

Early Years Team

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Our Ref: EB 28

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to everyone who has joined one of the Early Years Update Meetings this week, as ever
it's a pleasure to see so many people engage with us. As promised, the slides are available to
download within the Worcestershire News and Reminders section. The dates for the Summer Term

Early Years Bulletin Worcestershire News and Reminders

Nursery Education Funding

Summer Term 2025

The Summer Term, from a funding perspective, starts on Tuesday 1st April. Children who are eligible for funding in the Summer Term, can access funding from April, as part of the Summer Term Funding Claim. Children must have turned the appropriate age for funding by Monday 31st March.

In addition to confirming the date of birth, please note that Eligibility Codes:

1. Must be applied for by Monday 31st March.
2. Must have a start date of Monday 31st March or before.
3. Must have an end date of Tuesday 1st April or later.

Any codes that are applied for between 1st April and Easter will not be valid during the Summer Term and will need to be renewed before the Autumn Term.

For termtime only settings, this means that children are eligible to access funding before the Easter break, as part of the Summer Term funding claim. If you choose not to offer places to new children until after Easter, your Summer Term claim for these children must have the number of weeks amended to reflect the reduced access. When submitting your Summer Term Estimate Claim, we would recommend using the attached Estimate Funding Calculator to ensure your Estimate claim is accurate and reflects the appropriate number of weeks for each child.

The Online Provider Portal will open on Monday 31st March (16th 12)

Spring Term Update Meetings

As promised, the slides from each of the Early Years Update Meetings are available to download:

- x [Out of School providers](#)
- x [Group settings](#)
- x [Childminders](#)

Linking to the section on Sustainability, the following websites were recommended by attendees at the Update Meetings

- x [UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero](#)
- x [Midlands Net Zero Hub](#)
- x [Apply for the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme \(HNES\) UK](#)
- x [The Stobart Sustainability Fund | Stobart](#)
- x [Apply for funding | Energy Redress scheme](#)

Early Years Network for ECTs

Vicky Dunn, the new Learning and Teacher Adviser for Early Years would like to set up an Early Years Network for ECTs in Nursery and Reception. Later in the year, there may be an opportunity to include ECTs in year 1, to support with moderation and transition.

The aim of the network is to provide opportunities for Early Years ECTs to:

- x Meet other Early Years ECTs in Worcestershire
- x Share good practice
- x Moderate outcomes
- x Discuss successes and challenges
- x Identify areas for further development or training
- x Discuss transition both into and out of EYFS

Depending on interest, the EY ECT network would meet half term. Any meeting place will be

Reminder: Integrated 2 Year Check

The 2 year check should be completed by the Health Visitor (HV) or Community Nursery Nurse before 30 months. If child has not received their check, either ask parent to chase or Early Year's Setting (EYS) to contact HV team through the Children's Secure Portal (CSP).

Step 1 Early Years setting completes the progress check

Step 2 If you have no concerns: Early Years settings share the outcome of the check with parents.

Step 3 If you have concerns such as:

- x Poor attendance

- x Poor Diet

- x Development

- x Behaviour (H)8 (V)2 (66 (h)]TJ 5 (av)Tf 0 Tc -6.6k)6 (p)6 (are)-1 (n)6D 19 >>BDuu(m)1 (ir)

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Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

Ofsted Inspection Consultation

Following feedback from the Big Listen, Ofsted are now consulting on the way it inspects education settings, including Early Years providers and schools. This consultation includes the way in which Ofsted reports on completed inspections, as well as the way in which the inspection itself is carried out.

[‘Improving the way Ofsted inspects education: consultation document’](#) outlines the consultation intentions; responses can be made until Monday 28 April. To respond to the consultation and to access all of the supporting information, please visit [‘Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOVUK’](#)

Experience-based route for Early Years Staff

The DfE have published the guidance on how early years providers can implement the experience based route for staff who do not hold full and relevant qualifications.

