

EARLY YEARS BULLETIN

APRIL 2019 UPDATE



We hope you might find a few moments to read this bulletin to keep you up to date with what is happening locally and nationally. This bulletin is for early years providers, schools, childminders and anyone else interested in the early years and is designed to be read online.



Local News

On World Book Day 2019 Oxfordshire County Council invited children from North Hinksey Pre-School to come and share books in the reception area of County Hall and listen to stories from local author David Melling. David kindly gave children a signed copy of Hugless Douglas to read at home and there is now a basket of books for children to share with their parents and carers when visiting County Hall.



Oxfordshire Early Years Conference 2019 – **Booking Now**

This year's conference will be held on Thursday 7th November 2019 at The Kassam stadium. Speakers include:

- Greg Bottrill – Author of Can I go and Play Now
- Jen Lexmond - Founder of Easy Peasy
- Kate Shelley - Founder of Tales Toolkit
- Tamsin Grimmer – Author of School Readiness and the Characteristics of Effective Learning
- Elizabeth Jarman – Creating optimum conditions and positive learning spaces

We look forward to seeing you there.

Oxfordshire Family Information Service

The Family Information Service (FIS) manages a directory of all Ofsted registered childcare and schools in Oxfordshire. This is kept up to date with inspection results and early years funding information. Holiday childcare and activities – often a serious concern for parents – is added to the directory in preparation for all school holidays and updated regularly. In preparation for the Easter Holidays, 111 activity and childcare records were updated, including Easter Bunny Hunts, football camps and cookery schools.

This information is extremely useful to parents and free for them to search – the website was accessed nearly 22,000 times in March 2019, so it can also be a really valuable resource for childcare providers and schools looking to advertise their business or promote their services. The Family Information Service encourages

providers to check that their records are up to date at least every 6 months. Providers can edit their own records to provide information on any SEND support they offer, details about their facilities, opening hours and costs, as well as any vacancies they might need to fill. In March, 190 childcare providers checked and amended their records.

If you are not sure how to update your childcare record, please follow this link: <https://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/directory/providers.page> for more information, or call the Family Information Service on 01865 323 322.

National News

Foundation Years Website

The National Children's Bureau (NCB) is now the Department for Education's (DfE) Stakeholder Engagement Partner for the Early Years. Sign up to receive national information, news and updates at <https://foundationyears.org.uk/category/news/>

Baseline Assessment Update

The national voluntary pilot on the new Baseline assessment begins in autumn 2019. The [assessment framework](#) provides details for the pilot year, including information about the content of the assessment and its design.

Ofsted

Ofsted have now closed their consultation on the proposed changes to the Framework and Inspection handbooks. Keep up to date with matters relating to Ofsted by reading their [inspection blog](#). They have also published a range of webinars on the new Inspection framework including one for Childminders [here](#). Ofsted's Big Conversation (OBC) meeting organised by providers for providers and anyone working in early years is on 24 June in Brighton. You can book tickets [here](#).

Updated Health Declaration Form

The Health declaration form for childminders and people who work in childcare or children's social care has been updated for clarity and is now in separate sections: B1 for early years and childcare and B2 for children's social care. You can find it [here](#).

Acas Neurodiversity at work

[New research](#) undertaken for Acas has approached the subject of 'neurodiversity' within the context of employment and the workplace. 'Neurodiversity' is a relatively new term that refers to people who have dyslexia, autism, ADHD, dyspraxia and other neurological conditions. The report seeks to identify policies and practices which help people with these conditions get work and flourish within a diverse workforce. It is based on case studies of two organisations, coupled with expert testimony from a number of practitioners operating in the field.

