

Edition 9, September 2011

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

Dear Colleagues

I hope you have all enjoyed a happy and productive August.

Many of you will now be in the thick of receiving new babies, toddlers and pre-school children into your settings. Writing to you, I'm wondering what they must all be feeling and thinking with this new, promising experience?

There will be new names, faces, smells, opportunities, resources, routines, sounds and spaces, all of which each child has to adjust to. It strikes me how important it is for them to start with that solid base of loving and warm relationships, especially with a key person, which is core to the themes and commitments within the EYFS. So, I would encourage you to think about how your new arrivals see their first few days with you and experience their induction through 'the eyes of the child'.

Team Update:-

As you are aware, Vivienne Kimber, Early Years Consultant and Andrea Dennis, Childcare Development Adviser are currently on long term sick leave. We wish them both a speedy recovery and miss their invaluable expertise and support. We have arranged back-fill for their roles with the following arrangements taking effect from September 1st -

Linda Roberts has been appointed as a permanent member of the EYC team and will offer support to some of Viv's settings. Linda will be working 5 days a week.

Gail Alder will support the remaining of Viv's settings and will continue with her normal 2.5 days a week support for PVIs.

Fran Kirkwood's role as Lead for Inclusion and Safeguarding has grown in workload enormously over the last two years, so Fran is having to relinquish her small number of settings and these will be shared between Linda and Gail in the interim, then also with Viv after her return to work.

Letters and an email to any settings affected by the new Early Years Consultant arrangements have been sent.

Liz Barnett is also now on sick leave as carrying her beautiful bundle of twin girls has taken its toll on her and she needs to rest. She is being well looked after by her consultant and starts her maternity leave at the end of this month.

I am delighted that Sue Youde who worked in the past for the Pre-School Learning Alliance will be working for us for 2 days a week, supported by Alison Oaten. They will prioritise settings due for inspection and support any interim queries related to the Welfare requirements.

I hope you have a good few weeks over September and thank you all for all your hard work

With best wishes

Andrea Sully

Senior Adviser: Early Years and Transforming Learning

Quote of the month:

'The creative mind plays with objects it loves'

CG Jung

In this month's edition...

General articles:

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- Inter Agency Child Protection: E-Safety
- Brand new courses available this Autumn

General articles:-

Yearly consent to share information with parents, carers and professionals, and provider update

Dear Colleagues

<http://www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk/FIS-docs/PKH%20Generic%20Consent%20Autumn%202011.doc>

Above is a link to the consent form that we ask you to complete annually. Could you please check your record on the Family Information Service Directory www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk to ensure that the information we hold is still current and up to date? You can find your entry by keyword searching your setting name or via the online map. If you need to make any amendments to the entry please contact us on 01934 426 300, email us on fis@n-somerset.gov.uk or include the changes with your consent form. We can also post your entry to you if you prefer.

On your entry we would recommend that you write something personal about your setting, this can be how many years you have been registered or what you offer etc, if you would like any help or advice about this please contact us, or talk to your Early Years Advisor

The Data Protection Act states that we are unable to disclose your details to parents/carers looking for childcare without your signed consent, therefore we would appreciate it if you could please sign and return it to us as soon as possible.

Thank you

Gill Hinton
Family Information Service

Tel: 01934 426 300

Guidelines for physical activity in the early years

The UK Government has recently published new physical activity guidelines. For the first time these include guidelines specifically for the under fives.

These information booklets are designed to give early year's practitioners and health professionals help with using these guidelines effectively and to provide practical tips.

They provide information on:

- The early years guidelines
- The importance of physical activity for children in the early years
- Appropriate types of activity
- Tips for promoting more physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviour in an early years setting
- Further resources to help promote movement and reduce sedentary behaviour

There are two information booklets, one with advice for physical activity with [infants who cannot yet walk](#) and [one for walkers](#).

Information on the use of logos on providers' websites & documentation

Ofsted (taken from Ofsted website):

- You are welcome to link to the Ofsted website and we encourage users to do this. However, please ensure you comply with the following conditions:
- You must not imply in any way that Ofsted endorses your organisation.
- You may not use the Ofsted logo without written agreement from us.
- It is your responsibility to ensure deep-links to the Ofsted website are kept updated. Ofsted will not notify you if we move content.
- Many organisations, institution, commercial and non-commercial websites link to the Ofsted website. Ofsted is not responsible for the content or reliability of these sites. A link to the Ofsted website should not be taken as endorsement of any kind by Ofsted.
- Providers who have been judged 'outstanding' can use our outstanding provider logo on stationery and signage

Sure Start – (taken from Dfe website):

With the creation of the Department for Education, the previous Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) 'rainbow' logo is no longer valid.

