

Edition 12, December 2011

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

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the 12th edition of our Early Years Newsletter and the last for 2011.

I hope you are all managing to remain calm and collected whilst preparing for your own personal Christmas, alongside the often very busy festive activities in your settings with your very, very excited children! Enjoy the moments of magic which will emerge from the unexpected...

We are still waiting to hear the feedback from the DfE on the consultation to the EYFS Draft Framework. I now think little will change from the initial draft you will have seen previously. We will let you know as soon as we know of any further details and will plan how to support you through the changes in 2012.

The DfE have also launched another important consultation for you to be aware of and respond to with your views. This new consultation is on the expansions of 2 Year Old Funding for the most economically disadvantaged 2 year olds nationally and on the flexible offer for 3-4 year old funding.

On 11th November 2011, the DfE announced that free early education will be extended to 140,000 two-year-olds, and parents will be able to access the free entitlement more flexibly. There are proposals to also strengthen the quality criteria for free early education for 3-4 year olds from September 2012.

The expansion is significant for us in North Somerset from the current 50 places allocated, to a proposed 417 eligible places from September 2013 and 594 places for 2014. This will represent an increase by 2014, of 1088% from current 2 Year Old Funded provision – a huge challenge for us all!

We will share further details with you once the national pilot and consultation are complete, but we will definitely need your participation to help make this a reality for our most disadvantaged 2 year olds.

Meanwhile, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and warmest wishes for the New Year.

Thank you for making a difference,

With best wishes

Andrea Sully

Senior Adviser: Early Years and Transforming Learning

Quote:

'Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop hoping'

(Albert Einstein)

In this month's edition...

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- Making Learning Visible (Documenting Children's Learning)
- What Matters to Children – Exploring Children's Interest in Big Ideas
- Beat Baby & Lola Leopard Workshop – additional event
- Paediatric First Aid
- Food Hygiene
- Risk Assessment
- Child Protection: Basic Awareness
- Behaviour Management
- Attachment and Developing Positive Relationships
- National Day Nurseries Ass EYFS & Safeguarding Training
- Foundation degree in Early Years

Job Vacancies

- St Mark's Pre-school, Worle
- Burrington Pre-school

General articles:-

Feedback from Autumn clusters



“Thank you! It has really helped to organise my QI folder and to discuss ideas with other settings” - (Pre-school)

“Fantastic!”
(Childminder)

“I am excited about collections!”
(Childminder)



“Nice to meet other settings/childminders from a different cluster area” – (Nursery)

“Concerned that we are not going to find the time to share and evaluate with others”
(Pre-school)

“Time well spent – thank you!”
(Pre-school)



- 80% of you were fully satisfied with the events
- 85% of you now feel significantly more confident about using collections with a PSRN focus.
- Attendance: 59% of childminders who are accredited or approved and 87% of pre-schools and nurseries attended. This is a huge improvement, but we are really aiming for 100%!

We will be e-mailing out reminders about the completion of action plans including evaluations in February and March next year.

Please help to make these cluster meetings as empowering as possible by all bringing examples of action plans, evidence collected etc.

Consultation on the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on the delivery of Free Early Education for (two), three and four year olds and Securing Sufficient Childcare

The Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Children's Minister Sarah Teather set out the plans in a consultation on changes to free early education.



The consultation includes proposals to:

- Make the free 2, 3 and 4 year olds early education entitlement of 15 hours per week more flexible, so it can be taken between 7am and 7pm, and spread across two days instead of the current minimum three days.
- Use the criteria which is used for free school meals to decide which disadvantaged two-year-olds should qualify for free 2 year old early education,
- Include two-year-olds who are looked after by the state in the eligibility criteria for free early education.
- Slim down the statutory guidance for local authorities funding 2, 3 and 4 year old early education from 100 pages to fewer than 20 pages.

The announcement follows the Government's commitment, made by the Deputy Prime Minister in October 2010, to extend 15 hours of free early education – currently available to all three- and four-year-olds – to disadvantaged two-year-olds from September 2013.

Sarah Teather, Children's Minister, said:

'Our priority is to increase social mobility by helping children from the poorest backgrounds in their earliest years. High quality early education is the key to making a difference early on in a child's life. It's crucial for their development and means they're not falling behind before they have even started primary school.'