Poverty proofing the school day

Children North East presented a powerful and challenging workshop at the recent Oxfordshire Headteachers conference on poverty proofing the school day. You can find out more at <http://www.povertyproofing.co.uk/>

DfE announces new project to challenge stereotypes around men's role in early education More men are to be encouraged in to a career in nurseries and early years settings, in a new project to provide more diverse role models for children before they start school. With men making up just 3% of early years staff in England, the project aims to break down the barriers that prevent men entering careers in children's early education, including the myth that men are less suited to caring roles. You can read more [here](#)

EYFSP Moderation 2019

Please ensure you have downloaded and read the [EYFSP handbook](#) and [Assessment and Reporting Arrangements](#) if you have Reception age children. The very useful [Guide to the Expected and Exceeding Descriptors](#) can be found on the dedicated section on our Free Early years Toolkit.

Reception Teachers, if you are not having a moderation visit to your school, please ensure you have booked onto one of the moderation meetings. The dates can be found in the [Oxfordshire EYFSP Moderation plan](#).

For those in settings who may have a child completing their 'Reception' year with you please book onto the PVI drop in session on Wednesday 12th June from 1- 5pm at The Green Dragon at Hill End. You need to book a slot – approximately 30 minutes - with a moderator. Please email Early.Years@Oxfordshire.gov.uk to book a place, stating your name and setting and desired time.

Safeguarding

Early Help Assessment, Team Around the Family and Threshold of Needs

LCSS are excited to announce the updated EHA/TAF paperwork, which is shorter, easier to use and already getting good feedback from the people piloting it. The Threshold of Need Document has been updated in line with the 2018 Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 legislation and contains additional guidance that should be considered when making threshold decisions.

If you require advice/support with these new documents, please contact your LCSS team. EHA Training from April 2019 will include the new paperwork – to book on Early Years twilight training sessions please visit the [Step into Training](#) website. You can find all the new documents on the OSCB website <https://www.oscb.org.uk/themes-tools/>

Multi-Agency Chronologies - Linking the chain

A common theme from serious case reviews is the need for safeguarding partners to have one, shared understanding of the child over time. Multi-agency chronologies (MAC) can be an essential tool for safeguarding and protecting children from harm. The MAC seeks to give a clear account of all significant events in a child's life, and the impact these events may have on a child's wellbeing and development, drawing upon the knowledge and information held by all agencies involved with the child and

family. Look out for training events for Multi- Agency Chronologies on the OSCB website.

OSCB training

OSCB are running An Introduction to FGM on Wednesday 15 May 2019 (09:30 - 13:00) and a 2-day multi-agency training on neglect and emotional abuse, bookable through OSCB [here](#).

Schools safeguarding webpage

The Oxfordshire Schools safeguarding page has recently been updated. Here you can find lots of information and resources relating to safeguarding issues for both schools and settings plus the information about contacting the LADO when an allegation against a member of staff has been made.

<http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safeguarding>

Recruiting from Abroad

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) states any offer of appointment made to a successful candidate, including one who has lived or worked abroad, must be conditional on satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks. The DfE have worked with [UK National Recognition Information Centre \(UK NARIC\)](#) to develop a bespoke Early Years Service for people with an overseas qualification. The government has produced guidance on how to obtain an overseas police check and you can download it here: [Overseas Criminal Record Checks - gov.uk](#) plus home office documents [An employer's guide to acceptable right to work documents](#). [PRADO](#) is a website created by the EU to help identify genuine documents with examples from across the world.

Health and Wellbeing

Physical Development

How much physical activity do children under 5 years old need to do to keep healthy? To help you answer this question, the NHS have published these exercise and physical activity guidelines for the under fives.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/physical-activity-guidelines-children-under-five-years/>

How will you be celebrating National Smile Month 2019? Are your teeth ready for school?

