

## Edition 1, January 2012

*Target audience:* All Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings in North Somerset.

Dear Colleagues

A very warm (and windy!) welcome back to the New Year. Hopefully you have all had a happy and healthy Christmas break.

As you are all aware, the Government has consulted on a revised draft EYFS framework from July to September 2011. The Government has now published their response to the consultation which can be accessed on the following link:-

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conResults&consultationId=1747&external=no&menu=3>

The Government launched a one month consultation on the proposed changes to the EYFS (Learning & Development Requirements) Amended Order 2012 on 20 December 2011. This will provide you with further opportunity to comment on proposed changes to some parts of the educational programmes before 20 January 2012. You can access the consultation document here:-

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/>

We seem to be inundated with consultations! We are also being invited to consult on the expansion of the early education offer to the 40% most disadvantaged 2 year olds and some changes to the 3 and 4 year old offer. If you can, do try to participate as the volume of responses really does count.

With thanks for all your continued commitment.

Warm wishes

*Andrea Sully*

Senior Adviser: Early Years and Transforming Learning

**Quote:**

“In our view, young children have a lot of interesting things to tell, because they tell us about other worlds, they reveal other aspects of things, and they lay bare things and ideas that we have either forgotten or undervalued”

*Veà Vecchi – Reggio Emilia*

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## General articles:-

### Early Years Conference

A date for  
your diary!

This year's Early Years Conference will be held on:-  
**Saturday 23 June 2012**  
at the Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare.

To date we have booked [Gary Wilson](#) and [Alice Sharp](#) as guest speakers. Keep the date free and check future editions of the e-newsletter for updates and how to book.

### Quality Premium Supplement Update

All qualifying providers (pre-schools, day-nurseries, accredited and approved childminders) should now have received a letter from North Somerset confirming the following:-

- funding allocation
- details of how the funding should be spent (examples)
- details of how to claim funding from North Somerset

**Reminder:** this funding can be used to fund supply cover to enable staff to attend training **except** for mandatory training such as first aid, safeguarding/child protection, food hygiene and QI/Inclusion cluster meetings.

If you have any queries regarding this funding please contact your Early Years Consultant (training) or Marion Mills (claiming), [Marion.mills@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Marion.mills@n-somerset.gov.uk) / 01275 884 075.

You can download a blank copy of the claim form [here](#).

## **Pensions news**

From October 2012 changes to pensions law will affect all employers with at least one worker in the UK.



### ***Employers will need to:***

- Automatically enrol certain workers into a pension scheme
- Make contributions on their workers' behalf
- Register with The Pensions Regulator ('the regulator')
- Provide workers with certain information about the changes and how they will affect them.

Each employer will be allocated a date from when the duties will first apply to them, known as their 'staging date.' This date is based on the number of people in an employer's PAYE scheme. Employers with the largest numbers of workers in their PAYE schemes will have the earliest staging date.

Employers can check their provisional staging date on the pensions regulator website: [www.tpr.gov.uk/staging](http://www.tpr.gov.uk/staging)

## **Childminding vacancies**

Please can all childminders telephone FIS on 01934 426 300 or email [fis@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:fis@n-somerset.gov.uk) to advise us on your current vacancies. Many thanks!

## No Smoking Day

**Get children involved with this year's  
No Smoking Day theme of  
'Take the Leap'  
on Wednesday 14th March.**



Children's feelings and attitudes towards smoking have been in the spotlight recently with television coverage showing children expressing concern over the health of their parents who smoke. To tie in with this campaign, research carried out on behalf of the Department of Health, polled 1000 children in England aged 7-13. It revealed that what children really want is for their families to live in a smoke free environment and wish that nobody in the world smoked.

The Olympics in 2012 will provide an ideal opportunity to encourage a healthy lifestyle and a smoke free life. Next year is a Leap Year and the image of a person leapfrogging over a cigarette is being used on the No Smoking Day resources.

North Somerset Stop Smoking Service would like to see some leapfrogging events in March and what better way to raise awareness and hopefully inspire smokers in North Somerset to quit smoking than to see children dressed up in a variety of 'leaping animals', such as frogs, rabbits, kangaroos or any other innovative ideas?

If you are interested in getting involved in the 'take the leap' animal costume theme for the day please contact: Miriam Thornton,  
Health Improvement Specialist for Tobacco Control,  
Email: [Miriam.thornton@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:Miriam.thornton@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk)  
Telephone: 01275 88 5148

## Complaints top tips

The Childcare Development Advisers for childminders have put together a 'Complaints Top Tips' to support childminders, but they are equally as important to all childcare settings. They can be found on the following link:-

<http://www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk/Complaints%20tips.doc>

## DON'T MISS SCHOOL APPLICATIONS DEADLINE!!!

**\*\*Please remind parents who access your setting\*\***



Parents of children due to start school in September next year are urged not to let the business of Christmas mean they miss the closing date for applications.

