

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to a new academic year. We hope you found some time over the summer to recharge and are ready for what is shaping up to be a busy term.

This edition of the Early Years Bulletin is relatively substantial, particularly following the recent announcements regarding Ofsted Inspections and phase 2 of the School Based Nursery programme.

Booking information is available for the Early Years Update Meetings which are taking place in early October; colleagues from Worcestershire Family Hubs will be attending to provide an update on their offer, and we will of course be looking at the forthcoming Ofsted inspection changes. The Early Years Community Hub will be meeting towards the end of September so please don't forget to book your place, details are included in this bulletin.

If you need any advice or support, please email the team on EYCC@worcestershire.gov.uk or submit a request via our [website](#).

Regards,

The Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Nursery Education Funding

Autumn Term Actual Claims

The online [Provider Portal](#) is open for Autumn Term Actual Claims. **Headcount week is Monday 15th – Friday 19th September.** The deadline for submission is **Friday 19th September.**

Early Years Community Hub

The next Early Years Community Hub Meeting is taking place on **Thursday 25th September at Worcester University – St John Campus 18:30-18:30pm.**

Based on your feedback, we will be leading a discussion on **“Exploring intent, nurturing implementation, and driving impact — cultivating shared values to drive purposeful, high-quality Early Years practice.”**

In the Early Years, leadership includes all staff in the setting. Adopting this approach leads to having the shared values, vision, and practices that encompass/ include everyone in the team. This reflective session will explore how cultivating a strong, collective values base can inspire purposeful practice, create consistency, and deliver real impact for children and families

Together we will examine how a clear intent, thoughtful implementation, and evidence of impact can grow from shared values that everyone understands and owns. Together, we'll reflect on:

- How to **identify and embed shared values** that shape daily practice.
- How **leadership from everyone** drives quality and consistency across the team.
- How values-led practice supports positive outcomes — and supports you in articulating the **intent, implementation, and impact** of your practice

Whether you're a setting leader, room lead, key person, practitioner or Childminder this session will offer practical tools and fresh perspectives to help you **grow a values-led culture** where everyone plays a role in shaping quality.

Book via [CPD](#) online, Course Code **10529**

Market Engagement session for EYs Enhanced Provision

Following the review with parents, mainstream and specialist providers and health stakeholders, and the pilot Enhanced Early Years provision in the south of the county, we are interested in establishing provision for pre-school children with complex SEND needs in other parts of the county.

We are looking for providers who are interested in delivering an Early Years Enhanced Provision using either their own accommodation or accommodation provided in the appropriate location.

The focused areas are Redditch/Bromsgrove, Wyre Forest and Evesham/Pershore.

There will be two opportunities to attend a market engagement event for providers to come along to hear about the proposals and help shape what the provision can offer, as well as to express their interest about potential application to deliver the provision.

Market Engagement Events are on the dates below:

1st October – face to face session at WCC Cricket Ground: 7pm – 8.30pm

6th October - virtual session: 10.30 – 12noon (link given once registered)

To register to attend, please email CHScommissioning@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Would you like to borrow a WellComm Assessment Tool?

[WellComm](#) is a speech and language toolkit for practitioners working with children aged 6 months to 11 years, to support the early identification of a speech and language difficulty or delay and support targeted intervention.

If you would like to try using WellComm, packs are available to loan from the Early Years Team.

Each WellComm Pack contains:

- Screening Tool: Quick assessment (10-15 minutes) to identify language concerns.
- Handbook: Guidance on the tool and how to interpret the results.
- Little Book of Score Sheets: For recording and scoring assessments.
- Picture Book: Visual aids used during screening.
- Big Book of Ideas: Play-based activities tailored to support identified needs.

To borrow a pack, please email EYCC@worcestershire.gov.uk and include WellComm in the email subject.

The Solihull Approach: Free CPD

Worcestershire County Council are pleased to offer a free online training opportunity for early years practitioners and childminders in Worcestershire.

<https://solihullapproachparenting.com/worcestershire>

These flexible, expert-led courses support the development of a **trauma-informed workforce** by helping you better understand and respond to young children's emotions and behaviour—especially those who may have experienced early adversity.