From 13th May-13th June National Smile month is taking place at a similar time to new parents visiting your school for information about their child first year of school and Community Dental Services are offering support to schools and new school starters. CDS can provide a workshop or an informal 'information pop-up' for parents, around keeping their child healthy through their teeth, diet and visiting the dentist. If your school would like to book the free workshop or pop-up during National Smile Month, please contact the Community Dental Services on;

01869 238335 or ohimpoxfordshire@cds-cic.co.uk

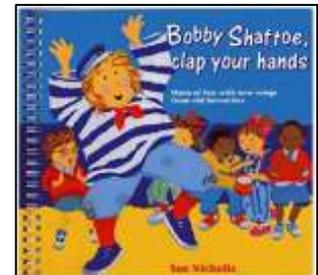
MeaslesT

There have been more than 110,000 measles cases worldwide in the first three months of 2019 - a rise of 300% compared to last year, World Health Organization figures show. You can read BBC report on Measles [here](#)

Music

Early years music workshops can help children from deprived backgrounds and those with complex needs to overcome developmental delays, recent research suggests. A local charity Soundabout carried out a three-year study of more than 200 children aged under five found that attending weekly music classes for 10 weeks could close developmental gaps of as much as six months.

What do you do to encourage daily music making in your school or setting?



Starting School and Staggered Starts

Children starting school in Autumn 2018 were the first cohort to have had access to the 30-hour childcare entitlement. As a result, more children had been in nursery full-time before starting reception with families building work commitments around this. Historically, staggering primary school start dates has been common practice, where children are offered a slightly later start date or a part time attendance pattern for the first week or two of term. A phased induction can be helpful for some children, supporting transitions into school; for others, particularly those used to full time provision, it may be unsettling. For some parents, a school 'staggered starts' policy creates an unexpected gap in childcare provision during the first weeks in September.

The Council is trying this year to raise awareness that a staggered start is optional for parents. The DfE advises parents to "talk to the school's head teacher about any problems they may experience in any "settling-in" period / late start bearing in mind that the School Admissions Code is clear that children are entitled to a full-time place in a state-funded school reception class from the September following their fourth birthday. The Department would expect a full-time place to be offered to any parent who did not wish to take up the induction."

Funding for the term a child starts school can't be split so remember that if a child stays in the early years setting for any sessions in that term, these can't be claimed as early education funding and are chargeable. All providers are asked to work with families to support their choice in what works best for them.

SEND

Disability Access Fund (DAF) is for childcare providers (including Nursery classes in schools) to claim an extra £615 per financial year for some 3 and 4 year olds who need extra support. To be eligible the child should be getting Disability Living Allowance. Parents must nominate which provider will receive the funding. Any resources bought will remain the property of the provider. However, if the child moves to another provider a transfer of the resources is possible if it helps the child to access the new provision. Resources can also be used by the parent at home if it is felt that this would benefit the child.

EY SEN Networks Look out for an email coming soon from the EYSEN team about the Summer term networks which will have a focus on transition.

Training

Since September 2018 **over 1200** delegates have attended training or briefings sessions organised through the Early Years team and Step into Training and **over 1000 have attended the OSCB Early Years safeguarding training.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Don't miss out on these CPD Training Courses...

EY635	Nurturing Wellbeing in the Early Years The wellbeing of children is of increasing concern as many families face difficult challenges in our ever-changing society. If you are concerned about the wellbeing of children that you work with and would like ideas about how best to support them then join this course.
EY599	Identifying and Supporting young children with Speech and Language difficulties
EY667	Making Sense of Autism – evening introductory course.
EY528	Observation, Assessment and Planning for Childminders
EY561	Working with babies - meeting their unique needs
EY652	Leading Good Autism Practice This training is designed for staff who have a leadership role that includes responsibility for developing provision for children on the autism spectrum within an early year setting.
EY640	Committee Roles and Responsibilities – evening course. Essential training for new pre-school committee members.
EY654	Early Help Assessment – evening course. This is essential training for those with designated lead responsibility for safeguarding, including childminders.
EY577	The Nuts and Bolts of claiming Special Educational Needs and Disability Funding
EY666	Understanding the concept of School Readiness. To help practitioners recognise the importance of their role in ensuring that children are school and life ready.

Generalist and designated lead safeguarding training for Early Years practitioners

Don't forget to check when staff need to update their training and book via the [OSCB training portal](#).

Best wishes
The Early Years Team