how rewarding working in the sector can be.

On average, **the campaign is seeing over 46,000 visits to the website each week**, which directs potential applicants to use DWP's [Find a Job](#) vacancy platform to search for early years roles in their area. Listing your early years vacancies on Find a Job - which is free to use - is a cost-effective way of ensuring they are seen by a large pool of candidates and will help connect more job seekers with the opportunities they're looking for.

If you do not yet have a Find a Job account and have current or upcoming roles in your setting, please watch these [video tutorials](#) to help you create an employer account and post your jobs.

Please make sure to include the term 'early years' in your job advert titles and select 'Education and childcare jobs' as the job category.

['Do Something BIG' campaign – advertise your vacancies on Find A Job](#)

## EYFS and Beyond

### Progress Check at Age 2

[Click here](#) for non-statutory guidance for completing the early years foundation stage (EYFS) progress check at age 2

### Intensive Interaction Practitioner Training

The Educational Psychology team are planning to hold a three day Intensive Interaction Practitioner training session and are asking for expressions of interest at this time. The training will take place on the following dates from 9.30am-3pm:

- 27 January 2025
- 24 February 2025
- 24 March 2025

The cost of the training is £350pp and delegates must have attended the one day introduction session.

Please email [Wilma.williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:Wilma.williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) to express your interest.

### Quality Interactions – Online Resource from Education Endowment Foundation

[Find out](#) more about the evidence-based strategies for supporting children's development through [high quality interactions](#).

### Stronger Practice Hubs – Webinar: Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

Debi Keyte-Harland presents a [webinar](#) which investigates learning together with everyday materials.

### Partnership with Parents

[Click here](#) for a brochure highlighting the support available for families from the local Children's Centres. [More information](#) is available on the Under 5's section of the Professional's page on the Brighter Futures for Children website.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Help for Early Years Providers – Mental Health for Early Years Children

[This article](#) was written by the Department for Education (DfE) in consultation with a team of early years experts and senior health professionals, including NHS England and the National Children's Bureau.

### Training:

- **Therapeutic Thinking – Early Years Module**  
[New](#) for 2024-25 we welcome Philippa from [Therapeutic Thinking](#) to deliver virtual training which will focus on using a therapeutic approach within an Early Years setting.

**\*\*Last few places remaining!\*\***

To register your interest please email [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

**Session date:** Friday 22 November

**Time:** 9.30am-2.30pm

**Venue:** Teams (virtual)

**Cost:** FREE! (Non-attendance will incur the full course charge - £33.00pp)

This session will focus on:

- Attachment
- Emotional vocabulary, literacy, and agency
- Feelings or emotions?
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Trauma
- The Development Matters agenda
- Analysis and planning for individual children
- Targeted support through a graduated approach

## Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency

### BFFC Wraparound Expansion Childcare Funding Applications

Round 2 applications to expand or create wraparound provision for primary aged children will close at **5pm on Friday 10 January 2025**. Please contact the Wraparound Team to discuss any intention to expand wraparound childcare for primary aged children in Reading - [wraparound.childcare@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:wraparound.childcare@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

### School-based nursery expansion

The DfE recently hosted webinars on the school-based nurseries capital grant, where they explained the application process and shared key considerations for designing a nursery.

- [Watch the recording](#)
- [Application guidance](#)

Schools and responsible bodies that are interested but not currently ready to apply or do not meet the current eligibility criteria will be able to register an interest for any potential future phases of the programme.

The [next webinar](#) will take place on Thursday 28 November 2pm. This event is for schools, LAs and responsible bodies and will offer a chance to ask further questions before the closure of the application window.

Alternatively, queries can be raised through the department's [customer help portal](#).

The application window is open until **19 December 2024**.

## Training

### Specialist Advisory Support

- [SEND Contact Days](#): 26 November, 3, 10 & 17 December
- [EP Surgery](#): 27 November, 6-8.15pm
- [SALT Surgery](#): 18 December, 1-3pm

The Autumn term training programme [can be found online](#).

## Compliments/Celebrations

### Your contributions

Is there something you are particularly proud of that has been achieved by staff or the children in your setting? Do you have a team member that is celebrating long service or achieved a new qualification that deserves a shout out? Please share these with us so that we can share your news with the sector!! Email: [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

Kind regards

**Early Years Team**

### Brighter Futures for Children

Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU

Email: [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

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