Please note, the experience-based route is not yet law; it is expected to come into force on 3rd March 2025. The guidance outlines the recommended approach for early years providers who are interested in carrying out the experience-based route for staff within their setting

[Experience-based route for early years staff GOVUK](#)

National Literacy Trust Supporting Reading in the Early Years

Why early experience of books and stories is important

Early experiences of reading will have significant influence on children’s views and feelings about reading as they get older. It is crucial for children to develop a love of early reading to enable them to learn the necessary skills to become successful readers themselves.

[National Literacy Trust research](#) has shown that reading for pleasure can help children access wider benefits for learning and wellbeing as they grow. The foundations for children enjoying reading and actively choosing to read are established from their earliest experiences.

Early Years Reading Guidance

This Supporting reading in the early years resource:

- x Outlines the skills in communication and language comprehension children need to develop
- x Explores the experiences that will help them to prepare for reading
- x Includes guidance on planning for high quality reading opportunities and tips for putting them into practice.

[Supporting reading in the early years: practitioner guidance | National Literacy Trust](#)

School Readiness Survey

For the past five years [Kindred](#) has surveyed thousands of teachers and parents to source robust evidence of the proportion of children that are considered 'school ready', comparing this to perceptions of parents.

The 2024 report has now been published analysing views from the September 2024 Reception intake. To access the report or to see the key findings, please [Visit School Readiness Survey | Kindred](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision

Free Playwork Training (Learn Through Play) (10GLH)

This 5 week course is based on the 8 principles of playwork, and would benefit current childcare staff in schools, private, voluntary and independent settings working with children within Early Years through to Key Stage 2. During this course you will have the opportunity to:

- x Explore what is unique about playwork.
- x Understand how to facilitate positive development through play.
- x

Playwork Conference

Early Years Bulletin | Early Help

Solihull Approach

We're pleased to share the below update from the Solihull Approach NHS team [behind the scenes](#).

[inourplace | Solihull Approach Worcestershire](#) is an online learning area for childhood development, emotional wellbeing and parenting and we have funded free access for local residents (meaning it's totally free for all residents to access and start learning!).

You can also access promotional resources to print or share on social media [SharePoint area](#). Some of the resources you can find include:

- x Digital postcard designs including information of the Early Years support available
- x Poster for early years practitioners
- x Social media graphics

Reminder: Early Help Website

The Early Help website provides information and resources for professionals so that they can support families to make positive changes. [Early Help guidance for families and professionals | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Alongside the guidance, there are a range of free training courses available, including:

- x Domestic Abuse
- x Signs of Safety
- x Reducing Parental Conflict
- x The Energy Crisis

To find out more information about the training available and for booking information, please visit: [Early Help training and events | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Domestic Abuse in Worcestershire

Worcestershire has partnered with domestic abuse charity Safe Lives in operationalising a Public Health Approach to improve the response to Domestic Abuse.

Worcestershire County Council are working with [Safe Lives](#), the UKwide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good. Safe Lives work with organisations across the UK to transform the response to domestic abuse.

Safe Lives want what you would want for your best friend, they listen to survivors, putting their voices at the heart of their thinking.

They look at the whole picture for every individual in the family, to get them the right help at the right time, so families everywhere can be safe and well. And challenge perpetrators to change, asking 'why doesn't he stop?' rather than 'why doesn't she?' This applies whatever the gender of the victim or perpetrator and whatever the nature of their relationship.

Last year alone, they trained more than 11,500 professionals and first responders, reached almost 90,000 adult and 100,000 child survivors through programmes designed and delivered with partners. And in the last six years, more than 5,000 perpetrators have been challenged and supported to change through interventions developed by their flagship [Ship Partnership](#) and the

Early Years Bulletin: In the Setting

Discovering the value of wordless books

We all recognise the joy and importance of reading and sharing picture stories with young children. But have you ever considered the benefits of wordless books?

