

**Early Years Team**

Email: [eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

Tel: 01905 844048

Our Ref: EYB205

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

We'd firstly like to wish you a Happy New Year. We hope you managed to find time to relax and enjoy the Christmas period.

You'll find a number of free training opportunities within the Bulletin, which we would encourage you to take advantage of, along with both local and national early years updates.

In addition, we have reintroduced a section for early years practitioners; you'll find some ideas for activities centred around the theme of Winter that the Team have enjoyed putting together. If



## Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

### Smoke Free Homes Service

The Starting Well Partnership in Worcestershire have launched a new stop smoking service to support mums and other household members with a child up to 3 years old. The service will:

- Provide 1:1 support with a trained Smoking Cessation Advisor
- Provide point of contact for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)
- Provide joint family sessions if preferred

To refer a family, please email: [whcnhs.smokefreehomes@nhs.net](mailto:whcnhs.smokefreehomes@nhs.net).

For more information and for sharing, please download the [Smoke Free Homes Leaflet \(Google Drive\)](#) or visit [www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk](http://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk).

### Nursery Education Funding – Spring Term

The deadline for submission of your Spring Term funding claims and the Early Years Census 2023 Form (or Sufficiency 2023 form for maintained/academy nursery classes) is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January**. Please access the [Online Provider Portal](#) and complete both your funding claim and the appropriate online form before the deadline. Whilst accessing Online Forms, we would also recommend you complete the 'Update Your Details' form to ensure that we have up-to-date information about your provision.

### Preschool Forum Feedback – Children's Secure portal

The Early Years inclusion team are routinely asked to feedback to early years settings when children in their provisions have been discussed at the preschool forum. This can result in a very high number of feedback letters being produced by the team, all of which are sent securely to the Early Years Nursery/Setting secure account on the WCC Children's Secure Portal.

If you have children known to the preschool forum who are supported by either the Early Years Inclusion team, or you are a school run provision – please can you check that your setting is registered to access the early years portal account as this is the main mode of communication used

## New PEP/PPP Quality Assurance System

As part of Worcestershire Virtual School's drive to improve PEP/PPP quality, as of the Spring Term 2023 we will implement a RAG rating quality assurance system for all Personal Education Plans (PEPs)/ Personal Progression Plans (PPPs) from EYFS – Post 16.

Such quality assurance systems are common practice for virtual schools and will enable us to more

# Early Years Bulletin: National Updates

## Childminder Mentor Programme

As previously announced, the MCID9 48 0 w 0.48 0 Td (.184/Phi)8 (116 0 T2 -0 0 12 56.64 7)2 (8 0 w 0dn)-4.mi-3



Starting Well –



## Early Years Joint Assessment Meetings (EY JAMs)

### What is a Joint Assessment Meeting (JAM)?

The purpose of the Joint Assessment Meeting is to collaborate the professional advice as part of the Statutory EHC Needs Assessment process. Joint Assessment Meetings bring everyone together who is involved with the child so that we can work together to jointly produce a description of the child's strengths and areas of need.

We ask all those involved about what they feel it would be important to achieve in the next year or two and we work together to shape these into clear, realistic and measurable outcomes. We then jointly plan the strategies and interventions that are necessary in order to achieve these outcomes. Prior to the meeting, the Educational Psychologist may carry out observation or assessment work with

o)1

## Early Years Bulletin – In the setting

### Winter blues and Staff Well-being

January and the following winter months can be a difficult time for our colleagues and this year is no different. With the cost-of-living crisis January may feel even gloomier than normal with financial strains and the colder weather. Staff well-being is therefore a priority for every setting and doesn't have to be costly.

As part of the Early year's inspection handbook, to gain a Good judgement under the Leadership heading the inspector will be seeking evidence of:

*'Leaders engage with their staff and are aware of the main pressures on them. They are realistic and constructive in the way they manage staff. including their workload, to avoid any unnecessary burdens'.*

Or for an outstanding judgement:

*'Staff consistently report high levels of support for well-being issues'.*

#### So how do we support this while still meeting the daily demands of our provision?

Magic Moments in Kempsey, take great pride in how they support their team's well-being. With a dedicated well-being officer, they are able to always ensure staff well-being remains a priority of the setting. They recognise their team as their best asset and by supporting them they are ultimately improving outcomes for children and families. **Natalie (Magic Moments manager) has shared her ideas, which can be downloaded from [Google Drive](#).**

#### Other no-cost ideas

**Gift swap:** If you have accumulated some unwanted gifts over Christmas, why not bring them in and do a gift swap.

**Clothes swap:** A great fun idea to bring in unwanted clothing to swap with your colleagues.

**Team Fundraiser events:** There is nothing better to build team spirit and belonging than helping others. Why not sign up for a challenge such as race for life or something similar?

