

## Early Years, SEND and Childcare Briefing

27 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

#### Qualification checker

A new early years qualification checking service for nursery managers has been launched by the DfE to replace the existing qualifications spreadsheet. The aim of the [service](#) is to make it easier for managers and owners to check whether an employee or prospective employee's UK qualifications are 'full and relevant' and whether they can count in ratios at Level 2, 3 or 6.

### Leadership

#### Early Education and Childcare

The reviewed statutory guidance is effective from 1 April 2025 and can be read in full [here](#).

Thank you to those who have taken part in group discussions and advisory meetings, we appreciate your time out and contribution. If you would like another opportunity to link up with similar settings to discuss your model of delivery, please email the [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) inbox by **4 April**.

#### Easier access to our website for your staff

We have put together a poster for all practitioners in EY and wraparound settings to enable easy access to various areas of our website such as:

- Speech, language and communication hub
- Transition to nursery and school
- Under 5s with SEND
- Careers in childcare
- Training
- Our fortnightly briefings

Please share the poster with your teams by displaying in staff areas. If you don't have access to a printer and require a hard copy of the poster, please email [vicki.allen@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:vicki.allen@brighterfuturesforchildren.org).

#### BFFC training and network offer:

##### Managers Network Meeting

3 April, 6.30-8pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

### EYFS and Beyond

#### EY to Primary Transition Event

On **Monday 28 April, 5.30-7.30pm** the BFFC EY advisory team will host an in-person EY to primary school transition event at the Civic Offices that will bring Reading schools, early years settings and local professionals together.

Please email [early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) to secure your place.

### **New! Inclusion 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](mailto:wraparound.childcare@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) if you have any questions.

### **Childcare Works Wraparound Provider Toolkits**

We are delighted to let you know that the Childcare Works [Wraparound](#) and [Early Years](#) Provider Toolkits are available.

The toolkits are designed to be used by all providers of childcare, including PVI, childminders, school and Local Authority run provision. One toolkit is for Wraparound providers and one for Early Years providers. The purpose of the toolkits is to help childcare providers find the support they need for all aspects of starting, growing, and sustaining childcare settings and businesses.

### **Supporting children learning to use the toilet**

[Free Toilet Training Posters and Handouts for Early Years Settings and Parents - Foundation Years](#)

### **Healthy Body, Happy me**

NDNA's annual Healthy Body, Happy Me campaign encourages better health and happiness, by giving nurseries free resources for play, learning and fun, to aid children's development for all ages. [Healthy Body, Happy Me 2025 - NDNA](#)

### **Inclusion getting it right for everyone**

Sir Martyn Oliver, Ofsted's Chief Inspector, spoke at the 2025 National SEND and Inclusion Conference in Nottingham

[Martyn Oliver at the SEND and Inclusion Conference: getting it right for everyone - GOV.UK](#)

### **Early Years Inclusion Funding dates 2025-2026**

The closing dates for Inclusion Funding applications and the meetings and outcomes for the coming year are as follows:

Deadline for applications	Meetings and outcomes
16 April 2025	30 April 2025
4 June 2025	18 June 2025
17 September 2025	1 October 2025
12 November 2025	26 November 2025
14 January 2026	28 January 2026
25 February 2026	11 March 2026

Further information on the Inclusion Funding and to find a copy of the application form can be found on the Family Information Services [webpage](#).

## 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

### Easter activities and the spring SEND Local Offer Newsletter

The Family Information Service website now has a [page dedicated to the upcoming Easter activities](#) for children and young people. This page will be updated regularly with holiday clubs and things to do over the Easter break until 17 April, but more can be found on the [general holiday activities page](#), and there is another page for [information on childcare for parent carers](#). If you haven't seen it already, the [spring edition of the SEND Local Offer newsletter](#) is also now live.

### 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**.

### Berkshire Early Years Music Network

This term's BEYMN meeting is on **Thursday 3 April**.

#### NETWORK MEETING FOCUS: SPRING AND SUMMER SONG SHARE

The meeting is 4-5pm at Berkshire Music Trust Reading Music Centre, Reading, RG30 4EZ.

If you would like to attend, here is the link to book a free place:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/berksmusictrust/beymn-meeting/e-belggy>

### 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

### Summer Term Training and Networks

The following sessions are being held soon after the Easter break:

- **EY to Primary Transition Event**  
28 April, 5.30-7.30pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)
- **SENCO Network Meeting**  
6 May, 3-4pm (Teams). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)
- **Universal Safeguarding Children**  
7 May, 6.30-9.30pm (Civic Offices). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)
- **Outside Learning Workshops (for Wraparound providers)**  
14 May, 11am-1pm (Play Ranger Station). Book via the [SLA](#) or [email](#)

[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

### Exciting news from Honeybee Nursery

The team at Honeybee Nursery have recently published a children's book, titled '**Adam and The Potato Adventure**'. Please see below for a summary of the book, with more information and an activity pack attached. We have a copy of the book within the team if you'd be interested in having a preview, please let us know. Thank you to Honeybee Nursery for sharing this exciting news. We wish you continued success with the publication, and your focus on [sustainability](#).

#### **Adam and The Potato Adventure: A Child-Led Journey into Food and Farming**

*In a world where fast food and convenience meals are the norm, how often do young children stop to wonder where their food comes from? Encouraging this curiosity not only fosters a love for learning but also strengthens their relationship with the food they eat. That's exactly what our new child-led, educational storybook aims to do. Adam and The Potato Adventure, sparks children's natural curiosity and takes them on an adventure to discover how food grows.*

*Designed with early years development in mind, Adam and The Potato Adventure aligns with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** framework, covering all key areas of learning, from language development to understanding the world. It introduces young readers to concepts of farming, nature, and food origins in a way that feels like an adventure rather than a lesson. By placing the child's curiosity at the heart of the story, it encourages questions, exploration, and deeper engagement.*

### 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).

Kind regards  
**Early Years Team**

**Brighter Futures for Children**

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