The graphic is a promotional poster for the Solihull Approach CPD. It features three images: a young boy looking out a window, a woman and a child with brain diagrams overlaid on their heads, and a woman kissing a child on the cheek. The text includes: 'For professionals', 'NHS', 'SOLIHULL APPROACH CPD', 'Free online courses for professionals.', three bullet points: 'Understanding trauma' (complexities of trauma, recognising, processing and recovery), 'Understanding brain development' (brain development from antenatal to adolescence and its significance for mental health and emotional wellbeing in children and teenagers), and 'Understanding attachment' (supporting healthy attachment and the value of containment and reciprocity for the quality of attachment). It also states 'Each course will take approximately 3.75 hrs to complete.' At the bottom, it says 'FREE for professionals working in Worcestershire', 'Visit: solihullapproachparenting.com/worcestershire', 'Code: PARENTSROCK_PRF', and 'In partnership with worcestershire county council'.

Why This Training Is Ideal for Early Years Staff

- Understand behaviour as a form of communication, not just 'naughtiness'
- Build secure, nurturing relationships with babies and young children
- Feel more confident supporting children who are upset, withdrawn, or struggling
- Strengthen your practice in line with EYFS and Ofsted expectations
- Improve collaboration with parents and carers, especially when they need extra support

Courses Available (Each takes less than 4 hours)

- **Understanding Trauma** – Learn how early adverse experiences affect children and how to support their recovery
- **Understanding Brain Development** – Explore how the brain develops from pregnancy to adolescence and how this shapes behaviour
- **Understanding Attachment** – Discover how strong, secure relationships help children feel safe and ready to learn

Courses can be completed individually or as a team, at a time that suits your setting. To access the training, go to solihullapproachparenting.com/worcestershire/ and use Access Code: **PARENTSROCK_PRF**

Recruitment Reminder

Don't forget, we can include any staff vacancies you are currently advertising on the WCC Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Ensure the information is written in a way that is suitable for social media – we can't use PDF attachments or include long lists of information. If you wish to make use of this service, please email ChSComms@worcestershire.gov.uk with the following information:

- **Job title**
- **Location**
- **Hours**
- **Brief description of role**
- **Link to your setting for more information and/or details of how to apply**
- **Closing date**

Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

Ofsted Inspection Changes

On Wednesday 9th September, Ofsted set out their renewed approach to education inspection that will give parents better and more detailed information, is fairer on professionals and will help raise standards for all children.

Ofsted have confirmed that the new-look report cards will be introduced from November, alongside a number of additional changes:

- Inspectors will award grades on a 5-point scale across a wider range of areas:
 - Urgent improvement
 - Needs attention
 - Expected standard
 - Strong standard
 - Exceptional
- The areas of inspection include:
 - Achievement
 - Behaviour, attitudes and establishing routines
 - Children’s welfare and well-being
 - Curriculum and teaching
 - Inclusion
 - Leadership and governance
- Safeguarding, the Compulsory Childcare Register and the Voluntary Childcare Register requirements will be judged as Met/Not Met
- Early Years inspections will increase in frequency from every 6 to every 4 years.

The reforms will take effect for Early Years settings and state-funded schools from 10th November 2025.

Example report card videos are available to view:

[Early Years report card](#)

[Schools report card](#)

The inspection toolkits and operating guides can be found here:

[Early Years](#)

[Schools](#)

Ofsted are running live webinars to highlight the main changes to education inspections, which will also be available to download after the events:

[Education inspection framework: engagement programme - GOV.UK](#)

Capital Funding for School Based Nurseries – Phase 2

On Thursday 4th September, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the second round of funding for school-based nursery provision. State-funded primary-phase schools, as well as Maintained Nursery Schools, are able to apply for up to £150,000 of capital funding to create or expand on-site Early Years provision. The new or expanded provision can be school-run or delivered by Early Years settings (PVI providers including childminders), offering places for any Early Years age group, in areas where there is local demand. Guidance on the scheme is available [here](#).



