

Early Years, SEND and Childcare Briefing

25 April 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

DBS

There has been a change to - [Get a DBS check if you live or work in a childcare setting](#)

It has been amended to include guidance on the new childcare provider type “childminder without domestic premises”. They have also clarified the type of DBS checks needed and included links to Ofsted’s DBS guidance.

Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance

This [guidance](#) is for early years providers in England who are caring for early years children aged 0 to 5 years. It supports providers in meeting the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework requirement ‘Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious’. From September 2025, the EYFS statutory framework will include a safeguarding and welfare requirement that asks providers to follow this nutrition guidance unless there is good reason not to.

BFFC training and network offer:

- **Universal Safeguarding Children**
8 May, 6.30-9.30pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

Leadership

Recruitment

Members of the early years advisory team will be taking part in ‘Reading Job Fest’ this year. This will be a fantastic opportunity to connect with local jobseekers and showcase early years and childcare as a career. It takes place on Thursday 8 May 2025, 10am to 1pm at Reading Town Hall. If you are currently recruiting, please let the team know so that your advert and details can be shared at the event – contact early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org before Tuesday 6 May, detailing the information you want to have shared and the main contact details.

Support Workshop 1: Early Years – Information for Parents

- Date: Thursday 1 May
- Time: 1-2pm
- Via Microsoft Teams

This is the first of four support workshops designed to help you respond to the clarification and changes to [Early education and childcare \(effective from 1 April 2025\) - GOV.UK](#).

In this session we will discuss and review the information you share with families to set out your approach to offering government funded places.

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. 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 *(this will 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.

Childcare Works: Marketing and Promotional Resources

Marketing and promotion are important tasks for all providers, especially as the expansion of early education and wraparound childcare continues. View the summary document provided by Childcare Works for providers and schools [here](#).

Childcare Works: Early Years Toolkit

Join one of these Childcare Works live sessions and find out more about the new **Early Years Toolkit**: [Tuesday 6 May 2025, 7-8pm](#) or [Wednesday 11 June 2025, 12-1pm](#)

These informal sessions are for:

- early years setting managers, leaders and owners
- school leaders who have, or are considering developing their early years provision
- childminders
- everyone who wants to learn more about how to start, grow and sustain an early years setting

Find out more at childcareworks.org.uk/webinars

Childcare Works: Free access to evidenced early maths programme

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is offering free access to [Maths Champions](#), a professional development programme that has demonstrated positive impact on children's mathematical attainment.

Delivered by the [National Day Nurseries Association](#), Maths Champions builds the knowledge of nursery practitioners to support children's early mathematical development. A senior member of staff will receive one-to-one support to drive improvement in maths practice across their setting, in addition to bespoke online training and resources.

[Sign-up now](#) to take advantage of this fully funded evidence-backed offer.

Supporting Early Education and Care Webinar

Join a free webinar on 8 May, sponsored by YPO, to hear from expert panellists offering practical advice and guidance for practitioners and nursery leaders preparing to increase the number of babies in their setting. Learn how to adapt your provision and provide the best possible care and education to the youngest children. [Find out more and secure your place today.](#)

BFFC training and network offer:

- **SENCO Network Meeting**
6 May, 3-4pm (Teams). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

EYFS and Beyond

EY to Primary Transition: Parent Communication

You may have seen the '[starting reception definition](#)' produced by a coalition of EY organisations to help parents prepare their children for school and understand the support available. We will be referring to the definition within a social media campaign aimed at Reading parents from next week. Parents will be encouraged to practice new skills with their child to help them move into reception with confidence. The messages will highlight that every child is unique, skills take time to learn, the importance of relationships and support available locally. The content will be shared on BFFC, RBC, FIS and children's centre socials - we encourage you to share with your families too!

Experts and Mentors Programme

Many local early years childminders, settings and nursery classes participated in the DfE's Experts and Mentors Programme. There were over 4,900 national registrations for the programme, aimed to support early years settings and childminders to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19 and provide high-quality provision for all children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It provided personalised coaching for leaders, guidance on best practices and teaching strategies and to implement the EYFS framework.

The evaluation report has now been published and can be read in full here - [Early years experts and mentors programme evaluation - GOV.UK](#)

Teddy Bear Storytime

Children aged 18 months to five-years-old are invited to dive into the world of a curiously hungry caterpillar, and the mischief of a forgetful mog! From The Gruffalo's lair to the whimsy of Where's Spot? every session is a journey through the realms of imagination. [Join Teddy for a session of music, dance and sensory play](#) every Saturday at 9.30am or 10.30am, through to 27 December 2025.

BFFC training and network offer:

- **Outside Learning Workshops (for Wraparound providers)**
14 May, 11am-1pm, 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

[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.

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

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