

Edition 4, April 2011

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

Dear Colleagues

I hope you are all looking forward to even a brief break over the Easter period.

This week we heard the outcomes of [Dame Tickell's Review of the EYFS](#). Dame Tickell was emphatic that the EY sectors are very supportive of the framework but would like to see paperwork reduced.

Her recommendation is to create 17 Early Learning Goals rather than 69 and to focus these 17 on Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development. The other 3 areas of learning we are used to working with would become the 'contexts' for developing the children's emotional and social self, their communication skills and their physical development.

My initial response is that this will be sensible and doable, so long as we continue to provide rich and meaningful experiences for the children that enable them to know and understand their world, create and express themselves in many ways, and build their problem solving, reasoning and numeracy. We must not fall into a trap of only focussing on CLLD, PSED and Physical Development! So, we will need to be sensitive and highly alert to the tendency to allow prescribed outcomes to begin to shape the 'curriculum' we offer. But because we know this, we won't!

Our Early Years Conference was held on Saturday and was a great success. Alice Sharpe was the keynote for the morning and was truly inspiring. The whole audience was energised and motivated by her very dynamic, thoughtful but practical talk. The feedback from those of you there was that you would love to have an annual conference, so we will do what we can to make this happen. I would like to thank you for attending, especially on a Saturday, and I would also like to thank the phenomenal EY team for making it happen in such a short timescale.

With best wishes to you all

Andrea Sully

Senior Adviser: Early Years and Transforming Learning

In this month's edition...

General articles:

- [Children's Centres and Childcare Providers working together](#)
- [FIDy update](#)
- [Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- [Three and four year old funding – website pages for providers and parents](#)
- [Preventing poor children becoming poor adults](#)
- [Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit](#)
- [Health Protection Agency](#)
- [Ofsted launches 'good practice' website](#)
- [Free Bt Community website](#)
- [National Childminding Association Factsheets](#)
- [Approved Mileage Allowance Payments](#)
- [Allowable Household Expenses](#)
- [NSPCC Pedal Push](#)
- [Goodbyes](#)

Forthcoming meetings, training, networks and events:

- [Introduction to Portage workshop](#)
- [Childminding Network Groups](#)
- [Autism in the early years](#)
- [Paediatric First Aid Course](#)
- [First Aid at Work qualification](#)
- [CPD On-line – how to obtain your certificate](#)

General articles:-

North Somerset Children's Centres and Childcare Providers working together



North Somerset now has 14 Children's Centres across the district that co-ordinate and deliver a wide range of parenting, family support and family health services to families with children aged 0-5 years.

Local services are being delivered by local workers from a range of professions, and the centres are vital in developing a healthy relationship with parents, carers and their children.

Children's Centres and childcare providers make the perfect partnership to reach out to families who might not engage with the centre or who may just need that extra bit of support during a difficult period in their life.

Every childcare provider already delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage, so will be familiar with many of the Children's Centre objectives and are perfectly placed to identify and advise families that may need additional support, or other services and activities co-ordinated via the centre.

North Somerset Children's Centres want to encourage all parents, the community and private/voluntary settings to be actively encouraged to take part in planning and running their local setting.

Every centre has a co-ordinator that you can contact if you feel a family may benefit from some additional help. You may already be working with your local centre through the 0-3 sponsored childcare scheme, or attending childminding groups at the centre, but if you're not and you would like to get involved then contact telephone numbers for the centres and their 'What's On' and newsletters are available via the Family Information Service or North Somerset Council website: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Education/Childcare+learning+and+play/Children+s+Centres/locationofchildrenscentresinnorthsomerset.htm>

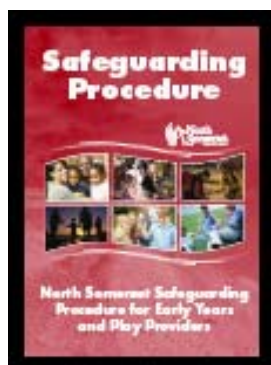
Closure of the national childcare and family services search facility (FIDy)



The Department for Education (Dfe) has confirmed that the existing national Family Information Directory (FIDy) that was available on Direct.gov, Dfe websites and other third party websites was closed down at the end of March 2011. This was a valuable information service aimed at parents, families and practitioners, which received an average 40,000 searches each day.