Children who were born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008 can start at a primary or infant/first school from September 2012. The closing date for the submission of applications is midnight on Sunday 15 January 2012 and North Somerset Council is anxious that parents do not miss out through being too busy over the Christmas period.

It's absolutely vital that parents apply on-time, as late applicants have less chance of being allocated a place at their preferred school.

Parents can apply online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions). Paper application forms are available from School Admissions and Transport Team. You can telephone the team on 01275 884 078 or email [cyps.schooladmissionsandtransport@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:cyps.schooladmissionsandtransport@n-somerset.gov.uk)

Paper forms can be posted to North Somerset Council, School Admissions and Transport Team, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ.

## Home-Start North Somerset December Newsletter

Please follow the link to Home-Start's latest [newsletter](#)



## Whistleblowing hotline

There may be times when employees and those working with young children will want to report to us concerns about practices and procedures for the safeguarding of children and young people. You can contact our hotline in three ways.

- ◆ Call us on 0300 123 3155 (Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 6.00pm).
- ◆ Email us at [whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk).
- ◆ Write to us at:  
WBHL  
Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester M1 2WD

Before you contact our hotline we suggest that you first read your employer's whistleblowing policy and then raise your concerns with your employer.

If your employer does not have a whistleblowing policy or if you are still not sure how to raise your concerns with your employer or someone else, we suggest you first get free, confidential advice from the independent whistleblowing charity Public Concern at Work; it can help you to decide whether and/or how to raise your concern. You can call on 020 7404 6609 or email [helpline@pcaw.co.uk](mailto:helpline@pcaw.co.uk).

For further information, go to the Public Concern at Work website (<http://www.pcaw.co.uk/>) – it includes guidance on whistleblowing legislation.

## Safety Equipment Boxes

All Children's Centres now have access to a Safety Equipment box. These boxes are 'starter packs' for equipment that parents and carers can buy from the Children's Centre. All equipment in the boxes are supplied at cost price so will be cheaper to buy than from shops, supermarkets, or pharmacies (for the same make and model). This equipment also meets the best quality standards.

For further information contact your local [children's centre](#) or email [Lianne.Straus@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:Lianne.Straus@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk)

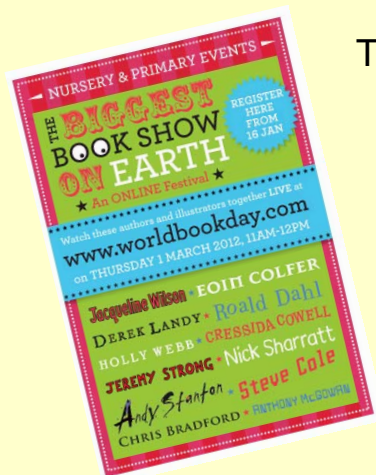
## Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year 2012 will be celebrated on 23 January 2012 and is the year of the Dragon, the most auspicious animal in the Chinese zodiac.

<http://chinesenewyear2012.net/>



## World Book Day



This year's World Book Day will take place on **1 March 2012.**

Take a look at the new website <http://www.worldbookday.com> which will be launching on 31 January 2012 and will include a section for Nursery and Primary events.

## New Childminding Network Group in Weston.

A new Childminding Network Group for childminders and home-based childcarers will be starting on 27 February 2012 in the Meadow Street Children's Centre. The Group will run term-time Mondays 9.30-11.30am. Aims of the Group include support and networking opportunities for carers and open ended play opportunities for children in larger groups. Please contact Maria Powell or Sarah Zanelli for further details.

## **Do you know a parent who would benefit from some free energy advice?**

North Somerset Warm Families is a two-year project, run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (a Bristol-based charity that aims to reduce fuel poverty) which supports families to stay warm and healthy in their homes, to help them reduce their bills and stay out of fuel debt. Examples of this support include:

- carrying out home visits to provide bespoke energy advice (e.g. showing clients how to use their heating controls effectively; treating condensation, damp and mould; identifying the potential for reducing energy use through insulation, draught-proofing and behavioural change etc)
- mediating with fuel suppliers to ensure accurate billing and reasonable payment plans
- assisting in making applications for fuel debt clearance
- referring to grant schemes for improving insulation and heating
- advising on benefits – and what additional support these can lead to

This service is free, and people can receive ongoing advice and assistance by telephone, email, letter or through our home visit service – whatever best suits the client's needs and wishes.

For further information please see [North Somerset Warm Front poster](#)

Forthcoming meetings, training, networks and events:-

## **Your North Somerset**

**A free event bringing communities together**

**Sunday 22 January 2012 12 to 4pm,  
Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare**



'Your North Somerset' returns on Sunday 22 January 2012 at the Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare, with a host of colourful entertainment, food from far-off countries, information, advice and opportunities to get involved.

The free event, hosted by North Somerset Council and its partners, is now in its seventh year and looks set to be as successful as ever. Visitors of all ages can get involved and try their hand at a variety of workshops and activities - from drumming and arts and crafts to food tasting. Entertainment will include a wide variety of music and dance from diverse cultures.

