

Early Years & Childcare Update

7 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

Updates from the team – your views

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:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1AsN90vxv1>

Childcare Sufficiency Parental Surveys

We are currently running two parental surveys to collect views on early years childcare and wraparound childcare for school aged children in Reading. The information collected will inform the annual childcare sufficiency report. The surveys can be accessed using the links below and we would be grateful if you could share these with the parents of children in your care. The surveys will close on **Sunday 3 November**.

Early Years Childcare Sufficiency: <https://forms.office.com/e/AdjwvKV4UD>

Wraparound Childcare Parental Survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/KrGqAkRiRG>

School based nurseries

The Secretary of State for Education [announced](#) that from next month state-funded primary schools will be invited to bid for capital funding to create or expand on-site nurseries. As is currently the case, these nurseries can be school-run or delivered by schools partnering with private and voluntary early years providers on school sites. Schools interested in bidding for this first funding round are encouraged to contact our team to consider local sufficiency information early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org. Guidance to support schools will be issued at the date of launch.

A Note of Gratitude

Brett Wilcock and Nicky Don would like to express a big thank you to all those who gave up their time, either attending virtually or in person the first 'Wraparound & Holiday Childcare Network Meeting'. As a team, we would also like to show our appreciation to everyone who took the time to complete the feedback form. Feedback was exceptionally helpful and positive, this will be fundamental in planning future networking events. Thank you!

Wraparound Childcare Expansion Scheme: Funding Applications Now Open!

We are pleased to announce that the application process for the Wraparound Childcare Expansion Scheme is now open! This exciting initiative aims to support the creation and expansion of high-quality wraparound childcare services across Reading Borough.

The grant is available to all childcare providers who wish to support primary school-aged children within the Reading Borough Council authority area. This includes schools, private, voluntary and independent providers, including childminders, community centres and early years settings.

Relevant documentation has been released to all primary school-aged childcare providers, but if you have not received the funding documentation and are interested in applying, please do contact us at wraparound.childcare@brighterfuturesforchildren.org or Tel: 0118 937 2418.

Any funding application that wishes to be considered in Round 1, need to be submitted by **5pm, Friday 15 November 2024**.

Childminder Partnership

We offer a Childminder Partnership to all Reading childminders that includes support with regulatory requirements and provision, along with network meetings and free and discounted training offers. If you would like to join the partnership or have any questions please email us at childminding@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Reading Jobs Fest

It was great to attend the Job Centre Plus event at Reading Town Hall last week to promote EY's and childcare careers. The event was really busy and there was significant interest in training, working and volunteering within the sector. Thank you to those who shared current vacancy details for us to signpost to.



DfE 'Do something BIG'

The DfE's '[do something big](#)' campaign is seeking inspiring and standout real-life stories from early years professionals working in nurseries, pre-schools, before and after school clubs, or as childminders. The goal is to champion the sector through DfE newsletters and social media channels. It wants to hear from staff of all ages and backgrounds, showcasing that anyone, from any walk of life, can work in the sector and bring something unique and valuable to the role. If you or your staff would like to be considered for a case study as part of this campaign, please email earlyyears.careers@education.gov.uk directly.

Early Years Conference 2024

Last chance to 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.

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

Reading delegate rate: £80

Existing Reading childminder partnership member: £60

Therapeutic Thinking – Early Years Module

We are delighted to invite EY childminders to book on to an introductory session focused on using a therapeutic approach with early years children. We welcome Philippa from [Therapeutic Thinking](#) to deliver the session focused on:

- Attachment
- Emotional vocabulary, literacy, and agency
- Feelings or emotions?
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Trauma

Date: Thursday 17 October

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Venue: Teams (virtual)

Cost: FREE!

To Book: Please email ChildMinding@brighterfuturesforchildren.org by 9 October. Places will be allocated by **11 October**.

Early Years Speech & Language Therapy Surgery

Early Years Professionals can book a 15-minute TEAMS 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.

When: Third Thursday of the month 1-3pm

How: Book here - [EYSALTSurgery \(office365.com\)](http://EYSALTSurgery.office365.com)

Mrs Armitage on wheels at Battle Library

The show MRS ARMITAGE ON WHEELS by Quentin Blake and produced by Farnham Maltings is on at Battle Library, 2pm on Friday 1 November. This is a 40-minute fun, family show suitable for ages 3+ featuring live music, puppetry and physical comedy. Find out more and book your tickets here

Book your tickets here, £5 each [Mrs Armitage on Wheels | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](#)

Training

Early years team training

Training sessions October - December:

Date & Time	Title	Delivery/Venue	Cost
12 October 9am-4pm	Early Years Conference 'Understanding the unique child'	Holiday Inn, Basingstoke Road, Reading	£80pp £60pp for CM Partnership members

17 October 6.30-8.30pm	Therapeutic Thinking –Early Years Module – Philippa Garn	Teams	FREE
24 October 10-11.30am	Introduction to Speech, Language and Communication	Teams	FREE
24 October 6.30-8pm	Annual Provider Marketplace Event	Civic Offices, Reading	FREE
6 November 1.30-2.30pm	Annual Management Committee/ Directors Network	Teams	FREE
6 November 6.30-8pm	Designated Safeguarding Leads & Officer Network	Teams	FREE
7 & 8 November 9am-4pm <u>Follow up day:</u> 6 December 9.30-11.30am	Portage Workshop (all dates must be attended)	Civic Offices, Reading	£60pp
8 November 10am-12pm	Trauma Virtual Reality Programme - <i>Virtual Schools Team</i>	Civic Offices, Reading	FREE
12 November 16 November 10 December 6.30-9pm	SchemaPlay – Settings (all dates must be attended)	Civic Offices, Reading	£30pp FREE for CM Partnership members
Advisory Support			
14 October	EP Surgery Request form	Teams	FREE
18 November 10am-1pm	Childcare Expansion Advisory Support Please complete the booking form	Teams	FREE
First Four Tuesdays of the month	SEND Contact Day	Via telephone	FREE
Third Thursday of the month	SALT Surgery Please book EYSALTSurgery (office365.com)	Teams	FREE
Fourth Wednesday of the month	Early Years & Childcare Advisory Virtual Support Session booking form	Teams	FREE

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

Kind regards
Early Years Team

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