The term 'Sure Start children's centres' should continue to be used on all signage for children's centres due to its high recognition and positive perceptions among users, but should not be used elsewhere.

If you are using either of these logos please can you ensure that these are removed? Logos can only be used with the permission of the organisation who owns it.

Run a Beep, Beep Day!

Brake, the road safety charity, is calling for all early-years childcare providers to run a Beep Beep! day and teach children to stay safe near roads!

CALL 01484 559909 TO REGISTER AND GET YOUR FREE RESOURCES

Teach road safety and save LIVES!

Beep Beep! Day is an educational and fundraising event you can run on any day.

Brake, the road safety charity, has created a special event called Beep Beep! Day to help you kick-start your road safety learning and support our vital work. Whether you are a nursery, infant school, child minder, playgroup or children's club organiser, you can take part! You can choose to run your Beep Beep! Day on ANY day of the year.

Organised by **Brake** stopping the carnage caring for victims www.brake.org.uk (Registered charity No. 100263)

Kindly sponsored by **churchill**

The day provides an opportunity for you to teach simple lessons, such as holding hands and the word 'STOP', while children do fun activities, such as using ride-on toys on a marked route in a secure playground or hall, or making a giant poster of hand prints with the message 'We hold hands! You can use Beep Beep! Day to help raise valuable funds for Brake and our work supporting families bereaved by road crashes.'

We send you stickers, posters, certificates and other fun give aways if you take part in Beep Beep! Day!

GET REGISTERED NOW TO TAKE PART

Simply call **01484 559909** and ask for the **Beep Beep! Team** or email beepbeep@brake.org.uk or go to www.brake.org.uk and click on **educators**

Road Safety Week
Road Safety Week, also coordinated by Brake, takes place in November every year. Why not run your Beep Beep! Day in Road Safety Week or plan additional road safety activities that week? Go to www.roadafetyweek.org for this year's dates and tips and ideas.

“Teaching road safety to early years children is vital and saves lives. That's why we have made Beep Beep! Day an annual event!”
Catherine McManus, Head of Nursery & Early Years, Brubfield Community School

For more information please see the website: <http://www.brake.org.uk/beepbeepday>

You can register today by completing the online form or ringing Brake's Education Team on 01484 55 99 09.

What are you doing to support the Year of Communication?

Hello, the 2011 national year of communication, is a campaign to increase understanding of how important it is for children and young people to develop good communication skills.

In the 21st century, the ability to communicate - to say what you want to say and to understand what other people are saying - is fundamental.

Speech, language and communication underpins everything we do in life. Babbling babies do not become talkative toddlers by chance. Communication is a skill that we learn and develop and is something we can all improve.



But did you know that in the UK today over 1 million children and young people have some form of speech, language and communication need? This is at least 2 or 3 children in every classroom - and that's the children we know about.

Difficulties with communicating can affect children and young people severely and for life. In areas of poverty, over 50% of children start school with delayed language skills. This puts them at a huge disadvantage to their peers as they struggle to learn and make friends.

Hello aims to make communication for all children and young people a priority in homes and schools across the UK so that they can live life to the full.

Through their website, <http://www.hello.org.uk/introducing-hello/about-the-campaign.aspx>, you can find out about their monthly themes, free resources* and events in the area.

- * [Summer talk](#) – games and activities for when you are out and about
- [Universally speaking](#) - The ages and stages of children's communication development from birth to 5
- [Hello – key resources for you](#)

and lots more

CPD Online: 10 things you need to know

1. **What is CPD Online?** CPD Online is a website giving you up to date details about events offered by North Somerset Council. You can search our entire directory of events and then make your booking online. The link is <http://cyps-nsomersetcpd.webbased.co.uk> and this link can be kept as a bookmark or favourite to enable easy access.
2. **User Accounts.** CPD user accounts are personal to the user, and work in a similar way to on-line accounts such as Amazon or Tesco. Each user will have a username and a password to access their account. Accounts can be created by selecting New user registration from the home page. Complete your details enter a memorable username and a password, and your email address. This can be a work or private e-mail address, whichever is the easiest to access.
3. **Forgotten your username or password?** Try the Forgotten password link located on the log in box. Enter your email address and a reminder will be sent to you.
4. **Moved setting or think you may have more than one account?** Occasionally several accounts are set up for the same user, but these can be merged to combine all booking history. The user will be e-mailed with the access details of the merged account. Please contact us on 01934 427560 or cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk
5. **Individual log on.** Users can only book themselves on to events (unless they are CPD Leaders), and accounts are personal to the user.
If a user moves to a new setting, the account moves with the user. The contact details and establishment can be changed from the My CPD menu by the user.
For help with updating your user account please contact us using the details at the bottom of this article.
6. **Special requirements.** This facility is available for course delegates to indicate any dietary or access issues, to ensure that course administrators are aware of their needs. It is not a way to book your friends and colleagues on!

