

Early Years, Childcare and SEND Briefing

13 February 2025

Dear Provider,

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

Safeguarding

Education Sector Protect & Prepare webinar

The Department for Education and the National Counter Terrorism Security Office will be hosting a webinar to provide an overview and update on the proposed '[Protection of Premises Bill](#)', known as 'Martyn's Law', and its implications for the education sector. This will include going through the published resources which will be available to support the sector, and a briefing from the National Protective Security Authority on how to consider terrorism protection and preparedness. There are two dates available, the content of these will be the same, attendees do not need to attend both: [27 February 2025](#), 12-1.30pm or [20 March 2025](#), 4-5.30pm.

Safe sleep training

The attached flyer provides new dates for the Safe Sleep Bitesize Training. This Berkshire-wide multi-agency training was developed following learning from Safeguarding and Child Death Reviews. It is an introductory training providing safe sleep advice.

Leadership

Health protection in children and young people settings

Attending face-to-face education or childcare is important for children and young people's health and their future. This guidance and toolkit provides practical advice for staff on responding to a range of infections, read [here](#).

BFFC training and network offer:

- **Wraparound Childcare Network Meeting**
25 February, 12.30-2.30pm (teams) or 6.30-8.30pm (teams). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)
- **All room leaders Network Meeting**
20 March, 6.30-8pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)
- **Designated Safeguarding Leads & Officer Network Meeting**
26 March, 6.30-8pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)
- **Managers Network Meeting**
3 April, 6.30-8pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

EYFS and Beyond

Ofsted Consultation

Ofsted is consulting on a new approach to inspecting education providers and the introduction of report cards. Read the proposed plans and respond to the consultation [here](#).

Save the date: EY to Primary Transition Event

On Monday 28 April, 4.30-6.30pm the BfC EY advisory team will host an in-person EY to Primary School Transition Event which will bring Reading schools, early years settings and local professionals together. Further details to follow soon.

Thames Valley Stronger Practice Hubs

See [here](#) for latest updates, live events & recordings from the Stronger Practice Hubs, including the 'Inspired by Babies' Webinar event on **13 February** with Julie Revels.

BfC training and network offer:

- **Sensory Processing & Hand Massage Workshop FREE**
26 March, 12.30-4pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency

Recruitment & Retention

The Timewise Childcare Pioneers project 2024 explored how proactive flexible working cultures could improve staff wellbeing and retention and attract a more diverse pool of candidates. Timewise created a [guide for nursery managers](#) to support with implementing flexible working in an EY setting.

Department for Education

The [Do Something BIG](#) recruitment campaign, includes a series of careers events throughout February across the country, guidance on using the [Find a Job](#) vacancy platform, and links to the Channel 4 [Real stories - Early Years Careers](#) programmes, featuring Anna Williamson. 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.

Early Years and Wraparound toolkits

Childcare Works has developed toolkits which collate useful resources to start, grow and sustain a childcare business, check them out here -

[Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)

[Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works.](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Princess of Wales launches new framework

The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood has published a new framework aimed at improving awareness and knowledge of social and emotional skills, with the aim of creating a 'happier, healthier society'. Find out more here [The Shaping Us Framework - CFEC](#).

BfC training and network offer:

- **Therapeutic Thinking Early Years module – Philippa Garn**
6 March, 6.30-8.30pm & 7 March, 9.30am-2.30pm (teams) FREE
Philippa from [Therapeutic Thinking](#) to deliver virtual training which will focus on using a therapeutic approach within an Early Years setting.
Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

Specialist Advisory Support

- [SEND Contact Days](#): First four Tuesdays of the month
- **Early Years and Childcare Advisory Support** Childminders, daycare, sessional and wraparound and holiday providers are invited to [request time](#) with a member of the Early Years and Childcare team for advisory support between agreed partnership visits.

Local News

Activities in Reading for February Half Term

The Family Information Service has collated information on [activities in Reading](#) over the February half term. Please share the link with your parents and carers.

Time for Twos sessions

The Time for Twos sessions are running across all Reading children's centres. Please signpost any two year olds on your waiting lists to these sessions. Further details can be found on the attached leaflet.

Training

Early Years training programme

The Early Years [training programme](#) for the Spring term can be accessed via our website.

[Dingley's Promise Comic Relief Early Years Inclusion Training](#) is time limited free early years inclusion training that is funded by the Comic Relief Changemakers programme and aims to embed inclusive practice.

[DfE Early Years Child Development Training](#) is free online training that provides an overview of child development and offers practical advice for supporting children in your setting, including reception years.

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.

To view any of our previous briefings visit our [webpage](#).

Kind regards

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