All 152 local authorities in England have been delivering a targeted offer of between 10 and 15 hours of free early education to some of the most disadvantaged two-year-olds since September 2009.

The Department is funding 15 trials in 18 local authorities to test approaches to expand free early education for disadvantaged two-year-olds. The trials are looking at the challenges that local areas

face to deliver the expansion as well as helping them to share learning and best practice across the country. The trials will run until 31 March 2012.

The Department is also consulting on how to improve the way in which local authorities tell parents how they are ensuring sufficient childcare places in the local area, most notably through their Family Information Services. An annual report to parents and a statutory requirement to report to Elected Members would replace the overly bureaucratic Childcare Sufficiency Assessment that local authorities must currently do every three years.

Please see the following page on the DfE website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00200071/consultation-launched-on-free-early-education>

Early Years Formula Funding – Quality Premium Supplement

By the time you read this article pre-schools, day nurseries and accredited childminders will have received a letter from North Somerset informing them of their allocation. The letter outlined the following:

The Strategic Schools Forum (SSF) agreed to fund an additional £50,000 in 2011/12 as a quality incentive supplement to the early years formula. All providers will receive funding made up of a lump sum of £100 plus an hourly rate payment based on the number of hours claimed in 2010. Providers who are claiming for the first time in 2011 will only be entitled to claim up to £100.

You can use this funding to pay for training or continuous professional development taken between 1 April 2011 and 31 August 2012. Please claim the funding by sending in invoices up to the value of your entitlement using this [claim form](#). Payment will then be made via the monthly allocation process.

Providers can group together to buy-in training and examples of successful training will be disseminated via cluster meetings. Here are some examples of types of training which could be considered:

- Funding level 2, 3 and 4 qualifications training for staff
- Staffing swaps – paying supply for staff to be released to work in other settings, recommended by an Early Years Consultant, or a direct 'exchange' of staff to enable

practitioners to experience a range of approaches in the EYFS

- Opportunities for leaders and/or room leaders to undertake 'study visits' to settings identified with a specific strength or context through an Early Years Consultant (supply cover is provided to the leader to cover their absence)
- Buddying - settings identified from the LA RAG rating process as having a particular strength, to buddy a partner setting to support their Quality Improvement journey (supply cover is provided to the buddy)
- Funding for non-mandatory professional development courses through the North Somerset Training Directory

This funding cannot be used to pay for mandatory training, such as, first aid, child protection, food hygiene etc. and providers will be asked to provide evidence of impact of this funding to report back to SSF.

To claim your funding, please return the enclosed form with the supporting invoices to the Early Years Foundation Stage Administrator. If possible, please only make one claim.

If you have any questions about this funding please contact Marion Mills (01275 884 075) or your Early Years Consultant/Childminding Adviser.

Mini Music Makers



At this time when all budgets are tight, The Early Years team in partnership with North Somerset Music Service are fortunate to have been successful in an application for a grant from Youth Music to fund an 18 month Early Years music project reaching all pre-school and Nursery settings, starting January 2012: Mini Music Makers.

The project aims to boost Early Years Leaders' skills in leading musical activity, whatever their current skill and confidence levels are, thereby improving and extending the provision for the children. For a one-off payment of £30 per setting, all leaders will be able to access training at an appropriate level and in-setting support, and Foundation Stage 1 children will be able to participate in Celebration Music Performances in locality-based clusters, joining with Foundation Stage 2 children and thus enhancing the transition to school process. Each setting will also receive instruments to

follow up activities introduced in training sessions, including the use of a set of D'jembe drums which will be purchased for the project.

For those who are keen to further develop their music skills through sharing of additional ideas and resources, there will be opportunities to participate in North Somerset Early Years Music Network meetings approximately 4-monthly. Those settings where a high level of music provision is demonstrated will be nominated as 'Early Years Music Mentors' and invited to carry out outreach to other settings locally. For anybody who would like to develop their music leading skills further there will also be a Music Leader Trainee post advertised shortly to support the delivery of this project.

The first phase of the project will take place January-July 2012 and will involve approximately 25 settings in clusters across North Somerset, who will be invited to be involved shortly. Any settings who aren't involved in the first phase will be given further information during Summer 2012, and this newsletter will be used to update on progress of the project.