7. **User Profile.** Automatic e-mail alerts for new events in relevant subject areas are sent to users.

To switch on alerts by email: From the home page select My CPD, and then on update your user profile. This gives access to a selection of tick boxes to enable users to select areas of interest. We advise that you focus on the subjects and event audiences rather than training types. At the bottom of the page is a further tick box – activate event alerts by e-mail. As new events that match your criteria are published on CPD Online you will be sent an email containing a summary of the event and a link to further details.

To turn them off: Follow the instructions above and un-tick the box activate event alerts by email.

8. **CPD history.** Individual users can access their planned CPD and their CPD history via the My CPD menu.
9. **Download certificates.** Many of our events now provide a certificate for you to download. Within a few days of you attending the event we will mark your attendance online. From the My CPD menu click events attended. From here you will see a record of everything you have attended and for some events there will be the option to download certificate.
10. **CPD Leader** CPD Leaders can access the planned CPD and the CPD history of all staff in their establishment via the My CPD menu.
CPD Leaders have the ability to book other members of staff in their establishment on to events on CPD Online. Via the My CPD menu requests for authorisation on courses can be tracked. This is in addition to the automatic e-mail alert asking for approval, and provides an alternative way of approving requests.

For all enquiries about user accounts, making bookings and general enquiries about CPD Online please contact Kate Boyce, CPD Online Coordinator, at cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk or on 01934 427 560. The CPD Online step-by-step guide is available on the following link:-

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/693495F4-689C-4606-9CF0-9911BFB6DD97/0/CPDOnlineStepByStepGuide201108.pdf>

Starting school in September 2012

Please can we ask you to remind all parents of children who will be eligible to start school in September 2012 that they will need to apply for a place for their child by 15th January 2012. This will be children born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008.



Children are not legally required to attend school until the term following their fifth birthday, but in North Somerset children can begin school in a Reception class in the September following their fourth birthday.

The online application system will be available until midnight (24:00 Hours) on 15 January 2012 (the closing time and date) for North Somerset residents only. During that time, parents can visit the School Admissions and Transport Team website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions –the online application system will be available from this page.

If parents or carers need any help or clarification with the application process then they can call the Family Information Service on 01934 426 300 or email fis@n-somerset.gov.uk

Childminders needed to care for children identified as being Children in need

Becoming an Approved childminder is an excellent opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of some of our most disadvantaged children and families. It is also an opportunity to develop your professional standards and skills and build links with a range of other agencies that support children and families, such as Health Visitors, Social Workers, Children's Centre Staff and Springboard Opportunity Group.

We are looking for childminders throughout North Somerset to become approved to provide quality childcare for children receiving funding through the 0-3 Funded Childcare scheme.

Further details about the scheme can be found here:

<http://www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk/Early-Years-e-newsletters/Funded%20Childcare%20provider%20Leaflet%20ver%204.pdf>

If you are interested in becoming approved, please contact Ellie Frake, Maria Powell, Sarah Zanelli or Fran Kirkwood. Tel 01934 426 300.

Please note: childminders must be approved *before* commencing any 0-3 Funded Childcare placement.

Childminding Network Group at Yeo Valley & Rural Outreach Children's Centre

Yeo Valley & Rural Outreach Children's Centre is a new Children's Centre that has opened in Congresbury. The Centre is just off the A370, so easy to get to from all directions. There is a lovely playroom with some great resources and an enclosed outdoor play area. The Children's Centre has time available for a Childminding Network Group to be set up there which is a great opportunity to provide support for childminders and play and socialisation opportunities for minded children. Childminders can also access Children's Centre resources to help support minded children and families.

If you think you would be interested in coming to a childminding network group at Yeo Valley & Rural Outreach Children's Centre, please could you email or phone Maria Powell (email: maria.powell@n-somerset.gov.uk , phone: 01275 885 303/07795 390 697) before 23 September 2011.

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage is a legal right which covers almost all workers above compulsory school leaving age. There are different minimum wage rates for different groups of workers.