- x Develop comprehension skills. Without text, children rely on the details in the illustrations to help them understand the story. This can enhance their ability to infer meaning and predict what they think might happen.

x

Early Years Bulletin: Inclusion

Early Years Inclusion Surgery Slots with the Area SENCO team

A reminder that we hold regular Inclusion Surgery Slots with the Area SENCO team. Booking is essential as places are limited, you can book on using the following [Link: Inclusion Surgery](#)

These are dedicated surgeries for Early Years SENCO's/providers giving the opportunity for a 20 minute meeting via telephone call. Currently these are held early or late afternoon. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss more complex inclusion issues with Area SENCO.

Childminders EY Inclusion surgery:

We are aware that the timing of our general inclusion surgeries may be difficult for childminders as many of you work alone and the timings fall within your working hours. We have added an evening slot only for childminders, operating 6pm-7:30pm. Please use the link above to book a slot for all surgeries. The Area SENCO will call you at the time you have booked.

- x Tuesday 25 February
- x Wednesday 9 April

There will be a further SENCO surgery available in June with the same times, date to be confirmed. When confirmed, the date will be on the booking form. If there is a need/demand for the surgery we will continue these into the next year.

To book your place click on the link and add your name and contact number on the Google booking form: [EY's Inclusion Surgery](#)

For your information, please see contact details for Area SENCO's and the area's they cover.

- x Sharon Andrews: Bromsgrove
01905 843881
Sandrews@worcestershire.gov.uk
- x Caroline Britton: Wyre Forest
01905 846942
CBritton2@worcestershire.gov.uk
- x Amy Rowley: Worcester City & Malvern
01905 643962
ARowley@worcestershire.gov.uk
- x Annette Murray: Wychavon (c. Droitwich) & Redditch
01905 643643
Amurray@worcestershire.gov.uk

SENCo Cluster Meetings

This is where you will hear about important updates and there is a CPD slot.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 4th March 4:30pm. We have a number of guest speakers including representatives from the Physical Development Outreach team and Dingley's Promise who are offering an enhanced provision in the south of the county. We're always looking for practitioners to share best practice with us too, if you have anything you would like to share, please contact your Area SENCo and we will book you a slot! We already have at least two practitioners ready to share their good practice with you. If you have any thoughts or ideas on topics you would like to be covered in the SEND cluster meetings, please email your Area SENCo and we will do our best to include them.

- x Spring Term: Tuesday 4th March 4-5:30pm (Course code 10160)
- x Summer Term: Tuesday 10th June 6-7:30pm (Course code 10160)

If you are not able to attend the meetings, they are recorded and can be found on our Early Years Inclusion website, ~~A~~ of resources under C for cluster or on our YouTube channel, please see following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@worcschildrensservice>

Inclusion Funding

For any queries regarding Graduated Response/SEND funding please email or call the Early Years Inclusion Team via eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk and 01905 843099.

Dates for your diary:

Deadline for Application Forms to reach the Early Years Inclusion Team

Summer Term 2025 13th March 2025
Summer Term 2025 24th April 2025

Deadline for Monitoring Forms to reach the Early Years Inclusion Team:

Spring Term 2025 Between the 1st-15th February 2025
Summer Term 2024 Between the 1st-15th June 2025

Remember GR4 is claimed via the Provider [(P)81d (-90 (t))4 (an)10 wthenP clam lyPNY[(P)81d (Su)-4 ghac(P)(a)-4 tiync(P)(e)3 (s61 sh)6 |Ror41 (c(P)(e)3 (s161 t(e)1.1 (

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Early Years Inclusion Training

The Early Years Inclusion Team are offering all of their training during 2024/25 for free. The following courses are all available to book:

- x Annual Reviews of EHCP's course code 10496
- x Autism in the Early Years course code 10003
- x Individual Provision Maps (IPMs) and Smart Outcomes course code 10494
- x SENCo Forum/clusters course code 10160
- x SEND in the Early Years course code 10493
- x Training for New SENCo's course code 10160
- x Transition in the Early Years course code 10168
- x Webcast: How to write an Individual Support Plan course code 10084
- x What is the SCERTS approach for EYF's course code 10385

Further details of each course can be found in [the Early Years training directory](#) alternatively via [CPD- Courses Search](#) using the course code.

Book your place via [RD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code. Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.