

Edition 2, February 2012

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

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the February edition of the Early Years Newsletter.

Spring is here! It's a wonderful time of year. A fabulous time for going outside to play and exploring the signs of spring all around us.

Have you booked your Early Years Conference places yet? The conference will be held on Saturday 23 June 2012, at the Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare. Gary Wilson and Alice Sharpe are our keynote speakers. Links to their websites are included later in this newsletter so that you can find out more about the work they do within their exciting areas of specialism. We will be publishing further information about workshops/seminars prior to the conference date. We look forward to seeing you all on the day. Book your places now to avoid disappointment!

As you know, the Government recently announced their plans to further expand the funding for two year old places from April 2012. The Early Years Team are holding two briefing sessions to inform providers as to how this expansion will be implemented in North Somerset. The briefing sessions are taking place on 1 and 6 March and will be held at The Campus. We strongly encourage you to attend one of these sessions.

For those of you who are taking a break in February - I hope it's a good one!

Once again, thank you for your hard work, commitment and professionalism.

With best wishes

Andrea Sully

Senior Adviser: Early Years and Transforming Learning

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General articles:-

Consultation on the Regulation of Providers on the Early Years Register

Ofsted is seeking views on proposals for a revised framework for the regulation and inspection of registered early years provision. These views will help to refine and develop the framework.

They are reviewing their framework for the regulation of those on the Early Years Register following the recent review of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The closing date for consultation is 6 April 2012 and you can access the full consultation document [here](#).

School Food Trust: New guidelines launched on food and drink in early years



Nurseries, childminders and other providers of early year's services now have extra support on providing healthy meals for young children and to help reduce obesity in under-fives, thanks to new national, voluntary guidelines.

For the first time, childcare providers have a [nationally-recognised source of information](#) about the foods they should offer young children, portion sizes, sample menus and recipes, advice on tackling fussy eating and involving children in food and cooking activities.

It follows an [independent report](#) in 2010 which flagged demand for clearer guidance from childcare providers and parents.

The [National Day Nurseries Association](#), the [National Childminding Association](#) and the [Pre-School Learning Alliance](#) are among those supporting the guidelines from the School Food Trust which can be downloaded here:-

[School Food Trust • Eat Better Do Better](#)

Foster Carers needed

North Somerset is recruiting people who have the experience, skills and knowledge to care for young people who cannot live with their own families - and have a range of additional needs.

We are looking for people who may already have experience as Foster Carers, want regular placements, and to use their skills to make a difference to the lives of young people who need it most.

Other people may apply to become Specialist Foster Carers when there is an opportunity to change their career or circumstances. Fostering could mean that they are able to work from home, and in more depth, supporting the young person to reach their potential - much more than some jobs currently expect.

The young people may need a placement for one or more of a variety of reasons:

- Some may have emotional and behavioural needs as a result of their early development and experience;
- Or have a particular disability;
- They may have a child - and an assessment of their parenting is required;
- They may have come into care in an emergency and little is known about them;
- Or may be at risk of offending or engaging in risky behaviour.

Caring for such young people requires patience, energy and perseverance. We need people who have experience of, and enjoy, working positively with young people and their families. They must also be able to offer a young person their own room in a home, stability and time.

We will offer training and support – whether or not people have previous experience of fostering or not; and a weekly payment of up to £420 per week per young person.

If you think you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about becoming a Specialist Foster Carer, please contact the North Somerset Fostering Recruitment team on 01275 888 999 or email me. We can send out an information pack, and arrange to visit to explore further.

This could be a challenging and satisfying career change! We look forward to hearing from you.... Please see the [Fostering in North Somerset leaflet](#) for more information.

Susannah Weeks - Susannah.weeks@n-somerset.gov.uk

CPD Online – Providing a ledger code or cost code when making and approving bookings

To approve a booking in CPD Online the CPD Leader (Manager) will now be asked to provide a ledger code or cost code before the booking can be processed.

Event Request Authorisation

▶ Please enter a ledger code or cost centre for this booking:

Although it is only colleagues from North Somerset Council that are able to provide a ledger code or cost code, this is a mandatory field so all settings must type something into this box in order for the booking to be processed.

If there is a fee for the event that you are booking please type the word invoice into this box. You will be sent an invoice for the course fee.

If the event is fully funded and there is no fee to pay please enter the code foc into this box.

All bookings are checked as part of the booking process and you will only be invoiced if there is a fee to pay.