North Somerset has its own local directory www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk which receives over 1,500 visits a month and we will continue to promote this for childcare and family services searches, but we equally understand how important a single source of information for all child and family services can be and how beneficial it is for communities who live on the borders of our neighbouring authorities. Therefore, in partnership with other Local Authorities, we are looking at how and if we can continue this service in the future. We will of course keep you updated.

Safeguarding Procedures



The updated version of the Safeguarding Procedures for Early Years and Play Providers is now available [online](#).

You should be receiving a printed copy via cluster meetings, children's centres, network groups and childminder support groups or in the post. Please ring FIS on 01934 426 300 if you do not receive your copy.

Three and four year old funding – website pages for providers and parents

We now have a series of pages on North Somerset Council's website with information for providers and parents on three and four year old funding. There are forms for you to download and copy, frequently asked questions and we will soon have a

calculator tool which you can use to work out how much funding you are likely to receive once you know the number of hours that parents are going to claim with you (keep a look out for details in future issues of the e-newsletter!).

You can find the information at: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/earlyyears

If you want more information to be made available on the website please email Maureen.gale@n-somerset.gov.uk with a list of the information that you would find useful.

Preventing poor children becoming poor adults

The final report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances, conducted by Frank Field, was published in December 2010. The report sets out a new approach to meeting the Government's target of abolishing child poverty.

The Review concluded that the UK needs to address the issue of child poverty in a fundamentally different way if it is to make a real change to children's life chances as adults.

The Review found overwhelming evidence that children's life chances are most heavily predicated on their development in the first five years of life and concludes that the most effective and cost-effective way to help and support young families is in the earliest years of a child's life.

Click here to read the final report: [The Foundation Years: Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults](#)

Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit

The amount of help parents and carers can get with their childcare costs drops from 80% to 70% from 6 April 2011. The most parents can claim for each week is £175 for one child and £300 for two or more children. This means that the maximum amount that can be claimed through tax credits for childcare will be:

- £122.50 a week for one child
- £210 a week for two or more children



Health Protection Agency (HPA)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings can be found on the following link:-

<http://www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk/Early-Years-e-newsletters/Guidance%20on%20Infection%20control%20in%20schools%20and%20childcare%20settings.pdf>

If you need to contact the HPA, the telephone number for the south west region is 0845 504 8668.

Ofsted launches new website for sharing good practice

The website launched on 7 March. The case studies focus on good practice that other providers can use to improve their work.

The site will have examples from schools, adult learning and skills, and children and families services across the country. Examples from early years and childcare will be included from September.

The case studies are written by Ofsted inspectors following a visit to the provider to investigate a lead about good practice, which has usually been identified during an inspection.

<http://www.goodpractice.ofsted.gov.uk>

Free BT Community Website

Charities and not-for-profit community groups can access a free web-hosting and design service through the communications company BT. The Community Web Kit provides free website hosting, a free web-address, a choice of layouts and designs and a step-by-step guide to building your site. The service is part of BT's Get IT Together campaign to encourage as many people as possible to get online.

For details go to www.btck.co.uk/Main/About.aspx

National Childminding Association (NCMA) factsheets

The NCMA has produced new fact sheets which include information about contracts, working hours, expenses and allowances, and much more.

<http://www.ncma.org.uk/pdf/Full%20factsheet%20bundle%20v3.pdf>

Approved Mileage Allowance Payments

HMRC have increased the Approved Mileage Allowance Payments from 6 April 2011. Details can be found on the following link:-

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6310.pdf>

Allowable Household Expenses

A handy link for childminders calculating their allowable household expenses:-

<http://www.childminding-success.co.uk/featured/allowable-household-expenses/>

NSPCC Pedal Push



Pedal Push is an exciting mini bike ride for under fives, to raise funds for the NSPCC. You can also choose to raise funds for your own group or cause by keeping up to 25 per cent of the money you raise.

Children at nurseries, playgroups and childminders can take part, hopping on their bikes, trikes and scooters to make a real difference to children's lives across the UK.

It's fun and easy to organise, and you can hold your Pedal Push at any time during summer. Children will love joining in the fun with Benny Beep Beep, Mike Trike and Suzie Scoots - the Pedal Push mascots.

