

Early Years, SEND and Childcare Briefing

13 March 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

Improving vaccination uptake in Early Years settings

The Improving Immunisation Uptake (IIU) Team is thrilled to once again be commissioned by NHSE to deliver training to Early Years Settings, following the success of last year's sessions! Our team, which works directly with selected GP practices, is part of NHS SCW Child Health Information Services (CHIS) and remains committed to improving vaccination uptake in children aged 0-5 years.

This training has been developed on behalf of NHS England, the training sessions will be available three different dates and times to offer maximum flexibility for attendance. The 1-hour sessions will be virtual, and individuals only need to attend one of the free available sessions.

The training will be delivered between the last week of April and the second week in May 2025 by experienced nurses specialising in childhood immunisations. The training session is aimed at Early Years providers, including nurseries, family and children's centres, childminders, and preschools. The session will highlight the importance of routine childhood immunisations and the significant role Early Years providers play in supporting the UK's routine immunisation programs.

We recommend attendance by individuals interested in becoming immunisation champions alongside staff who regularly communicate with parents/carers, and those handling new child registrations. We would recommend that it may be beneficial for larger settings if a minimum of 2 staff members attends.

Your participation will play a crucial role in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of children and maintaining a safe environment in Early Years settings. This is a timely opportunity to support the NHS England national campaign to increase the uptake of childhood vaccinations.

Please book your session [here](#).

Domestic Abuse Forum

Reading Borough Council is holding a Domestic Abuse Forum covering Controlling and Coercive Behaviour on 27 March, 2-4pm. To book on please email csp@reading.gov.uk.

Leadership

Early education and childcare statutory guidance

Most of you will now have read the updated [Early education and childcare Statutory guidance for local authorities](#). Local authorities were invited to a session with the DfE which has produced an FAQ (attached) to respond to the main points raised in the meeting.

1. If after reading the guidance and FAQ's you would like to meet with the **EY team and other setting leaders** to discuss in a group, please book a slot by emailing early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

- Friday 14 March 10-10.45am via teams
 - Friday 14 March 1-1.45pm via teams
 - Monday 17 March 6.15-7pm via teams
2. Alternatively, if you would like to discuss your individual implementation of the early years entitlements, please book an EY advisory slot via the following link: [Early Years & Childcare Advisory Support request](#)

We request that you email questions in advance for both group and individual bookings so we can best advise, and liaise with the DfE if required.

BfC training and network offer:

- **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

The Education Endowment Fund

The Education Endowment Fund has published guidance on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). This includes, but is not limited to, having a strategy in place for those children that receive the EYPP, introducing a balanced approach, upskilling the workforce and tailoring individual support. Please follow the link below for further information.

EYPP - [Develop quality practice | EEF](#)

Transitions webinar for Early Years Children with SEND

Join Dingley's Promise for an insightful session exploring best practices, case studies, and strategies for improving transitions for children in the early years with SEND. This webinar is ideal for early years professionals, local authorities, SEND coordinators, and parents/carers who want to improve outcomes for children with SEND.

Date: 17 March

Time: 9:30 - 11:00am

- Insights from **Catherine McLeod MBE** (Dingley's Promise CEO) and **Ann Van Dyke MBE**.
- Explore current **case studies** from Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, and Norfolk offering opportunities to discuss best practice.
- Engage in interactive **discussions** – share your experiences and ideas with other early years professionals and learn from each other. Register Now [Click here to register](#)

New! Training for Reading providers working with primary aged children in out of school settings

We are delighted to have joined up with [Families First](#) to offer Reading wraparound and holiday childcare providers access to free online training which supports inclusion. Simply scan the QR code, register for an account, and enter the code 534789 where requested.



Please contact wraparound.childcare@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
If you have any questions.

BfC training and network offer:

- **Sensory Processing & Hand Massage Workshop**
26 March, 12.30-4pm (Civic Offices)
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

Invitation to Reading Job Fest

Reading Jobcentre Plus, in collaboration with Reading's Economic Development Agency (REDA) and Reading Town, is excited to invite you to Reading's biggest and best job event in Berkshire. Join us on **Thursday, 8 May 2025, from 10am-1pm** at Reading Town Hall. [Click here](#) for directions.

Whether you are looking for new employees, apprentices or promoting your services to the community, this event is perfect for you. Your company will join about 40 other local businesses and training providers at the town's busiest job event. This Job Fest is fully funded by REDA and is therefore **FREE** for both exhibitors and visitors.

Benefits for your company:

- Gain unique access to job seekers of all ages and abilities (previous events attracted over 1,000 local people looking for great job opportunities).
- Utilize a learning and training hub to support job seekers.
- Network with other local employers (our Job Fest attracts a wide variety of businesses from all sectors).

Please complete the [Booking Form](#) to book your place **by Friday, 2 April 2025**.

Children's Centres

[Reading Children's Centres](#) welcome all families and provide a wide range of services to give children the best start in life. Please share the link to the website with your families for further information and timetables.

Things to do in Reading

The Family Information Service has a section on their website of [things to do in Reading](#) including parent and toddler groups, activities in Reading Libraries and community activities.

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.

Stronger Practice Hubs

Have you signed up to the [Thames Valley Early Years Stronger Practice Hub](#) yet? As a hub member you can receive updates about training opportunities, networking events and practitioner support.

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.