

Early Years, SEND and Childcare Briefing

26 June 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

Information sharing

In the context of safeguarding, information sharing involves the appropriate and secure exchange of personal information to protect individuals, particularly children, from harm. This sharing should be limited to what is necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely, and secure.

Information can be shared without consent in situations where there is a risk of serious harm, a serious crime is involved, or when legally required.

DfE information and advice for practitioners can be found [here](#).

A ten step guide written by the ICO can be found [here](#).

BFFC training and network offer:

- **DASH and MARAC Training – Level 2**

14 July, 1.30-4.30pm (Civic Offices)

To book a space complete the RBC booking form [Book training](#)

Leadership

Ofsted Press Release: Inspection

Ofsted confirms September publication for consultation response ahead of new look inspections from November. Read the press release [here](#).

Reading Job Fest

Reading Jobcentre Plus, in partnership with Reading's Economic Development Agency (REDA) and Reading Town Hall, is delighted to invite you to **Reading's biggest and most dynamic job event**, taking place on **Thursday, 11 September 2025 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Reading Town Hall**. Whether you're recruiting new talent, offering apprenticeships, or promoting your services, this event is an excellent opportunity to connect with the local community.

Why Exhibit at Job Fest?

- Connect with **over 1,000 local job seekers** of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels.
- Thanks to full funding from REDA, **there's no cost** to exhibit—making it a risk-free opportunity to promote your business and opportunities.
- Showcase your company, vacancies, apprenticeships, or training programmes to the community.
- Meet and collaborate with **over 40 other local employers and training providers** (an opportunity to build partnership and share best practices).

To secure your place, please complete the [Booking Form](#) **by Friday, 1 August 2025**. You will receive confirmation of a place directly from JCP.

Childminders: Thames Valley Stronger Practice Hub

Funded by the DfE, [Thames Valley and South Central Early Years Stronger Practice Hub](#) offer free training events, blogs, webinars, certificates for CPD, free resources, prize draws, for all childminders to access, to compliment training offered by the local authority. Also phone, or videocall support available to all childminders, evenings and weekends, times to suit you, to talk about any aspect of child development/your practice. Plus, a WhatsApp group, with over 100 members especially for childminders, with up to date legislation, information, resources and details of events and webinars. Great for meeting other childminders from different areas, sharing ideas and networking. To find out more email admin@tveysph.org

Early Years Senior Leadership Network

This network will combine the existing Managers, Committee and EYFS leads networks as a trial ahead of the new academic year. We invite EY managers, committee members, childminders with assistants and EYFS leads in school based provision to join us. The session will focus on **Transition** and will include local and national updates.

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

ROUND 3 - Early Years (30 hour) Expansion Capital Funding

After two separate rounds for EY capital funding applications, and three separate rounds for Wraparound capital funding applications, we are left with £79,000 of uncommitted capital funding.

To ensure the remaining funding is passed through, there will be one final round of applications for EY providers to apply for capital funding.

Therefore, any private, voluntary and independent providers delivering funded early years places, including maintained nursery schools and classes, that would like to expand their 30-hour childcare offer are asked to complete a formal funding application **by 6pm, Thursday 10 July 2025**.

In line with the [Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Allocations Guidance](#), capital funding “*must be spent on capital projects, and is being provided to meet the capital costs associated with projects that help ensure sufficient places for: • Children taking up an early years place through the expanded 30-hours entitlement for qualifying working parents (from the term following the child reaching 9-months to the term in which they turn 3-years-old)*”

If you have any questions, please contact Lorna McGifford
lorna.mcgifford@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Thinking about Babies CPD project

We had the privilege of Dr. Caroline Guard joining us at our Manager Network in July 2024, to present her research work with the Froebel Trust titled ‘Thinking about Babies’. As part of our wider focus on ‘Transitions’ and ‘Mental Health & Emotional Well-being’, we are now looking to develop a small focus group of Early Years settings and Childminder’s who care for children under 2, to join us in a collaborative project to embed the work of Dr. Caroline Guard with a focus on relationships, transitions, & responsive caregiving. We have initially invited those settings who attended the network and/or have expressed their interest in contributing to the group. Please send an email to early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org if you weren’t in the session but would like to express your interest in joining.

BFFC training and network offer:

- **Workshops on the Statutory Guidance**

Admissions & Invoices: 14 July, 2-3pm & 17 July 6.30-7.30pm (Teams)

Information for families: 9 July, 1-2pm & 6.30-7.30pm (Teams)

To book a space complete the [booking form](#) and share your questions with the team ahead of the session.

- **Designated Safeguarding Leads & Officer Network - Postponed**

Mental Health and Wellbeing

BFFC training and network offer:

- **Therapeutic Thinking – Wraparound Provider Module**

1 July, 9.30am-2.30pm (Teams), Book via [email](#) or the [SLA](#)

EYFS and Beyond

ERIC: Training for Practitioners

If you are working with children at an early years setting and want to learn more about potty training, [ERIC](#) (The children's bowel and bladder charity) offer a course that will help you and your staff to feel more confident helping children and their families with this important development milestone. Find out more here: [Training for early years practitioners - ERIC](#)

A Fiesta of Stories – A Feast of Storytelling for Early Years

Cassandra Wye, Inclusive Storyteller is offering you the chance to participate in a day of free online storytelling, funded by Bristol City Council. Please see attached flyer for further information.

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
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 please visit the Family Information Services [webpage](#).

Early Years Specialist Provision & Dingley's Promise Admissions Panel

Dingley's Promise are now going to be sitting alongside the Social Communication Bases for admissions. The paperwork has been updated to include Dingley's Promise on the expression of interest form.

Please Note: The moderate needs social communication bases will no longer be taking children from September 2025.

BFFC training and network offer:

- **Monthly Group Discussions – Ofsted Toolkits**
16 July, 10.30-11.30am (Teams)
To book a space complete the [booking form](#) and share your questions with the team ahead of the session.
- **Attention Autism Course Planning**
If you are interested in the Attention Autism 2 day course; please could you complete this survey to help us inform our planning for rebooking the course. We require a minimum of 16 people to attend this course & therefore we will be rebooking with the majority;
<https://forms.office.com/e/jP1Nx9B41h>

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.
- **Early Years SEND Advisor**: A reminder of your legal obligations to not discriminate if a child has special education needs; please do not refuse a place for a child due to their special education needs; & contact the EY SEND team if you require support for admitting a child into your provision.

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

Booking on to sessions

If you or a team member would like to attend one of the early years training sessions please ensure you book on via the SLA or by email to secure your place. You will receive a confirmation email 4 working days prior to the session taking place with further details. If you think you have booked on and haven't received this email please contact the team.

Under 5's 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.

Virtual Reality Trauma Awareness

Join Reading Virtual School in the Summer term for an immersive training experience using videos and reflection to understand how adversity and trauma can impact a child's development, presentation and ability to engage in learning. Explore how professional curiosity and building good relationships can support children to heal from trauma and achieve stronger outcomes. For more information and to book a session for your setting please email cathy.mccarthy@brighterfuturesforchildren.org.

Compliments/Celebrations

Level 1 Inclusion Award

Congratulations to Kennet Day Nursery and Micklands Pre-School who have achieved their Level 1 Inclusion Award!!

Click [here](#) for further information on the Early years inclusion award and how to take part.

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.

Previous updates can be found on our [website](#).