

Early Years Team

Email: eycc@worschildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 844048

Our Ref: EYB21813 () 2C /1

Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Nursery Education Funding

Summer Term Eligibility Codes

As you are aware, there must be a valid Eligibility Code in place on 1st April 2024 for a child to be able to access their 15 hour Working Family entitlement. The only way to confirm that a Code will be valid is to use the Eligibility Checker on the [Online Provider Portal](#).

We have been made aware of a number of newly issued Eligibility Codes, for both two-year-olds and 3&4 year-olds, with March end dates; **these Codes will therefore not be valid for the Summer Term** unless they are refreshed.

We urge you to check every Eligibility Code as soon as possible and inform families where there are problems, to enable any issues to be resolved before the 31st March; **47% of Codes** for two year olds eligible for funded provision from 1st April have **not** been checked.

Summer Term Funding Claims Support

Are you new to offering funded provision or has it been a while since you last used the [Online Provider Portal](#)?

If you would like support to submit your Summer Term Actual Claim, we are running drop-in sessions at County Hall where we will be happy to help you submit your funding claim and answer any questions you may have about the process.

- Friday 12th April 12:30pm – 4pm
- Thursday 18th April 08:30am – 1pm

You will need to arrive with sufficient information to be able to submit your funding claim; child and family details as per the Parent Declaration Form, details of attendance patterns and your Provider Portal log-in details. 9C3jEc Tin2T (t)-4 (t)4 Tc0 Td1- T8Tc 9DCwnBDCsY 8c - / Fun

Bereavement Support

Do you provide childcare for families who have experienced a recent bereavement? Perhaps your setting has experienced loss within your own provision? Do you know who to signpost parents / carers to? Do you know what to say to the children within your setting?

Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

Childminder Recruitment and Retention Consultation

The Department for Education are consulting on new proposals and gathering evidence to improve the recruitment and retention of childminders and to support the role of childminder agencies in the sector.

The [consultation](#) seeks your views on three proposals which aim to address issues that childminders have raise

Early Years in Schools

Ofsted have put together a useful video to support early years staff/leaders in schools in preparing

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

Early Years Operation Encompass

As the Early Years Entitlements expand over the next two terms, more and more early years children will be included within the Early Years Operation Encompass process; it is therefore highly recommended that if you offer Nursery Education Funding, you sign-up to the notification service.

If you have not yet signed up for Early Years Operation Encompass, please contact Gem Grady-Rainsford via ggrady@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk and request a 'Welcome Pack'. If you would like to have a conversation about the purpose and benefits of Early Years Operation Encompass, please contact the Early Years Team via EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Family Front Door Multi-Agency Audits

Every month, a selection of Family Front Door (FFD) referrals that did not meet threshold are audited by experienced safeguarding practitioners to:

- Better understand the reasons for referrals being made to the FFD by education settings (including Early Years) in cases where threshold is not met.

- In some referrals considered it was not clear whether consent had been granted to make a referral from parents/carers. Consent should be routinely requested by early years settings before a referral is made to Children's Services.
- In some referrals the child's voice was not apparent, the referrals should contain information about how the child feels and what is the considered impact on the child.
- The quality of referral lacked detailed information and context making it difficult to determine the level of need/threshold. Information can be added that is not relevant to the risk of harm to the child and in one audit the information was contradictory.
- In referrals where a child's behaviour was identified as an issue, it was not clear what support was being carried out by the education setting, if any.
- There were two referrals that were private law matters and parents could have been advised appropriately at an earlier stage by professionals, prior to the referral to Children's Services.
- In some referrals it was apparent that the referrer was not familiar with the Levels of Need guidance as there was no identified role for social care, yet they were submitted as a Level 4 referral.

The Survivor Pathway

A new website to help anyone find out more about sexual violence support services in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin has been launched, [The Survivor Pathway](#).

Providing a safe online space for survivors of all ages, supporters, and professionals, 'The Survivor Pathway' has a comprehensive list of services in West Mercia and information on how to easily access them.

Funded by the NHS and delivered by Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, as part of his Safer West Mercia Plan commitment to put victims and survivors first, the platform also includes helpful information on sexual health, child sexual exploitation, reporting to the police and going to court.

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

Early Years Inclusion Notification

My child is in the summer term of their preschool year. Do I need to complete an Early Years Inclusion Notification?

The early years Inclusion process has many functions. Some of which are to facilitate statutory duties. If a child is in their preschool year, and has complex needs, then we request that a notification is made.

Where notifications are submitted **after 30th April** in the child's preschool year, the Early Years Inclusion Process is unable to offer an outcome for child specific work from the Inclusion Support Services. Instead, an outcome of 'No further Action' may be issued.

In those circumstances, the Early Years Inclusion Area SENCo team will continue to offer advice and guidance to support all early year's providers.

The new Early Years Inclusion Process has been designed to support the enhanced transition process in several ways:

- Supporting early identification of needs so that targeted provision can be put in place and closely monitored and reviewed over time.
- Additional support from Inclusion Support Services to provide specialist support through the graduated response. If these professionals are involved at point of transition, they will be involved in the transition process.
- Ensuring that children who require an EHC needs assessment have this requested prior to transition.
- From Summer Term 2024 RETA funding is no longer available to settings however, for significant children an individual extended transition may be required. This will need to be initiated by the provider SENCo with the receiving school SENCo as soon as school placement has been confirmed.

Inclusion Surgeries with the Area SENCos

The Area SENCo Team will be offering surgery support sessions every half term. These are dedicated afternoon surgeries for Early Years SENCOs, giving the opportunity for a 30-minute meeting (currently delivered via the telephone).

7in/20078-43.93

Early Years Inclusion Process Evaluation

We are seeking feedback from providers on the Early Years Inclusion Process. This is anonymous, and the questionnaire can be accessed by the following link: [Provider Questionnaire](#)

Kidderminster Early Years Language Class

Kidderminster Early Years Language Class at St Mary's CE Primary School are offering free monthly Stay and Play sessions, as well as open afternoons for Early Years practitioners and SENCo's. Please download the following flyers for more information:

[Kidderminster Early Years Language Class Flyer](#)

[Kidderminster Free Stay & Play flyer](#)

J51MC u 0.00n 0.002 11(i)1 20001 T24(001 T6.)50015p(nl)mEMC 1tM8(i)1 (001 1844.150) 2(15) 17612000h0.00

Early Years Language Class

