

## Early Years, SEND and Childcare Briefing

12 May 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

#### Wraparound care

NSPCC Learning has published a blog post [Providing safe wraparound care for children](#) looking at the provision for primary-school aged children. The blog explores the safeguarding responsibilities of wraparound care providers across the UK who provide regular childcare before and after school. It also discusses schools' safeguarding responsibilities in England when wraparound care is not directly managed by the school.

#### Professional Curiosity

Professional curiosity is a recurring theme within safeguarding reviews, highlighting the need to fully understand a family's situation. It is a combination of looking, listening, asking direct questions, checking out and reflecting on ALL of the information received. Professional curiosity is a practice mindset and communication skill that involves exploring and understanding what is happening by asking questions and maintaining an open mind. It is about understanding one's own responsibility in managing risk and safety and knowing when to act, rather than making assumptions and taking things at face value. When working with children who are pre-verbal, or children, who may be non-verbal it is particularly important to have a heightened awareness and curiosity about all forms of non-verbal communication, including behaviours, reactions, expressions and play. A recently developed course, **BWSCP Professional Curiosity Workshop**, is being offered for 10 June 2025. It is a 2.5-hour interactive online session designed to enhance your professional skills and nurture a curious mindset in your day-to-day practice. [Click here to register via Eventbrite](#)

#### UPDATED:

Protective security and preparedness for education settings (DfE), the guidance includes editable templates, real-life examples, and interactive resources. It is suitable for early years settings, schools, colleges, alternative provision, and out-of-school settings.

Click [here](#) to read the guidance and download the audit documents.

#### Private Fostering

All professionals have a responsibility to make sure all privately fostered children are well cared for, safe, and that their carers are supported. If you are aware of a Private Fostering arrangement or know of one that is due to start, please alert our service:

- via email: [familyandfriends.referral@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:familyandfriends.referral@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)
- or telephone: 0118 937 4451
- Please see the attached leaflets

#### BFfC training and network offer:

- **Universal Safeguarding Children - BFfC Workforce Development Team – FULLY BOOKED**  
13 May, 9.30am-12.30pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

### Leadership

#### SEND Local Offer

It that time of the year for all childcare settings to update/review and submit their SEND Local Offer Information Reports online. Parent, carers and professionals proactively use this information when

looking for a childcare setting, and up to date information is really helpful. Schools and neighbouring LA childcare settings also use the same online update option which provides seamless navigation option to users. Childcare settings had an 87% return last year, which was excellent. Staff that updated their childcare setting information last year will be assigned to update, if there has been staff changes and a new staff member needs to be assigned to update, then please let FIS know by emailing [localoffer@reading.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@reading.gov.uk). It is a requirement as part of the early years provider agreement for settings to update/review their SEND Local Offer information.

To access your school SEND Local Offer Information Report online form, follow the instructions below. Please can all submissions for 2025-2026 be completed by **Friday 11 July 2025**.

#### To sign in to your school account:

- Use the following link to sign in on our website [https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/sign\\_in.page](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/sign_in.page) *(this will be the person who updated the information last year) if this has changed you will have to let us know.*
- A Dashboard screen click on **Local Offer** box
- To the right of your record you will see an **update** box click on this
- When you have completed your update then submit, tick the *confirm that this information is correct and up to date* if it appears.

If you have any difficulties registering or updating your information please contact the Family Information Service Tel: 0118 9373777 opt 2 (Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm) or email us at [localoffer@reading.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@reading.gov.uk)

#### Reading Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Local authorities across England have a duty of sufficiency to make sure there are enough childcare places including early years and wraparound to meet demand for families in their area. The responsibility for market management and annual sufficiency reporting for Reading is delegated by the local authority to Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC). Read the latest assessment here - [Reading-Childcare-Sufficiency-Assessment-24-25-V1.pdf](#)

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

#### BFfC training and network offer:

- **Trauma Virtual Reality Programme (Childminders) -Virtual School - FULLY BOOKED**  
13 May, 6.30-8.30pm (Civic Offices). Book via [email](#)

## EYFS and Beyond

#### EY to Primary: Parent Information

We have just launched a new webpage and weekly socials to help parents and carers prepare their child for reception this year. Tips include practising skills together, establishing healthy routines and accessing local services, information, and support. The content builds on the 'starting reception' [definition](#) recently developed by a coalition of early years organisations.

Please help to share the new BFfC webpage and socials with families - [Journey to Reception - BFfC](#)

Facebook: [@BFfCChild](#)

LinkedIn: [@brighter-futures-for-children](#)

X: [@BFfC\\_Child](#)

### Book Reuse Initiative

The re3read Book Reuse Scheme is a new initiative designed to promote the reuse of second-hand books within the local community by providing free access to books to all while fostering literacy and supporting education.

By making books available at re3 Recycling Centres, the scheme not only encourages a second life for these books through their reuse, but it reduces our environmental impact. This initiative also addresses community needs by improving access to books, bridging literacy gaps, and fostering a more inclusive and supportive society.

This scheme is suitable to individuals visiting the re3 Recycling Centres, as well as organisations such as schools, nurseries, and care homes.

To participate in this scheme please go to the community section at

<https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk/re3read/>

This scheme is available for nurseries, preschools, childminders, wrap around and holiday providers and can be shared with parents.

### BFFC training and network offer:

- **Monthly Group Discussions – Transitions**  
13 May 2025, 12.30-1.30pm (Teams). Book via completion of this [form](#)
- **Outside Learning Workshops (for Wraparound providers)**  
14 May, 11am-1pm (Play Ranger Station). Book via [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.

## Training

### Under 5s Training Offer 2025-2026

The new CPD training offer from the Early Years, SEND and Childcare team for 2025/2026 is now available on 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](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org).

We would be particularly interested in hearing from Childminders to enable us to help celebrate your work during [National Childminding Week](#), 12-18 May 2025 #UnsungChildcareHeroes

Kind regards

**Early Years Team**

### Brighter Futures for Children

Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU

Email: [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

Web: [www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org](http://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

