



Early Years Team

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Summer Term!

The launch of the first phase of the Childcare Expansion programme has now taken place and take-up within Worcestershire is looking really positive. This will hopefully put us in a good position for phase two in September.

There are lots of diary dates in the Training News section of this bullet: Early Years Update Meetings, Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting, Early Years DSL Forum and NEF Briefings, all available to book via WCF:CPD. The Early Years Community Hub date is also fast approaching, which is a fantastic opportunity to network, access peer support and to share good practice. Bookings for the Community Hub should be sent directly to the Early Years Team using the contact details below.

As ever, we'd love to include articles in the bulletin that come directly from the Worcestershire sector; if you have anything you'd like to share, please send it to the team for inclusion in future editions.

If you need any advice or support, please email the team on [EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) or submit a request via our [request for Early Years Support online form](#).

Best regards,

The Early Years Team

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Just a reminder that the Online Provider Portal closes on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April for your Summer Term Actual Claim for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year-old children.

Please ensure that you have valid Eligibility Codes with a Start Date on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and an End Date on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 for all 2, 3 and 4 year-old children accessing funding under the Working Families criteria. You will not be able to claim funding for a child if their Eligibility Code is not valid.

Reminder: The maximum funding claim for a two-year-

Have you accessed any of the [Childcare Choices](#) provider resources, published via their [Communication Toolkit?](#) They have a range of resources, including posters, leaflets and social media assets, all of which are free to use.

Come and join our growing network of early years leaders, childminders, and practitioners at our next Early Years Community Hub meeting, taking place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 6:30 -8:30pm at the University of Worcester, St Johns Campus.

This is a fantastic opportunity for settings to come to together, share good practice, learn from each other, and talk about the issues that matter to you.

Our agenda for the evening will include:-

- Positive behaviour in early years, with a focus on emotional coaching and its benefits to children and their behaviour- a discussion lead by colleagues at Little Hands Daycare.
- A brief introduction to the Education Endowment Foundation (EFF) Early Years Toolkit and how this could be used within early years settings to improve practice.
- Plus, lots of opportunity for you to chat with other settings over a nice cup of tea, in a relaxed and welcoming environment!

If you would like to attend the meeting, please email Sharon Jones via the early years email address



Call out to Midlands-based early years, creative and cultural organisations and individuals - we need your help!

Arts Council England's Let's Create Strategy 2020-2030 recognises the importance of early years and, through its various funding streams, already supports a range of activity for Early Years children (defined as children aged 0-5 years old) and their families. However, it also knows that access to culture and creativity remains unequal and that complex barriers to access and participation prevent some families from taking part at all.

[CREC](#) has been commissioned by The Arts Council (Midlands'









We are requesting that all schools with children from Reception to Year 6 complete a survey about the wraparound provision that is available to their pupils. We would like all schools to submit a response, even if there is no wraparound provision available. The information provided will be used to inform LA planning as well as to inform parents and carers of the childcare available for their school age children.

The survey can be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/e/LvKXVTRMjK>

Please ensure you have submitted your response by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The United Nations has adopted a resolution for an annual International Day of Play, which recognises children's right to play and its importance for their wellbeing. The first International Day of Play will take place on 11 June 2024 and every year thereafter.

For more information <https://www.internationaldayofplay.org/>





We are seeking feedback from providers on the Early Years Inclusion Process.

[Provide anonymous feedback on the Early Years Inclusion Process](#)

Specifically for providers offering Nursery Education Funding (NEF) in Worcestershire, this is an update session to highlight any changes for September, including the 2024/25 Worcestershire Provider Agreement and the expanded Early years entitlements from September 2024.

Suitable for all early years' settings and childminders who offer NEF.

Cost: Free

Dates:





Worcestershire NHS Speech and Language Therapy Team are offering free Communication Champion training for early years settings. The focus for the training this term is 'Supporting Social Communication and Transition to School.

For further information, please download the [Communication Champion Training flyer](#).

Date: Tuesday 4