To apply for funding during phase 2, the provision is expected to be available by September 2026.

To apply for the funding, schools must have LA support and a completed Local Authority Approval Form. If you are intending to apply to the DfE for the School-Based Nursery Capital Grant 2025, firstly please complete the Local Authority [Expression of Interest form](#) to enable the local authority to assess:

- If there is a sufficiency need for additional early years provision in your local area; and
- If there are any accommodation, site or lease considerations.

The LA Expression of Interest form must be submitted by Friday 14th November: [Expression of Interest](#) to provide us with sufficient time to respond.

DfE applications from schools will be open from **Monday 22nd September** via the DfE's [Online Application Service](#), however a copy of the application form is available to [download](#) in advance. The deadline for applications is **Thursday 11th December**.

Schools that are interested in opening provision in the future will be able to register their interest from 22nd September.

Best Start in Life Website

As part of the Plan for Change and the Best Start in Life strategy, the new [Best Start in Life website](#) was launched on 1st September.

The website includes information about childcare offers, replacing the Childcare Choices website as the main source of information for early education and childcare support, as well as information on free breakfast clubs, Best Start Family Hubs and support on pregnancy through to starting school and beyond.



www.ChildcareChoices.gov.uk will automatically redirect parents to the Best Start in Life website whilst the changes are embedded.

Reading Well for Families

Reading Well for families recommends helpful reading to support parents and carers to look after their wellbeing in pregnancy and the early years (from conception to aged two). The books provide information on wellbeing, mental health and coping with loss.

The scheme is aimed at adults and includes a range of recommended books and supporting digital resources. Some of the recommended books provide **information and advice**; there are also **personal stories, illustrated books** and **poetry**. The list also includes a wide range of formats including **eBooks** and **audiobooks**.

The collection of books has been chosen and endorsed by leading health professionals and co-produced with people with lived experience. The scheme's co-production partner, Maternal Mental Health Alliance, ensured the views of parents with lived experience of perinatal mental health conditions from England and Wales informed all aspects of developing this list.

[Download top tops for using Reading Well – for professionals](#)

[Download Reading Well for Families Leaflet](#)

HEART Midlands Stronger Practice Hub


The Heart Midlands Early Years Stronger Practice Hub continues to provide support for providers within the Midlands, including settings based in Worcestershire.

They have a range of resources available, including free webinars and workshops, along with networking opportunities with fellow early years practitioners. Scan the QR Code below or visit [HEART – Midlands Early Years Stronger Practice Hub | Stronger Practice Hubs](#) to see the range of activities on offer during the Autumn and Spring terms.


HUB ACTIVITIES

2025-2026

Where connections flourish and practice evolves




Explore all activities






Tap the live calendar links to explore and book activities—more will be added over the summer!

July 2025 Edition



Helping Early years practitioners to Apply Research to Teaching and learning

SIGN UP Newsletters and weekly emails directly to your inbox

Follow, like, share   

Virtual DfE Early Years and Childcare Childminder Roadshow

The DfE roadshow for childminders will include an overview and update from the DfE, an opportunity to ask questions and also breakout sessions to discuss topics such as Early Years Funding, qualifications & workforce and quality & SEND.

The event is taking place on Thursday 25th September 6:30 – 8pm.

To register to attend, please visit: [DfE Childminder Roadshow Registration](#)

Influenza (Flu)

Flu is a viral infection affecting the nose, throat, and lungs, mostly during the winter months. It is far worse than an ordinary cold, which usually causes a runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes and throat irritation. Symptoms of a cold usually occur gradually without causing a fever or body aches, which usually occur with flu.

Flu can lead to serious illness, especially in children, with more than 8,000 hospitalisations last winter. Older people, those with a weakened immune system, and people with long-term health conditions are at higher risk. Over the past 2 winters, at least 18,000 deaths were associated with flu.

Children and staff with symptoms of flu such as a high temperature, cough and feeling tired and achy, should try to limit their contact with others, especially those who are vulnerable. Washing hands regularly and using and disposing of tissues in bins can help to reduce the spread of flu.

