

Early Years & Childcare Update

5 September 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

Ofsted: Big Listen response

Ofsted has published a detailed response to its 'Big Listen' consultation, setting out how the inspectorate will reset its relationship with the sectors it inspects and regulates, while continuing to raise standards for children and learners.

His Majesty's Chief Inspector, Sir Martyn Oliver outlines some of the changes here - [Building a better Ofsted: the response to the Big Listen \(youtube.com\)](#)

Read the press release - [Building a better Ofsted: the response to the Big Listen - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Ofsted: Inspection system

Ofsted will no longer provide a single overall grade of effectiveness when inspecting state schools. State schools will still receive the existing sub-judgements across different areas of school life. Early years provision in maintained schools and academies for children aged 2 and above, and maintained nursery schools are included in this change.

The government is committed to replacing single headline grades in all the remits that Ofsted inspects in time, including the entirety of the early years sector. Until this change is made, all early years settings registered on the early years register, including childminders and private, voluntary and independent providers will continue to receive a single headline grade of overall effectiveness alongside the sub judgements.

The DfE and Ofsted will work in partnership with the sector over the next year to develop alternative inspection and regulation arrangements that maintain a strong focus on quality and standards, while responding to feedback on what needs to change. New arrangements will take account of the unique characteristics of the sector but will broadly reflect the report card approach that is being taken for schools.

EY Stronger Practice Hubs

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced an extension to the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs programme until at least March 2025. The programme supports nurseries and childminders by bringing groups together across local areas to share evidence-informed practice and advice, and build lasting local networks.

Find out more about the Thames Valley Stronger Practice Hub and how to sign up here:

[Thames Valley Early Years Stronger Practice Hub | Stronger Practice Hubs](#)

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

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

Wraparound Childcare Network Meeting 24 September 2024

Join us for our Wraparound Childcare Network on Tuesday 24 September. This event is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow wraparound childcare providers, share best practices, discuss the latest developments and funding opportunities in the sector.

We will be hosting two events on 24 September:

- **12.30-2.30pm** – virtual meeting via Teams (*link to follow*)
- **6.30-8.30pm** – in-person at Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU

To secure your place at one of the network meetings, please register online using the following link:

- **12.30-2.30pm** virtually [Book Here](#) or email early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
- **6.30-8.30pm** in-person at Civic Offices, Reading [Book Here](#) or email early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

*Please book by **17 September***

For any further details and meeting agenda email

wraparound.childcare@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

New Directions College

New Directions College offers fully accredited childcare courses ranging from Level 1 to Level 3, which are designed to equip learners with the essential knowledge and skills needed to work in early years.

The courses are delivered as a blended teaching approach, combining both classroom-based learning and work-based experience. They can be pursued independently or as part of an apprenticeship standard, with flexible pathways to advance careers in early childhood education.

If you are looking to enhance your skills, advance your career or to support others to take up educational opportunities within early years & childcare, please contact New Directions:

Tel: 0345 842 0012

Email: newdirections@reading.gov.uk

Web: www.newdirectionsreading.ac.uk

DfE Recruitment: Do Something BIG

The Department for Education has now ramped up the Do Something BIG workforce recruitment campaign. The campaign promotes early years and childcare careers on a national scale across multiple channels including TV.

Video tutorials to help you create an employer account and post your jobs can be found here: [Find a job service - Employer help - YouTube](#)

Additionally, Childcare Works has developed workforce toolkits to support recruitment and retention for PVI's, schools and childminders which can be found here:

[HUB Early Years - childcareworks.org.uk](https://childcareworks.org.uk)

[HUB Wraparound Childcare - childcareworks.org.uk](https://childcareworks.org.uk)

Immunising preschool children against flu

Staff working in the early years sector can help raise awareness of the flu vaccination programme for preschool children amongst parents.

[Immunising preschool children against flu](#) provides information about the programme and how children can get vaccinated. You may want to display resources like this [poster](#) or give copies of this [leaflet](#) to parents, both of which can be downloaded or ordered for free using the links at the bottom of the page.