Local organisations will also be on hand offering advice and information on a range of issues from community safety and employment to health and care services.

Also find out more about volunteering and how you can roll up your sleeves and give something back to the community.

The free event runs from noon to 4pm at the Winter Gardens, in Weston-super-Mare, on Sunday 22 January 2012.

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/yns](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/yns)

## Foundation Degree in Early Years through City of Bristol College

There are places available for September 2012 on City of Bristol's Foundation Degree in Early Years. Further details about the degree course can be found in their [newsletter](#).



## Recognising and Preventing Abuse in your Organisation

This workshop is part of North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board's (NSSCB) Inter Agency Training programme, and is **essential** for leaders from all agencies who have a responsibility for Child Protection.

This workshop is designed to assist managers or leaders of organisations, designated and head teachers, to safeguard children. It is suitable **ONLY** for those who have management responsibility for the behaviour of staff and volunteers in respect of safeguarding children in the setting.

- At the workshop delegates will consider research findings about professional perpetrators
- Be aware of national and local statistics  
Consider the nature of professional perpetrators and how this impacts on a manager's role
- Develop an action plan specific to the setting that will help mitigate against the behaviour of professional perpetrators

Wednesday 1 February 2012 1pm - 4.30pm (Puxton Park)  
Wednesday 14 March 2012 1pm - 4.30pm (Winter Gardens)

Places can be booked via [CPD Online](#)

Cost: £16

## Open Ended Play Workshops – places still available



Venue: St Barnabas Centre, West Hill

Date: Tuesday 17 January 2012

*and*

Venue: Castle Batch Children's Centre

Date: Tuesday 24 January 2012

Times: both @19:00 - 21:00

Cost: free

This 2 hour twilight workshop will focus on the benefits of open ended play and the limitations of closed tasks that are directed towards an end product.

There will be practical examples of open ended activities to try.

Book your places on [CPD Online](#)

For any course queries contact Anne-Marie Heath on  
01934 426 305 or email

[anne-marie.heath@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:anne-marie.heath@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Paediatric First Aid Course - (12 hour programme)

Course fee: £52 per person

Duration: 2 days or 5 evenings

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
11-000548	Mondays 27 February + 5, 12, 19, 26 March 2012	19:00 – 21:30	Castle Batch Community Primary School, Rawlins Avenue, Worle, Weston-super-Mare
11-000530	Saturday 3 & 10 March 2012	09:30 – 16:00	Kenn Road Methodist Church, Kenn Road, Clevedon

**Please book a place via CPD Online:**

<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>

## Food Hygiene - (Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering)

**NB: It is important that you bring your PHOTO ID (e.g. passport or full UK driving licence). Otherwise, you will not be able to sit the exam at the end of session.**

Course fee: £38 per person

Duration: 1 day

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
<b>3 places remaining</b> 11-000545	Saturday 21 April 2012	09:15 for 09:30 – 16:30	Yatton Methodist Church, High Street, Yatton

**Please book a place via CPD Online:**

<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>

## Risk Assessment

Course fee: £15 per person

Duration: 1 evening

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
11-000538	Wednesday 29 February 2012	19:00 – 21:30	Castlewood, Room G.08/09/10, Tickenham Road, Clevedon ***

\*\*\* Important: Delegates will be collected from the Reception at 18:45 and 18:55. Please ensure that you will be at the reception by one of these times.

**Please book a place via CPD Online:**

<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>

## Child Protection: Basic Awareness

Course fee: Fully funded  
(£20 deposit required)

Duration: 1 day or 2 evenings

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
<b>6 places remaining</b> 11-000553	Saturday 12 May 2012	09:15 for 09:30 – 15:00	Kenn Road Methodist Church, Kenn Road, Clevedon

**Progression to:**

**Inter Agency Child Protection: Introduction**

Various Inter Agency Child Protection events are available on CPD Online.

**Please book a place via CPD Online:**

<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>

## Job vacancies

### **St Mark's Pre-school, Worle require a Pre-school Deputy-Leader**

St Mark's Pre-school is a committee-run pre-school looking to appoint a Pre-school deputy-leader qualified to Level 3 with a minimum of 2 years experience including a practical working knowledge of the EYFS.

Must be hard-working, reliable and possess a good positive attitude as well as excellent interpersonal skills. The candidate will be required to demonstrate their ability to work well as part of a team as well as having the appropriate skill-set to be able to deputise as leader when required.

Term time only. Morning sessions 9.00-12.00 Monday-Friday, Afternoon sessions 9.30-12.30 Monday-Wednesday and Friday. Lunch club currently operating Mondays and Wednesdays

Website: [www.stmarkspreschoolworle.org.uk](http://www.stmarkspreschoolworle.org.uk)

Please contact Helen on 07834 864 291 for further information and an application form. Closing date for applications 20 January 2012