Changes to national flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2026

Community pharmacies will be now able to offer 2-3-year-olds flu vaccinations during the 2025 to 2026 flu season. Community pharmacy service delivery will begin from 1 October 2025, supplementing the offer in General Practice who will start vaccinating from the 1 September 2025, or as soon as vaccine is available.

Children under 5 have the highest hospitalisation rate from flu. Vaccination cuts the risk of hospitalisation by about two thirds. Vaccinating children also helps to protect their family as it reduces the risk of them spreading the flu virus to parents and grandparents.

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children in the UK and worldwide, and has an excellent safety record. In the last few years, the protection that children get from vaccination has been consistently higher than for adults. The vaccine is updated yearly to match flu strains, so it is recommended that children are vaccinated yearly, even if vaccinated last year.

Education and childcare settings have a vital role to play to support the routine immunisation programme including the flu vaccine. Sharing information with parents and caregivers at key points and encouraging parents to sign their consent form can help in ensuring children and their families are protected.

Pregnant women

It's recommended that all pregnant women have the flu vaccine, whatever stage of pregnancy they're at. The vaccine is free for pregnant women and has been shown to be safe during any stage of pregnancy, from the first few weeks up until labour.

Pregnancy changes how the body responds to infections such as flu. There is good evidence that pregnant women have a higher chance of developing complications if they get flu, particularly in the later stages of pregnancy. Young babies also have a higher risk of getting seriously ill if they get flu.

Having flu increases the chances of pregnant women and their babies needing intensive care. Women who have had a flu vaccine while pregnant also pass some protection on to their babies. This lasts for the first few months after they're born, when they're particularly at risk from flu.

Further Information

- [Flu - NHS](#)
- [Annual flu programme - GOV.UK](#)
- UKHSA flu blog - [flu – UK Health Security Agency](#)
- [e-Bug](#) has a range of educational resources for ages 3 to 16 to learn about microbes, infection prevention and control, antibiotics, and vaccination.
- [Pregnancy: how to help protect you and your baby - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Out of School Provision

Funding for Before and After School Childcare

Are you experiencing additional demand for before and/or after-school provision? Do you have parents that are requesting later opening hours? **We can provide funding to cover your additional staffing costs to extend your wraparound provision to meet the needs of your families.**

Whilst it is still the Government's ambition to make 8am-6pm provision available to all families who need wraparound care for their primary aged children, there is new flexibility within the Wraparound Programme as we move into the final two terms of funding.

Funding is available to:

- Support any school/setting to increase their wraparound hours to at least 8am – 5:30pm daily.
- Support any school/setting that is open at least 8am-5:30pm daily to increase the number of wraparound places they have on offer, as long as it will not adversely impact the demand for other local wraparound providers.
- Support schools/settings who can evidence that there is insufficient demand for 8am – 5:30pm over 5 days per week, but who would like to extend their offer over a minimum of 3 days per week.

Funding can be used to cover staffing costs, purchase additional resources, support marketing costs to increase demand and/or to address other delivery barriers, with up to £500 per extended place available. Additional funding is also available to set-up new provision for pupils at schools without any wraparound provision.

To apply for funding: <https://forms.office.com/e/6BmKjNF4BW>

To request support or further information, please email Sharon Jones or Nicky Burford via wraparound@worcestershire.gov.uk.

The Playwork Principles 20th Anniversary Survey

Play Wales have commissioned Leeds Beckett University to conduct research into use of the Playwork Principles. They are looking for practitioners that either use the Playwork Principles to inform practice or have adopted alternative forms of guiding principles for play, to complete a short (under 5 mins) anonymous survey. The survey will be used to inform a report for Play Wales and disseminated via the Play Wales website.

[Playwork Principles Anniversary Survey](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

Healthy Start

Families can get help to buy food and milk via the Healthy Start scheme.

What is NHS Healthy Start?

The scheme helps young families and those who are more than 10 weeks pregnant to access healthy food, milk and vitamins. Eligibility for the scheme also depends on the benefit the person receives and what their income is.