Kate Boyce, CPD Online Coordinator, Integrated Workforce Development
Tel: 01934 427560



KIDS publications



KIDS National Development Department is reducing its publications storage facility, and as a result are offering substantial discounts on all their remaining publications stock for a limited period.

All KIDS resources are aimed at ensuring you are fully equipped to include disabled children and young people in your setting, service, group, play or leisure provision, day to day practice – anywhere!

Their available stock is as follows:

Including Everybody – an invaluable resource on how to ensure disabled children are considered in every aspect of planning and delivering your service or setting.

Was £10.00 - NOW £5.00 (postage charges apply)

Inclusion by Design - a guide to creating accessible play and childcare environments - packed with stunning photos demonstrating good practice in inclusive design, this publication is aimed at planners, designers, parks and leisure officers as well as early years, play and childcare providers who want to ensure the design of their play space is accessible, welcoming and inclusive.

Was £20.00 – NOW £8.00 (postage charges apply)

Nothing Special – ‘Inclusion, does it only exist in policies?’

A young person led review of policies relating to them and how they can be more inclusive. Excellent practical introduction to the impact of policies on young disabled people.

Was £5.00 – NOW FREE (minimum order of 5 copies; postage charges apply)

BEFORE YOU ORDER, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

We can only accept minimum orders of £10.00; therefore you need to buy at least 2 items.

Postage & Packing is £3 per individual item; bulk orders may attract a postage discount – prices on application.

This offer is time limited until Friday 2nd March 2012

To access this offer, email ndd@kids.org.uk to place an order

For further details on our publications visit www.kids.org.uk/books

**Urgent
reminder!**

INCLUSION LINK PROGRAMME - 2011

We are still missing some evaluations from the Inclusion Link Programme. Your comments are extremely valuable and very much needed to support the continuation and development of the programme.

Please can you complete the form sent to you and return it **as soon as possible** to:-

Fran Kirkwood, Early Years Adviser/Inclusion,
Early Years Learning Team, CYPS,
North Somerset Council,
Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road,
Weston-super-Mare,
BS23 1UJ

Milton Baptist Pre-school



Milton Baptist Pre-school are holding an Open Afternoon on **Wednesday 28 March 2012** from 1pm to 2.30pm.

Parents or guardians of children who are wanting to start pre-school in September can go along to experience the atmosphere of their sessions, have fun with activities including dressing up and arts and crafts, and meet the team members.

Refreshments will be available.

For more information contact Lesley on 07800 785 993 or Jeanette on 07972 266 220.

www.milton-preschool.co.uk

Publishing contact details for childminders on the Ofsted website

Ofsted is currently writing to all childminders to ask them whether they would like their name, address and telephone number published on their website.

Having details published will allow parents to find inspection reports for childminders more easily than they can currently. At present, all childminder reports are displayed anonymously.

For further information please see link below to Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childmindersconsentform>

New Childminding Network Groups

There are two new childminding network groups starting soon:-

<p>‘Weston Central’ Mondays 9.30-11.30am term-time only starting on 27 February 2012</p> <p>@ Weston Central Children’s Centre Meadow Street Weston-super-Mare BS23 1QL</p>	<p>‘Locking Bumbles’ Wednesdays 9.30am – 11.30am term time only Starting 22 February 2012</p> <p>@ Locking Church Centre Opposite St Augustine Church Locking Village BS24 8DA</p>
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- Children can play together learning social skills in a larger group setting
- Learning and development linked to the EYFS
- Varied activities, including craft, messy play, music and movement and lots of opportunities for child initiated play
- Access to support from other childminders, Childcare Advisors and Children’s Centre Staff

Details of all the childminding network groups can be found on the following link (second item on the list):-

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/NR/exeres/9A84F670-8682-43DA-A898-46084DEADF95.frameless.htm?NRMODE=Published>



bookstart
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Bookstart in North Somerset

Hello! I am Caroline Malpas, your new North Somerset Bookstart Co-ordinator. I started in post at the beginning of January 2012 and I am really looking forward to working with you all to reinforce the Bookstart aim to inspire a love of books in every child.

Bookstart Scheme Packs

Bookstart has recently introduced the new packs for Bookstart Baby, gifted through Health Visitors at 6 to 8 week checks and Bookstart Treasure Pack, gifted through a variety of Early Years settings to 3 to 4 year olds. I will be contacting all Early Years settings very soon to discuss requirements.