Happy Music Making!

Parental Responsibility

- Under the Early Years Foundation Stage the information you collect on children must include information around who has legal contact and who has parental responsibility.
- It is important to ensure you have this information for all the children you care for as it is a legal requirement and this must be in advance of a child being admitted to the provision.
- Please follow this link to access The Children's Legal Centre document "Parental Responsibility" for guidance.
<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/userfiles/file/Parental%20Responsibility%20leaflet.pdf>

Facebook and other social networking sites



As professionals it is important to remember that comments made on social networking sites, such as Facebook, can affect how you and your setting are viewed by others. At all times you must remember confidentiality and consider whether what you are posting breaches this.

- Think about how you are portraying yourself and your setting
- Consider when you are posting comments on it (this should not be during work hours?)
- Think about who you are giving access to, consider privacy settings
- Be very careful about photographs
- Ensure parents respect confidentiality in relation to your setting (do you have a policy about this?)
- Certain communications are not appropriate on a social networking sites (direct communication is more suitable with parents for example; text, telephone, email, verbal)

Yeo Valley & Rural Outreach Childminding Network Group

Yeo Valley & Rural Outreach Children's Centre Childminding Network Group are now running a drop in session during term times on Monday's between 9 - 11.30 am.

The Children's Centre has a bright and airy play-room with a good range of toys and resources and it provides opportunities for children to experience play in a larger group.

The network groups are a time for childminders and home childcarers to meet each other, access support and develop relationship with the Children's Centre. A Childcare Advisor will be attending on the first Monday of the month.

The next session will be on Monday 12th December and after Christmas will start again on 9th January.

Details of the other Childminding Network Groups across North Somerset can be found on this [link](#).

Preparing for the transition to parenthood: One Plus One contributes to new practitioner resource

As part of its commitment to the promotion of preparation for parenthood, the Department of Health has launched Preparing for Birth and Beyond: a resource pack for leaders of community groups and activities - a couple-focused resource that covers the physical, emotional and practical issues faced during pregnancy and the early years.

<http://thecoupleconnection.net>

Get Set website

As well as creating opportunities for children and young people to get involved in the excitement of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, members of the Get Set Network gain access to exclusive rewards and opportunities. <http://getset.london2012.com>



Registering is easy, just visit the Get Set website and sign up. There are activities to support the Early Years and Foundation stages. Find out about the Olympic and Paralympic Values: friendship, respect, courage, determination, inspiration, excellence and equality.

Domestic Abuse Directory

A new booklet has been produced entitled "Directory of Domestic Abuse Services 2011." Copies can be obtained direct from louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk or you can download copies or extracts when appropriate.

The PDF version is accessible from North Somerset Council web site - Domestic Abuse pages: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Social+care/Domestic+abuse/>

The directory is a very useful reference book (30 pages) and contains a wealth of information about available help and agencies.

Say No to Norovirus

Please see the following useful information on Norovirus
<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E3F71DC5-97BE-46F8-87A7-24C323873708/0/NorovirusPoster.pdf>

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8FF575C8-0FA8-40B3-90FB-8764883E4B92/0/NorovirusHeadteachersLetter.pdf>

Little Explorers Childminding Group & Children in Need

Well done to Little Explorers Childminding Group who raised £48.93 for Children in Need by dressing up in pyjamas and spotty wear.

The group meets on Fridays at The Campus in Weston-s-Mare.



Scope Regional Response South West

Scope Response is a free and unique service that offers impartial and expert information, advice and support to disabled people and their families. It is a gateway to all Scope services. Karin Gray is the Scope Regional Response Worker in this area. Her role is to offer in depth support to people with cerebral palsy, their families and the people working with them. She can also offer a home visit to families who have recently received a diagnosis of cerebral palsy to talk over the many issues that arise at that particular point in time.

Individuals, families and professionals can get in touch with Scope Response through our helpline and receive support in a number of different ways. Some issues will be dealt with by the Response Helpline for example funding searches and general enquiries. Other enquiries will be referred to Karin for more in depth support.