People on the scheme can buy:

- Plain liquid cow's milk, including long-life, pasteurised or ultra heat treated (UHT) varieties of milk. This does not include milk which has had chemicals, vitamins, flavours or colours added or removed.
- Fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables, including loose, pre-packed, whole, sliced, chopped or mixed fruit or vegetables, fruit in fruit juice, or fruit or vegetables in water, but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added.
- Cow's milk-based infant formula milk. This must be labelled as suitable for use from birth and satisfy, by itself, an infant's nutritional needs.
- Fresh, dried and tinned pulses, including but not limited to lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added.

People on the scheme can also get the following free Healthy Start vitamins:

- Women's vitamins for those who are pregnant or have a child up to one year old.
- Children's vitamin drops for children up to four years old.

There are a range of promotional materials that you can use to promote the scheme to your families, including leaflets available in a range of languages and social media content.

[NHS Healthy Start Communications Toolkit](#)

For further information, please visit the [Healthy Start website](#).

Bromsgrove and Redditch Family Hubs Newsletter

Bromsgrove and Redditch Family Hub have published their first [newsletter](#), which provide updates on the wide range of services and support they offer to families in their community.

The Hub also offer workshops for Early Years professionals, covering topics that parents often seek support with. The workshops are evidence-based and follow the Solihull approach.

If you are interested in this training for your setting, please email for further information: angie.pomeroy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk. Workshops can also be arranged for groups of parents within your setting.

Worcestershire Family Hub Webinar

The Worcestershire Family Hub webinar provides an update on what a 'family hub' is, how to access support for families and what services are provided by Family Hubs in Worcestershire.

The webinar will be valuable for anyone working in Early Years, education, youth services, health and social care for children and young people and the voluntary sector who work in Worcestershire.

Please scan the QR Code to book your attendance or visit <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FBJZ>.

Dates are available throughout the Autumn Term.



Worcestershire Family Hub Webinar

Sign up to find out more about what your local family hubs can do to support families you work with.

More dates added

To book, please scan the QR or visit <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FBJZ>



The poster features a pink background with a circular inset image of a family (a woman and two children) looking at a book together. The text is in white and pink, and there are several yellow and white circles scattered around the text.

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding

Reminder: Early Years Foundation Stage 2025

Just a reminder that the Safeguarding reforms have now come into effect and all Early Years settings should be using the 2025 version of the Early Years Foundation Stage:

[EYFS statutory framework for childminders](#)

[EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers](#)

Early Years Employment Reference Template

Following the implementation of the revised Early Years Foundation Stage 2025 and the updated safeguarding requirements, the requirements around obtaining and providing references have been clarified and strengthened. To support this, the DfE have published an Early Years Employment Reference Template to be used when providing a reference.

[Early years employment reference template - GOV.UK](#)

Martyn's Law

The [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025](#), also known as Martyn's Law became law 3 April 2025. The Government has published the below guidance for education settings, to provide information on how education settings including early years settings will be affected when this law is implemented.

[How Martyn's Law will affect education settings - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Inclusion

Inclusion Team Helpline

Every Tuesday & Thursday afternoon (term time only) between 1pm – 3pm there will an Inclusion Officer able to take your phone calls. The remaining times within the week, someone may answer, or we ask that you leave a voicemail for us to get back to you.

- Inclusion helpline and answer machine: 01905 843099
- Inclusion helpline email: eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook for updates https://www.facebook.com/WorcsEarlyYears/?_rdr

Inclusion Training

The Early Years Inclusion Team have revamped their training offer and have a number of new courses available, including [Reasonable Adjustments in the Early Years](#), [Strategies and Resources to Support Interaction with SEN Children](#) and [Visual Support in the Early Years](#).

To have a look at what is available, simply type 'inclusion' into the search on [CPD](#).

Early Years Inclusion Supplement Funding

Early Years Inclusion Funding Supplement deadline, for any new children for Autumn Term 25/26 applications, is **22nd September 2025**. We aim to give you confirmation of any funding awarded as soon as possible following your applications.

Please note that all providers must complete a new funding application for all children who require GR4+ Challenge and/or Exceptional funding for the academic year 2025/26. Funding will not be carried over from last year.