NSPCC will provide you with lots of support and resources to make the day exciting for everyone and to help your fundraising go smoothly. When you register, they will send you a Pedal Push pack, filled with fundraising activities and top tips.

Visit http://www.nspcc.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise-for-us/at-school-or-nursery/pedal-push/pedal-push-hub_wdh80249.html for more information.

Goodbyes

...from the playrangers-

The Big Lottery fund grant which has funded the Play Pod/ Play Ranger projects have enabled the Play Development Team to carry out the following:

- Provide and facilitate play opportunities for 14,784 attendees in local parks across North Somerset
- The creation of our forest fun project which has been delivered to over 100 School classes
- Roll out the Playmakers project which has transformed the prospects of 4 young lads who have all achieved their Bronze Arts Award.
- Deliver outreach projects to places lacking in play provision
- Run activities and tailored projects on behalf of Extended Schools
- Provided volunteers with play experience and training
- Create a networking Play Partnership consisting of many different organisations and agencies
- Roll out a programme of SMSA training to 6 Schools
- Deliver a learning through play initiative to hundreds of college learners enabling them to put theory learnt into practice
- Enable children and young people and the wider community to design and build 7 play sculptures across North Somerset
- Deliver the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) project to 6 Schools to develop a holistic approach to maximise the play potential of their existing play provision.
- Provide Play Rangers with various training opportunities benefiting their personal CPD
- Develop positive relationships with children and young people based on respect. This has helped to significantly reduce anti-social behaviour and create an ethos of appreciation for the local outdoor play spaces
- Installation of 11 Parks in year one of Playbuilder after extensive consultation with the local communities
- To carry out Community Spaces consultation to develop play provision for 9 sites in year 2.

All this in just over 3 years.....

Without a team of dedicated play professionals in place the above community focused projects would not have happened. The Play Rangers have worked extremely hard to offer creative, imaginative

and inclusive projects based on play which have benefited all those involved. The Play Pods are now moving on to pastures new but will be handed over with an agreement in place ensuring that they are still maintained as an outdoor, inclusive and open access play provision.

I would like to thank all the Play Rangers for their dedication to play in North Somerset and wish them all every success in the future.

Rob Warren, Lead Community Play Development Worker

... from Heather Brumby -

Farewell.

It is with sadness that I will be leaving the North Somerset Family Information Service at the end of April. My role has been funded by the Positive Activities fund which like many others has now finished.

I am grateful to have been part of the team during a very exciting time and we have seen many achievements over the last three years including a successful transfer to a new database, a new look online directory and a highlight last year when we picked up the Families First Accreditation award- a very proud moment for us all!

The jewel in the Family Information Service crown is still our online directory which is a valuable resource showing all registered childcare and over 1500 services and events around North Somerset. Check it out at www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk

I would like to say a big thank you to the childcare workforce, colleagues in the Youth Service and colleagues in Children and Young People's Services who I have worked with- without your dedication and communication my role within FIS would have so much harder! I hope I get the chance to work with you in the future.

Best wishes for the future!

Heather Brumby
Information Officer for the Family Information Service.

Forthcoming meetings, training, networks and events:-

Introduction to Portage workshop



Introduction to Portage Workshop

The Portage approach really enhances pre-school/early years work. It starts from a 'what the child can do' baseline and includes training in Task Analysis, use of SMART targets for Individual Education Plans and celebrating the child's success.

It has been very highly valued by those who have undergone the training.

Target Group: Those working with pre-school/early years children with Special Educational Needs (Early Years Foundation Stage). Open to teachers, support workers, family support workers, therapists, health visitors, early year's practitioners, etc. **Priority will be given to maintained nursery practitioners and family support workers.**

Tutor: Anna Sutherland, Senior Educational Psychologist and Manager of North Somerset Portage Service

When: Thursday 19 May 2011

Time: 9:30am – 12:00noon

Where: The Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1JY – The Weston Room

Cost: FREE *Subsidised by DCATCH funding

*As access to Early Years provision for disabled children has been identified as a key priority within the DCATCH (Disabled Children's Access to Childcare) we are now able to offer this course for FREE!

A place can be booked on line at <http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpd/> or by contacting Marion Mills on 01275 88 4075. We advise early booking of this course. Further details will follow once a place is booked.