You can contact Scope Response in the following ways

Phone: 0808 800 33 33

Email: response@scope.org.uk

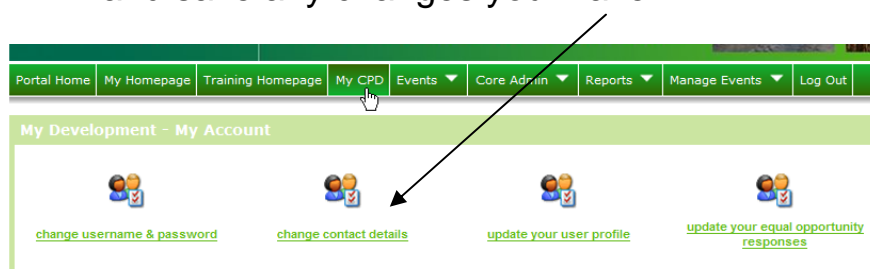
By post: PO Box 833, Milton Keynes, MK12 5NY

CPD Online – Keeping your details up-to-date

CPD online user accounts are personal to the user; each colleague at your setting can register their own account so that any events they attend with North Somerset Council can be registered in their own name, building up their own record of events attended.

One of the main benefits of the way we manage course bookings is that all correspondence is sent to delegates by email, saving time and money. For example delegates receive an email when their booking is confirmed, if we need to notify you of any changes to a course, or if we send you additional materials.

- To ensure that all messages get through to you please check that your contact details are up to date by logging onto CPD online <http://cyps-nsomersetcpd.webbased.co.uk>
- Click the My CPD menu to access change contact details and save any changes you make.



If you don't yet have your own email address why not create a free account? There are many providers of free email accounts, Google, Yahoo and Hotmail to name but a few.

Alternatively some settings have their own email address which you may be allowed to use.

For help with CPD Online please contact us at cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk or 01934 427560.

Kate Boyce
CPD Online Coordinator

News from Public Health

The second issue of **News from Public Health!** is available [here](#). This newsletter contains news and information relevant for anyone working with young children in North Somerset.

Early Years e-newsletter - Deadlines and distribution dates 2012

Deadlines:	Distribution dates (week beginning):
4 January	9 January
1 February	6 February
7 March	12 March
18 April	23 April
16 May	21 May
13 June	18 June
11 July	16 July
8 August	13 August
5 September	10 September
3 October	8 October
31 October	5 November
28 November	3 December

Forthcoming meetings, training, networks and events:-

Open Ended Play Workshop – Incorporating the Benefits and Expectations of Childminding Network Groups

Target Audience: Childminders

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
10-001328	Tuesday 17 January 2012	19:00 – 21:00	St Barnabas Centre, West Hill, Portishead
10-001329	Tuesday 24 January 2012	19:00 – 21:00	Castle Batch Children’s Centre, Bishop Avenue, Worle, Weston-super-Mare

Making Learning Visible (Documenting Children's Learning)

Target Audience: PVI Early Years Practitioners/Professionals

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
11-000517	Wednesday 18 January 2012	09:00 – 16:00	The Campus, Highlands Lane, Weston-super-Mare

What Matters to Children – Exploring Children's Interest in Big Ideas

Target Audience: PVI Early Years Professionals and Teachers

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
11-000560	Friday 27 January 2012 and a follow up twilight session on Friday 27 April 2012	09:00 – 16:00 15:45 – 18:00	The Campus, Highlands Lane, Weston-super- Mare

Beat Baby & Lola Leopard Workshop

Target Audience: newly registered childminders and newly qualified Early Years practitioners

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
11-000703	Tuesday 28 February 2012	19:00 – 21:00	Castlewood, Clevedon (G08-10)

Paediatric First Aid Course - (12 hour programme)

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
4 places remaining 11-000528	Saturday 28 January & 4 February 2012	09:30 – 16:00	Castle Batch Community Primary School, Rawlins Avenue, Worle, Weston-super-Mare
1 place remaining 11-000529	Thursday 2 & 9 February 2012	09:30 – 16:00	North Somerset Enterprise Agency, Oldmixon Crescent, Weston-super-Mare
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