Deadline Dates

Early Years Inclusion Funding Supplement deadline, for any new children for Autumn Term 25/26 applications, was 14th July 25 for advance funding confirmation to be received and then **22nd September 25** for any applications to be confirmed during the Autumn Term.

Early Years Inclusion Funding Supplement deadline, for any new children for Spring Term 25/26 applications, is **21st November 25** for advance funding confirmation to be received and then 20th January 26 for any applications to be confirmed during the Spring Term.

Early Years Inclusion Funding Supplement deadline, for any new children for Summer Term 25/26 applications, is **13th March 26** for advance funding confirmation to be received and then 27th April for any applications to be confirmed during the Summer Term.

All Inclusion Supplement Applications are online and can be found at: [Inclusion Funding Application Process](#)

This funding is applied for once an academic year for children who receive NEF and once a term for any children who are too young or not eligible to receive NEF. Payments begin the term for which you have applied, and will continue for subsequent terms, until the end of that same academic year (unless you are completing the termly application). Payments will be received at the end of each term, in line with your NEF payments for each term, and will be shown on your NEF statements.

Criteria is available in the 'Inclusion Funding Criteria' at: [Funding criteria, deadline dates and monitoring forms | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Providers:

- **must return** the **termly** Inclusion Supplement Monitoring form for both GR4 Challenge and Exceptional funding applications. There is no exception.
- The document is an online forms document only. No other version will be accepted without prior authorisation.
- These forms are **only available within a window each academic year**: put these dates in your calendar: Autumn Term: 1st – 15th November 2025, Spring Term: 1st – 15th February 2026 and in the Summer Term: 1st – 15th June 2026.

These forms are available at: [Inclusion Funding Application Process](#)

- The aim of the monitoring process is to monitor the impact of the funding upon the child's progress in the **same term** of which you are completing it.
- **Failure to submit your monitoring form will result in funding being withheld.**

Early Years Inclusion Supplement Funding Calculator

Have you tried the Early Years Inclusion Supplement Funding Calculator?

The start of each term is a great time to record any children who have additional needs, require additional support, and their eligible funding amount.

The Inclusion Supplement Calculator has been designed to support you in meeting the needs of those children by helping you to plan in advance of the term, by predicting the money you will receive. Our advice is for you to then reconcile this calculator at the end of the term with your NEF statement, to check you received the correct Inclusion Supplement amount.

[Inclusion Supplement Calculator](#)

Exceptional Funding

Please note: We have had an increased number of providers choosing 'Exceptional Funding' when submitting their NEF 'Actuals', who have either not applied for and/or met the criteria for Exceptional funding. Please be aware that exceptional funding requires an application form, and the criteria must be met. There are no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in no funding being awarded.

Area SENCo Inclusion Surgeries

if you have any SEND issues that you feel may need more than a quick chat, we do have allocated times you can book onto with your Area SENCo. Inclusion Surgeries are dedicated afternoon surgeries for Early Years SENCOs to be given the opportunity for a 20-30-minute meeting (currently delivered via the telephone) with an Area SENCo. This term we are offering the following:

For any provider:

30th September 2025 and 11th November 2025: between 1pm and 3pm

For childminders:

23rd September 2025 and 13th November 2025: between 6 and 7-15pm

Booking is essential as places are limited. To book your place you will need to add your name and number onto this [document](#).

Do you understand the Disability duties in the Equality Act?

Are you aware of your **disability duties** as per the Equality Act? Do you deliver high quality inclusive practice? Are you making appropriate and reasonable adjustments?

The [Council for Disabled Children](#) have launched a new guide for Early Years providers that explains the disability duties in the Equality Act. Alongside the guide is a training package to support Early Years practitioners in applying the learning from the guide in your own setting.

[Training Videos](#)

[Disabled Children and the Equality Act 2010: What Early Years providers need to know and do](#)

Supporting children with Down syndrome

[Down Syndrome UK \(DSUK\)](#) are a nationwide charity dedicated to supporting children with Down syndrome. They provide expert-led, online programmes for pre-school and primary school professionals supporting children with Down syndrome to give staff the tools, knowledge and confidence to help the children to thrive.