**Supervision:** Why not change up the supervision process this month and go on a well-being walk where you can still cover all the topics, whilst getting some fresh air and exercise.

**Thank you notes:** Diarise different times throughout the year to send notes of appreciation. When these are unexpected, they are all the more special to receive.

**Celebrate each other through social media/websites:** Let your families know how great your individual team members are and how you appreciate them through your social media platforms. This is also great to attract new employees as they will see you value your team.

**Job role swap:** Swap roles for the day, this helps build appreciation for each other and allows us to understand each other better.

#### Well-being measurement tool

If staff well-being is your priority this year, Anna Freud have developed a well-being measurement tool for you to access for free. [Wellbeing measurement for early years settings \(annafreud.org\)](https://www.annafreud.org/wellbeing-measurement-for-early-years-settings)

Make the most of the wind!

Resources:

## Frozen Goop

### Ingredients:

Corn flour

Food colouring

Water

Measuring cups

Bowl and spoon for mixing

Ice cube tray

## Early Years Bulletin: Training news

### Early Years Update Meetings – Spring Term

An opportunity to hear the latest Early Years news on policy, Ofsted and best practice within the sector.

Cost: Free

#### Group Settings

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 18:30-20:00, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10272**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 10:00-11:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10272**

#### Out of School Settings

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 10:00-11:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10274**

#### Childminders

Including Inclusion updates from Becky White

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 19:00-20:30, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10273**

Book via [WCF:CPD](#) using the appropriate course code.

### Early Years Operation Encompass Launch – What happens next?

Following the distribution of the 'Operation Encompass Welcome Pack' that was sent to all funded Early Years settings on 09<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the Operation Encompass team are holding a virtual meeting in February 2023. This will be an opportunity for Early Years DSL's to meet the support team and to go over what will happen once a domestic abuse notification has been received. The team will also be able to answer any questions surrounding Operation Encompass and the processes.

Cost: Free

#### Dates:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 6:15 – 7:15pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10281**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 7 – 8pm, virtual delivery, Course Code: **10281**

Book onto an Early Years course via [WCF:CPD](#)

## Self-Regulation in the Early Years

Worcestershire Virtual School are excited to invite you to join us for a **free** virtual training session by Diana Lawton, one of the specialist trainers from [Inspired Children](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredchildrentraining) ([www.facebook.com/inspiredchildrentraining](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredchildrentraining)).

Self-regulation is the fundamental ability to understand and manage your emotional and behavioural responses and while the neurological circuitry is not complete until about 26 years old, children need support developing self-regulation from birth. This session is not about teaching obedience or self-control but about building the neurological architecture that will enable the child to regulate their own responses to the world and create effective and successful strategies to respond to and interact with the world.

Effective self-regulation will underpin personal and social success and will support children to manage the expectations of the school environment. It goes much deeper than that though and underpins life-long mental health and emotional well-being which are the key things we all want for our children especially in today's social climate. This session will help practitioners understand their role in building strong and robust neurological circuitry and offer a wealth of insights, practical skills and ideas to ensure all of your children get the best possible start in life. This course is the difference between children that manage and children that fly!

### Diana Lawton

Diana is a senior consultant and trainer for Inspired Children. She has a degree in Psychology and an MA in Early Childhood studies with a near encyclopaedic knowledge of child development theory and early years procedure. She is also the owner manager of a group of settings in Leicestershire and Derbyshire. She is currently working on her first textbook and is an accomplished trainer having delivered a huge range of training for Inspired Children and being responsible for all in-house training at her settings. She is frequently asked to take part in panels for the Nursery World Business Conference and sits on several early years focus groups.

### Who is the training for?

**All early years' practitioners** from nursery and pre-school settings, childminders, reception teachers and teaching assistants, senior leads, social workers with early years children on their caseloads.

And it's **FREE!**

**Dates:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 from 4pm-6.30pm, virtual delivery

To book your place, please email [virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

## Safeguarding Training

Are you aware that the [Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) offers the [Applique for TOA](#) for 0856.644

## Active Storytelling Training

Early years settings in Worcestershire continue to have access to the Animatey's Active Storytelling Training for **free**, up until **February 2023**. If you haven't yet accessed the training, please download the flyer from [Google Drive](#) for information about how to access the course.