Bookstart Plus has been replaced by Bookstart Corner. This new targeted programme is being delivered through Children's Centres. The aim is to support the most disadvantaged families with children aged 12 to 30 months.

Bookstart Bear Club

This is being launched in North Somerset libraries on Saturday 4 February 2012 which is National Libraries Day. It is a free reward scheme for children of pre-school age to encourage regular visits to their library to share stories, books & rhymes. Children get paw stamps in their passport and earn certificates. There is also a fun and engaging online club for them to join with stories and rhymes.

Rhyme Challenge

This offers great rhyming resources for Children's Centres and Early Years settings. The aim is to encourage a love of rhymes and early poetry in children aged up to 5 years and to promote the benefits of learning together to families, both in Early Years settings and at home.

To find out more information please contact:

Caroline Malpas, Bookstart Co-ordinator, North Somerset

Tel: 01934 426269

Email: caroline.malpas@n-somerset.gov.uk

Web: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/bookstart
www.bookstart.org.uk

Blagdon Pre-school - Five go on a journey

Once upon a time there was a little ordinary pre-school in the village of Blagdon full of toys and games, puzzles and books. The children were happy and the staff content until one day a member of staff had “a good idea”!

“Let’s get rid of the toys” she declared

“What,” they replied, “are you mad?”

“Nobody plays with them, the boxes get tipped out, the cupboard is so full we don’t even know what is in there anymore.”

And so the seed was sown, over the next two terms items were thrown out and gradually a thinning out process was started. The cupboard was never entered therefore it became clear that whatever was in there was surplus to what we needed. Gradually we began to notice that the children did not need vast amounts of choice, that in fact less was more. They were able to see what they wanted rather than tipping the box out to find the one item at the bottom which was of interest to them.

The next step was to clear out the dreaded cupboard of all the games and puzzles which nobody played. With an Early Years Consultant’s mantra ringing in our ears of “if you can’t do three things with it why keep it?” we thinned out even further the commercial toys and games.

We now have a room which is full of interesting objects which the children can explore and make discoveries using their own ideas and perceptions of the world. We have a construction area where children can build with many different sized wooden blocks. We kept the lego, duplo and the wooden train set as these items can inspire a child’s imagination and creativity.

Within our art area we have clay – but no rolling pins and cake cutters! There are shelves full of “treasure” to make and decorate with, many different sized and shaped boxes to construct with. We have no home corner, maths area and mark-making area because we don’t need to, as all these learning opportunities are happening naturally through the exploration of the materials the children are using.

continued....

The benefits have been huge, both adults and children are more actively engaged with what they are doing because it is much more exciting to build and construct your own “cooker”, “fairy castle” or “train” than to get one out of the cupboard.

And what about the parents what do they think about their children playing with bottle tops etc. rather than the latest must-have toy? We spent a lot of time explaining to them what we were going to do and why, we showed them through documentation how much their child is learning and the benefits that will have on their future learning.

We still have a long way to go, but our journey has begun down a path of exploration and discovery

Carole Cooke
Graduate Leader – Early Years Professional



Training:-



Early Years Conference

This year's Early Years Conference will be held on

Saturday 23 June 2012

at the

Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare

You can now book your place at the Conference on CPD Online – ref [11-000842](#)

The annual Early Years Foundation Stage Conference will include a keynote speech by [Gary Wilson](#), Education Consultant and Author - Raising Boys' Achievement, and [Alice Sharp](#), the Managing Director of Experiential Play. We will focus in the keynotes on meeting the interests and needs of boys and their play games.

Delegates will learn about children's play and raising boys' achievement.

2 Year Old Funding Briefings for Owners/Managers of PVI Settings and Accredited Childminders

We are pleased to announce two briefing sessions
at **The Campus**
on **1st March 2012 and 6 March 2012 from 8pm - 9pm.**

The briefings will provide information on the new 2 Year Old Funding provision and North Somerset Council's response to it.

The [DfE](#) have announced an expansion to the free entitlement for 20% of all 2 year olds by 2013 and 40% by 2014.

This will be a challenge to deliver nationally and locally but it is a great opportunity to make a difference to disadvantaged children in North Somerset.

We urge all owners/managers to attend this briefing session to hear about the proposed funding arrangements and implementation plans.