As part of DSUK's Early Years Development Programme, they are offering a free webinar that introduces the learning profile of children with Down Syndrome and covers examples of activities to promote early play skills, early reading and number skills. To book a place on the webinar, which is taking place on **Wednesday 24th September at 7pm**, please register [here](#).

Enhanced Early Years provision relocating to permanent home in Worcester

Dingley's Promise is delighted to announce the opening of its enhanced provision for children under 5 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Bluebell Wood, St Albans Close, Worcester.

The centre follows the 7 highly successful Dingley's Promise which have opened to support children with SEND – one in Droitwich and the others across the South of England. Dingley's Promise provides tailored support for children under 5 with a wide range of additional needs, whilst also supporting their families to navigate the challenges of accessing support and entitlements. They are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of children with SEND and their families in the local area.

"We are delighted to finally move to our intended home at the Bluebell Wood Centre, Worcester. We have enjoyed welcoming children and families to our temporary site and are now excited at this next phase where we can develop the community links and relationships with families needed to ensure that every local child we support gets the best start in life"

Lee Friend – Chief Operating Officer, Dingley's Promise

As well as enhanced nursery provision, the centres will provide a Family Support Outreach service offering coffee mornings and Stay and Play sessions and information sessions. These are designed to develop networks of support as well as providing strategies and information to support families. Holiday playschemes will also be provided to offer respite for families and a safe and practical environment for children with additional needs to play, supported by specialist early years educators.

For more information about this service please see: [About Us - Dingley's Promise - Special Educational Needs & Disabilities](#)

[SEND: Dingley's Promise opens new centre in Worcester | Worcester News](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Training

If you encounter any issues when booking courses via CPD, please contact the Training & Conference Team directly via 01905 844420/844030 or workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Checking and amending your CPD Colleague List

At the start of the new academic year, the Training & Conference Team would be grateful if CPD Leaders (those who have the login details for CPD) can take a few minutes to review their colleague list. We are asking that you check the following:

- Unlink any colleagues that no longer work for your setting/school/Governing Body
- Update colleagues where there might be one of the following changes:
 - Email address
 - First name and/or surname
 - Contact number is incorrect or missing
- If you notice more than one colleague profile for the same person i.e. Joe Smith and Joseph Smith, please contact the Training Team to request a colleague profile merge

This ensures that we have accurate data and that Confirmations/reminders/evaluations and certificate links all go to the right delegate email.

If the person(s) who had access to CPD for your Early Years Setting/School/Governing Body have left, please notify the team immediately; their access will be removed, and permissions will be assigned to the alternative name provided.

Our CPD Support guide is on our website, [Training, Conferences and Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\) | Worcestershire County Council](#), broken down into sections to support you with the various elements of CPD i.e. access / booking including cancellations, waiting lists and transfers / colleagues and much more.

Paediatric First Aid and 'Spare' Places

Have you planned a Paediatric First Aid course? Do you have available spaces that you are struggling to fill? Are you aware the Training & Conference Team can promote on your behalf, via the Early Years Facebook page (@WorcsEarlyYears)?

To promote the spare spaces on your Paediatric First Aid course please email the Training team via workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk with the following information:

- Setting name
- Name, email address and telephone number of who to contact for further information
- When the course is taking place, including times and the delivery method
- Cost per delegate
- If the setting has a Facebook page, then please include your Facebook handle so the post can be tagged

Alternatively, if you have posted the information onto your setting's Facebook page, simply share the Facebook post link to Rachael Oakley who will share it to our page.

Early Years Update Meetings: 2025/2026

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

Childminders The childminder sessions also include the SENCo Cluster meeting.