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

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
6 places remaining 11-000545	Saturday 21 April 2012	09:15 for 09:30 – 16:30	Yatton Methodist Church, High Street, Yatton
11-000546	Saturday 16 June 2012	09:15 for 09:30 – 16:30	For All Healthy Living Centre, Lonsdale Avenue, Weston-super-Mare

Risk Assessment

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 ***

Child Protection: Basic Awareness

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
6 places remaining 12-000050	Tuesday 6 & 13 March 2012	18:45 for 19:00 – 21:30	For All Healthy Living Centre, Lonsdale Avenue, Weston-super- Mare
9 places remaining 11-000553	Saturday 12 May 2012	09:15 for 09:30 – 15:00	Kenn Road Methodist Church, Kenn Road, Clevedon
11-000554	Wednesday 13 & 20 June 2012	18:45 for 19:00 – 21:30	For All Healthy Living Centre, Lonsdale Avenue, Weston-super- Mare

Behaviour Management

Target audience- Newly registered childminders and childminders who did not attend any Behaviour Management training previously

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
11-000582	Tuesday 24 & 31 January 2012	19:00 – 21:30	For All Healthy Living Centre, Lonsdale Avenue, Weston-super-Mare
11-000583	Tuesday 19 & 26 June 2012	19:00 – 21:30	Clevedon Community School, Valley Road, Clevedon

Please book places via CPD Online:
<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>

Attachment and Developing Positive Relationships

By popular request, we are pleased to be able to offer a half day training on attachment. This course is designed for all CYPS staff who want to increase their understanding of attachment needs.

Event outcomes: To develop your knowledge and understanding of attachment and the different types.

- ◆ To understand the effects of attachment needs on learning.
- ◆ To discuss strategies and skills needed to develop positive relationships.

The 3 hour training is on Monday 9th January from 1 - 4pm in Room G.08 at Castlewood and the cost per delegate is £75.

If you or any of your colleagues would like to attend, please book on [CPD on line](#)

National Day Nurseries Association EYFS & Safeguarding Training



Leigh Court Business Centre, Abbots
Leigh, Bristol, BS8 3RA

Wednesday 25th January 2012

Please see the [flyer](#) and [agenda](#) for further details.

Foundation Degree in Early Years



Weston College is taking applications for the highly regarded Foundation degree in Early Years, ready to start in September 2012. Current students include nursery managers, room leaders, childminders and teaching assistants, and the course can lead on to BA. Hons and EYPS, or teacher training. The course provides background theory to current good practice as well as developing new skills in childcare. Students attend one day a week on day-release from their workplace, and the day includes a mixture of lectures and workshops.

The requirements for a place on the course are a level 3 qualification in early years or a related subject and at least two years experience working with young children. There is plenty of academic support from the tutors if you haven't written an essay for a while, and students all report how valuable and interesting the course is. There may also be the possibility of a full time course starting in September for anyone who hasn't worked with children but intends to enter the early years industry.

For more information on the course or funding, please contact Mark Wilkins at Weston College on 01934 411411, or email him at mark.wilkins@weston.ac.uk. You can also contact Rhianon Richards from North Somerset council on 01275 884 214, or Rhianon.Richards@n-somerset.gov.uk

Job vacancies

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

We have a vacancy for a Pre-school leader qualified to Level 3 with a minimum of 2 years experience. Must be hard-working, reliable, possess good people-skills and able to lead and manage.

Term time only. Morning sessions Monday-Friday, Afternoon sessions Monday-Wednesday and Friday.

Please contact Helen on 07834 864 291 for further information and an application form. Closing date for applications 16.12.11

Burrington Pre-school

Burrington Pre-School, a small and friendly community Pre-School, is looking for an assistant to start in January 2012. The successful applicant will need to hold an NVQ level 2 in Early Years or an equivalent qualification. They will need to assist the leader of the Pre-School in the day to day running of the setting by:

- Helping to provide a stimulating and varied programme of play and learning opportunities.
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of the children.
- Undertaking a key worker role with specific children.

The vacancy is for two sessions of pre-school a week running from 8:30am to 11:45am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (The Pre-School session runs from 9am to 11.30am – the above times include setting up and tidying the room).

If you are interested in the role please contact Claire Brown on 07803173268 or e-mail your CV to clairecokeley-brown@hotmail.co.uk