New Childminding Network Groups and changes to existing Childminding Network Groups.

A New Childminding Network group called '**Eureka**' will be opening on Thursday 5 May at North Worle, St George's and Kewstoke Children's Centre, Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishops Avenue, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 7PQ. This group will take place on Thursday afternoons 12.30pm – 2.30pm all year round and will begin with a lunch period, (please bring your own children's packed lunches). Please contact the Lead Childminding Practitioner Estella Figg for further details: Tel: 07561 488 582

Ladybirds Childminding Network Group is to move from The Campus to Milton & Old Worle Children's Centre, Mendip Avenue, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 6HN - the last session will be on Wednesday 6 April. The group will re-open under its new name, Cheeky Monkeys, on Wednesday 27 April at Milton and Old Worle Children's Centre. The new session time is to be extended and will run from 9.30am – 12.30pm to finish with a lunch period (please bring your own children's packed lunches), and will continue to be term-time only. Please contact Lead Childminding Practitioners Lesley Rogers Tel: 07752 062 370 or Sue Kellaway Tel: 07846 343 196 for further details.

(Little Explorers Childminding Network Group that runs at The Campus will continue as normal)

The old **Cheeky Monkeys Childminding Network Group** is to move from Milton and Old Worle Children's Centre to North Worle, St George's and Kewstoke Children's Centre, Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishops Avenue, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 7PQ. The last session at Milton & Old Worle will be on Wednesday 6 April and it will resume at its new venue of Castle Batch with a **new name** on Wednesday 4 May. The session will continue to run from 9.30am – 11.30am, term time only. Please contact Lead Childminding Practitioner Mel Grieve Tel: 07949 554 396 for further details.

You are welcome to attend whichever group you would like to!

Castle Batch is a fabulous new venue for us to hold two of our Childminding Network Groups. We are really pleased to finally be able to open these groups in an area where there are many childminders who don't yet attend any network groups. We would really love to see some new faces and hope that lots of you will

decide to give these groups a go. There are many benefits to attending Childminding Network Groups; children can play together learning social skills in a larger group setting, there are varied activities, including craft, messy play, music & stories and always lots of opportunities for child initiated play, there is access to support from other childminders, Lead Childminding Practitioners and Childcare Advisors, plus so much more.

I look forward to seeing you all shortly.

Sarah Zanelli
Childcare Adviser

Autism in the early years.

A course over five evenings, about the underlying difficulties of autism and related difficulties, which will be running at Springboard Opportunity Group in Clevedon from 6 June to 4 July 2011. Please see the [poster](#) for further details or contact Yvonne on 01275 341 113.

Paediatric First Aid Course -12 hour programme (5 evenings)

Tuesday 26 April & 3, 10, 17, 24 May 2011, 7.00 - 9.30pm at Kenn Road Methodist Church, Clevedon

Course fee: £52 per person (for PVI childcare settings, Childminders and Out of School Club Practitioners)

Booking enquiries: Stana Balogova, Training Administrator, Tel: 01275 888 677

Bookings can be made via CPD Online: <http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline> (select 'Services for Children and Young People')

First Aid at Work qualification

Those delegates who have successfully completed and passed the assessment for the Paediatric First Aid Course have now the opportunity of achieving the First Aid at Work qualification.

This is only open to those delegates who will do an additional, one day training within 13 weeks of completing their Paediatric First Aid Course.

The one day would be charged at £55 per person plus VAT. Certificates would be issued in Welsh and English. Delegates would need to answer 50 multi-choice questions and be examined by two Health and Safety Examiners for the practical part of the exam. The latter would occur approximately at 3.00pm on this third day.

First Aid Manuals would be sent prior to courses and payments are essential prior to course. The £55 covers all the additional costs involved with arranging such a course.

For any further information please contact Services in Health Education Ltd, Tel: 01934 514203 or mobile: 07741 184 124. Email: she_th@hotmail.co.uk or write to S.H.E., Unit 34, Worle, Quarry, Lower Kewstoke Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 9LF

CPD Online - How to obtain your certificate

A step-by-step guide to downloading your own certificate from CPD Online. Please click [here](#) to see the guide.

For further assistance please contact Stana Balogova, Training Administrator on 01275 888677 or email stana.balogova@n-somerset.gov.uk