- 15 October 2025, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10273
- 18 February 2026, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10273
- 20 May 2026, 7pm to 8.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10273

Out of School Providers

- 14 October 2025, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10274
- 17 February 2026, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10274
- 19 May 2026, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10274

Group Settings (All group based provision including school nurseries)

- 16 October 2025, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 17 October 2025, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 19 February 2026, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 20 February 2026, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 21 May 2026, 6.30pm to 8pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10272
- 22 May 2026, 10am to 11.30am virtual delivery, course code: 10272

Cost: Free

To book: via [CPD](#) 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

SENCo Cluster Meetings 2025/26

Bringing together EY's SENCo's from Early Years settings to hear the latest SEND news, share good practice and discuss common issues in order to improve outcomes for children.

- 07 October 2025, 4pm – 5:30pm, virtual delivery, course code 10160
- 03 February 2025, 4pm – 5:30pm, virtual delivery, course code 10160
- 28 April 2025, 6pm – 7:30pm, virtual delivery, course code 10160

Cost: Free

To book: via [CPD](#) 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

Play Matters: The 8 Principles of Playwork

During the course delegates will explore what Wraparound Care is, understand the value of play, unpick and dissect the 8 Principles of Playwork and how to implement them into their setting to ensure play matters.

Audience: Specifically for practitioners working with primary school age children in wraparound provision. Open to both schools and settings, including childminders, who offer wrap around provision (before/after school or holiday clubs)

Cost: Free - the training is fully funded via the National Wraparound Programme.

Non-attendance charge: *When delegates do not attend, do not cancel in line with terms & conditions, and / or do not contact the training team on the day to explain their non-attendance, a charge of £30 + VAT per delegate will be applied.*

Dates: Various, virtual delivery, course code: 10583

To book: via [CPD](#) 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.

Communication Champion Training - Stammering

Delivered by Worcestershire NHS Speech and Language Therapy Team, this training aims to help you understand the difficulties children in your setting may present with, and practical strategies and activities that can be delivered in your setting to support them. Please download the [training flyer](#) for further information.

Audience: All early years settings

Date: 10 November 2025, 4pm – 5pm, virtual delivery

Cost: Free

To book: Email WHCNHS.SLTBromsgrove@nhs.net to register.

Transition in the Early Years

An overview of the issues impacting autistic children as they transition to Reception

Cost: Free

Date: 11 December 2025, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10168

To book: via [CPD](#) 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.

Autism in the Early Years

An overview of how autism presents in Early Years Settings and a raft of strategies to support young children with a diagnosis. Delegates will develop and/or enhance their awareness and understanding of autism.

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 08 October 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10003
- 03 December 2025, 5pm to 6.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10003

To book: via [CPD](#) 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.

Webcast: Role of the Early Years SENCo

During this 60-minute webcast delegates will build confidence and knowledge in understanding how your role supports staff and setting to understand their responsibilities to young children with SEN and disabilities in line with current legislation.

Cost: Free

Course code: 10621

To book: via [CPD](#) 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.

Webcast: Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) Annual Reviews for Early Years

During this 60-minute webcast you will become more confident in understanding the purpose and process of an Annual Review of an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Audience: For Early Years SENCO's experienced or new to role

Cost: Free

Course code: 10622

To book: via [CPD](#) 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.

Webcast: How to write an Individual Support Plan

A 60-minute introductory webcast to support practitioners with writing individual support plans (ISP) for children with SEND within Early Years settings. This webcast will enable you to interpret, create and review a support plan (ISP). Both the EYFS and the SEND Code of Practice outline the settings legal requirements for offering 'additional and/or different' in order to make adequate progress for our children in the early years.

Cost: Free

Course code: EY 10084

To book: via [CPD](#) 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.

What is the SCERTS approach for EYFS / Reception

SCERTS: Social Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional and Support

SCERTS is an evidence-based framework for assessing children who need support with their social communication and emotional regulation skills, including autistic children. Transactional support is the support given to children to reach their goals and achieve their potential.

The SCERTS approach is not a prescriptive curriculum, and it works alongside practice in settings and home. Designed to be collaborative and to value the contributions made by settings and families to a child's development, setting goals to reflect what the child can do with the right support. A strengths-based approach, so it starts with what a child can do instead of what they can't do.

Stage 1: Is specific for EYFS / Reception

Cost: Free

Course code: 10462

To book: via [CPD](#) 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.