Please book places on CPD online - refs: [11-000840](#) for 1 March and [12-000136](#) for 6 March

Inter Agency Child Protection: Engaging Families with Multiple Needs

Responding to Munro – A Multi Agency Training Module with Eyewitness Theatre Company

Tuesday 17 April 9.30am – 4.30pm at The Purple Sheep Centre,
Hughenden Road Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS23 2UR

or

Wednesday 18 April 9.30am – 4.30pm at Nailsea Baptist Church,
79 Silver Street, Nailsea, BS48 2DS

Aims:

To use theatre techniques to enable professionals to develop expertise in Safeguarding:

- to engage with families
- talk to children
- communicate with men – in a manner recommended in CH 6 of the Munro Review.
- How to ask sensitive, challenging questions for a risk analysis
- How to recognise evasive responses and work effectively with non-compliance.

Families with Multiple Needs

Case studies and live learning interviews will highlight the impact

- on the development and well being of children
- of the toxic trio of domestic abuse, mental health & Substance misuse and include working with resistant families.

We had excellent feedback when Eyewitness Theatre delivered their 'Building Bridges- Parental Mental Illness' module in North Somerset in March 2010.

There will be no charge to delegates from settings in North Somerset, although non attendance and late cancellation (10 working days) will incur a £50 charge.

Places can be booked via CPD Online using the following links:

[Tuesday 17th April](#) or [Wednesday 18th April](#)

Please see [flyer](#) for more information

Langford Area Early Years Network Meeting

The next Langford Area Early Years network meeting will be held at [Yeo Valley Children's Centre](#) on Wednesday 8th February 2012 at 6.30pm.

This is an opportunity for day nurseries, preschools and childminders in Langford and surrounding villages to get to know each other and discuss topical issues.



Are you ready to increase your qualifications?

Places are filling up 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 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 year's 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

Early Years Foundation Stage and Leadership – 3 day course

Wednesday 4 July – Friday 6 July 2012

A three day EYFS Leadership Course to be held at The Campus to explore the principles of 'leadership' of any team; what we can learn about influence, motivation and principled leadership from individuals and organisations beyond education; and how we can use the best of international Early Years pedagogy to design world class provision.

- To understand the principles and theory of leadership from a range of sources
- To be increasingly confident in leading and influencing others
- To be informed by international best practice in order to undertake quality improvements
- To understand the implications in managing successful change

Please book your places on CPD online – ref [12-000054](#)

Quality Improvement Clusters

The next QI clusters begin in March and we shall be continuing with our RED process:

Reflect and Exchange: Collections: How we can use collections to support children's development in PSRN?

Develop: The Home Learning Environment: How can settings work with families to support children's learning and development?

Please bring along your QI folders and your completed action plans (Collections and PSRN). Remember to complete the evaluation section and, if possible bring any documentation that you are willing to share. We shall also be updating you on this year's Transfer Documents.

May we remind you that you are required to attend a minimum of two out of the three QI Clusters each year.

Looking forward to seeing you all....

Early Years Consultants

Behaviour Management

We have arranged an additional course for Behaviour Management training, targeted at all staff from day nurseries and pre-schools, as well as childminders.

It will be an evening course, running over two evenings and the dates are as follows:

**Thursday 26 April & 3 May 2012, 7 - 9.30pm
at The Campus, Weston-super-Mare**

This course will cover the following:

- Age / stage appropriate social and emotional development,
- The role of the person around attachment,
- Child-child conflict resolution / adult-child conflict resolution as the main approach to supporting children to manage their own behaviour,
- Developmentally appropriate strategies for managing challenging behaviour,
- Behaviour management plans and target setting involving parents and/or carers,
- Ways of supporting parents and/or carers to manage their children's behaviour,
- Role of INCCO / Area SENCO including the North Somerset referral process,
- EYFS resources to support CPD including Inclusion Development Programme resources,
- Signposting to other appropriate North Somerset training to support social and emotional development of vulnerable children.

Please book your places on CPD online – ref [11- 000862](#)

Target audience: Private, Voluntary and Independent Childcare Settings (i.e. nursery, pre-school/playgroup practitioners), childminders and out of school club practitioners

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

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.

Child Protection: Basic Awareness

ADDITIONAL COURSE ARRANGED

**Course fee: Fully funded
(£20 deposit required)**

Duration: 1 day or 2 evenings

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
TBC	Saturday 24 March 2012	09:15 for 09:30 – 15:00	TBC

Please book a place via CPD Online:

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