

Early Years, SEND and Childcare Briefing 27 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

Safer Sleep Week 2025

A campaign from The Lullaby Trust, takes place 10 to 16 March. See the [website](#) for more details and resources to share with families.

Food allergy

Resources are available to aid the fulfilling of statutory duties around managing allergy risks in early years settings. The Natasha Allergy Research Foundation has launched [Allergy School](#), offering free resources to support staff in creating inclusive and safe environments for children with food allergies.

Oral Health

The EYFS framework states that early years providers must promote good oral health of children who attend their setting. A [study](#) conducted in 2022 identified that 32% of 5-year-olds in Reading have one or more untreated dentally decayed teeth (higher than the national average of 29%), and 2.5% of 5-year-olds in Reading have had one or more teeth extracted due to dental decay. See the DfE [guidance](#) for ideas to support the families you work with, and information on the [BrightBites Oral Education Program](#), which is a free of charge, volunteer run service providing in-setting sessions for children to promote the importance of looking after teeth.

Leadership

Ofsted

- [When do you need to notify Ofsted? – Ofsted: early years](#)

Department for Education

The DfE has published recent updates including:

- [Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance - effective from 1 April](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#)
- [Early years qualification requirements and standards](#)

BFFC training and network offer:

- **All room leaders Network Meeting**
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

Transition planning – spring term

Transition to school should form part of an 'all year-round approach'. Have you checked with all eligible families that they have applied for a school space, including those who may be considering deferring or offsetting their space? See the [Transition Hub](#) for advice on supporting children and families to prepare for transition to school.

Parenting Special Children Support Group

The next group meeting will take place on Friday 7 March, 9.15-11.15am. Please share the attached flyer with your parent/carers.

National Literacy Trust

[Free translated resources](#) are available for parents/carers of multilingual families, and families whose first language is not English. The resources form part of the [Start for Life campaign](#) and are available to read and listen to in **19 languages**. They're great to help all families support their children's early language development at home.

BFFC training and network offer:

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

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Anna Freud Centre

The Anna Freud Centre has published a resource for early years practitioners on the impact of [Birth Trauma in the Early Years](#).

BFFC training and network offer:

- **Therapeutic Thinking Early Years module – Phillipa Garn**
6 March, 6.30-8.30pm & 7 March, 9.30am-2.30pm (teams) FREE
Phillipa 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

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. The DfE

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.