Reading Children Centres

Please find the autumn programme for Reading children centres attached to share with families. If [children eligible for the targeted 2-year-old funding](#) are waiting for a place in your setting, please share details of the 'Time for Twos' sessions delivered by the children's centres. The sessions have been developed to reflect a setting experience for children, parents and carers.

Equipment sale

St Michael's Pre-school is selling a slide and mats available (similar to the photo below). If you are interested, please contact the team at early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org and we will put you in touch with Theresa.



Safeguarding

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

All schools are required to have regard to the Government's statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', and other childcare providers may also find it helpful to read this guidance.

The September 2024 version of the keeping children safe in education guidance is now in force, replacing previous versions and can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2024.pdf

Domestic abuse

The charity For Baby's Sake has published new data on infants and domestic abuse in England. The charity sent out a Freedom of Information request to 39 police forces and received responses from

15. The data indicates that infants were present at around 13% of police call outs for domestic abuse incidents from 2021 to 2023. The charity highlights a need for a coordinated, multi-sector response that safeguards babies and children from domestic abuse.

Read the press release here: [New data indicates that 187,750 babies are present at police callouts for domestic abuse annually](#)

NSPCC Learning: [Protecting children from domestic abuse](#)

Training

Early years team training

September sessions:

Title/Description	Dates	Delivery/Venue	Cost
<p><u>For Children Previously Looked After</u> On-line Consultations for Designated Teachers and supporting professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about and signposting to support services available to schools and families for free Advice and Guidance around Pupil Premium Plus, Education Plans and Adoption and Special Guardianship Fund applications <p>Email Cathy McCarthy cathy.mccarthy@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) to book on to these sessions</p>	10 September	Teams	FREE
<p>Inclusive Practice in Early Years A day workshop giving practitioners the opportunity to explore what inclusive practice is in the early years. This workshop includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Autism Practice Therapeutic approach to SEMH introduction Introduction to Sensory Needs. <p>Practitioners will take away a variety of ideas to support children & develop universal provision.</p>	17 September 9.30am– 3.30pm	Council Chamber, Civic Offices	£60pp
<p><u>Children Looked After</u> Designated Teacher and ePEP Training: EYFS – Virtual Schools</p> <p>Training for Reading designated teachers covering the role of the designated teacher for Children Looked After, using ePEP, Pupil Premium Plus funding, attendance, raising attainment and aspiration.</p> <p>Please read the DfE Statutory Guidance prior to joining this training: The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p> <p>Email Matt Bevan matt.bevan@brighterfuturesforchildren.org to book</p>	20 September 10-11.30am	Teams	FREE
<p>Training for Designated Teachers and SENCOs Supporting Children Previously Looked After in collaboration with The Anchor Team.</p>	24 September 1-2.30pm	Online	FREE

<p>Online Sensory Integration and Trauma – practical tips for the classroom with Anna Mitchell specialist OT. Email Cathy McCarthy cathy.mccarthy@brighterfuturesforchildren.org to book on to these sessions.</p>			
<p>Holiday and Wraparound Childcare Providers Network Lead practitioners of out of school and holiday provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up to date with local information • Focus on best practice • Network with others 	<p>24 September 12.30-2.30pm 6.30-8.30pm</p>	<p>Online Council Chamber, Civic Offices</p>	<p>FREE</p>
<p>Designated Safeguarding Lead – BFFC Workforce Development Team The lead practitioner must attend a child protection training course that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect. Email Learning@brighterfuturesforchildren.org to book.</p>	<p><u>Refresher</u> 25 September 1-4pm</p>	<p>Council Chamber, Civic Offices</p>	<p>£33pp</p>
<p>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. Please complete the booking form</p>	<p>26 September 4-7pm</p>	<p>Teams</p>	<p>FREE</p>

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

Kind regards

Early Years and Childcare Team

Brighter Futures for Children

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Web: www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org