The current the main rate for workers is:

Age 21 and over -	£5.93 an hour.
Age 18-21	£4.92 an hour
Age 16-17	£3.64 an hour



From 1st October 2011 the following changes will occur:

Age 21 and over -	£6.08 an hour.
Age 18-21	£4.98 an hour
Age 16-17	£3.68 an hour

For information on updates on minimum wage visit the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) website www.direct.gov.uk or www.acas.org.uk

All abilities cycling



Cheddar Cycle Store has now taken delivery of 4 All Ability Cycles. Located at the store is a wheelchair adapted cycle, a hand cycle, a small child's trike, and a tandem trike suitable for all ages. Pop along to the store and you will receive a warm welcome from Paul and Sarah and the rest of the team or call 01934 741300.

<http://www.cheddarcyclestore.co.uk/>

Six Cycles Taunton: Steve at Six Cycles has 2 new additions to his range of All Ability Cycles. 2 hand cycles have now been added, making a total of 6 cycles for you to hire. Call 01823 323130

<http://www.sixcycles.co.uk/>

Bowbridge Cycle Centre, Langport: Available to hire in Langport is a wheelchair adapted cycle and a trike. Contact Vic on 01458 250350.

With these new cycles this now means that Somerset has a total of 12 All Ability Cycles available for families to access across the 3 sites. All 3 offer a variety of other cycles to hire with differing cycle routes and attractions.

North Somerset Parent Participation Forum Open Meeting - 'A child centred approach'

North Somerset Parent Participation Forum are holding their next open meeting on Tuesday 18 October from 9.30am to 2.30pm at Nailsea Tithe Barn. ***Please could you highlight this to any parents and carers that may be interested.***

The forum have produced a [poster](#) and [booking form](#) for further details of the event and Kaddy, Co-Chair of the forum, has written an article 'It's Hard Being a Mum' which follows.

It's Hard Being a Mum

Every parent wants to be the best they can be for their kids – and it's rarely an easy task. With a child who has a disability or additional needs; the challenge of parenthood can be even greater.

Meet Kaddy and Elijah; Mother and son team who live in Weston-super-mare, North Somerset. Elijah was diagnosed with Apert's syndrome and a heart murmur at birth and at just 18 months old, Elijah became severely brain injury.

Elijah now requires round-the-clock care at home and is totally dependent on the team around him. He struggles with epileptic seizures and needs regular suctioning to clear his lungs and chest. But he's a very happy child and he has a loving family.

Mum, Kaddy, also suffers from Apert's syndrome and a hearing impairment, but she always has a smile on her face. She has struggled to get the right care for Elijah, but has fought on endlessly. And she's now fighting on behalf of other parents, through North Somerset Parent Participation Forum (NSPFF).

Kaddy became joint Chair along with Liz Kelly of North Somerset Parent Participation Forum in June 2011 and explains, "I'm strong and I know not everyone's like me. There will be numerous families in North Somerset who don't get the support they need or don't know what they're entitled to. I wanted to give them a voice and also ensure that the Council design services that make sense to us."

If you have a child with a disability or additional needs and would like support from the Forum, you can contact them on ... 01934 513276.

National Parents' Week



The [Family and Parenting Institute](#) will be running National Parents' Week from the 17th-23rd October 2011, to celebrate the contribution of parents to family life in the UK and to showcase local services that support families. Parents' Week will also offer an established national platform to profile policies and services for families and to highlight themes that need addressing. To get involved either send an [email](#) or visit the [website](#).

Support for ethnic minority children and families including those with English as an additional language

'EMAS' (Ethnic Minority Achievement Service) is no longer providing advice and guidance regarding the support of ethnic minority children and families to settings in North Somerset.

However, Stephen Bray (formerly of EMAS) has been recruited into North Somerset's Vulnerable learners' Service and has responsibility for providing support to ensure that all ethnic minority children and their families, including those with English as an additional language, are supported appropriately within your setting and so feel valued members of your group.

REFERRAL ROUTE

If you feel you need to access Stephen's support, he may be contacted at Stephen.bray@n-somerset.gov.uk, or on: 07909 535 754.

Please ensure you have the following information available when you call:

- Child's name
- Child's home language
- Child's linguistic/cultural background if applicable
- Nature of concern
- Whether or not you need support of an interpreter

If you have any queries regarding this service, please contact Fran Kirkwood.

Early Years Consultant / Area SENCO contact details:

Fran Kirkwood	0779 9075 781/ 1275 884140
Vivienne Kimber	0792 0082 907
Gail Alder	0792 0082 811
Linda Roberts	0776 9163945

Forthcoming meetings, training, networks and events:-

Advance notice - Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Directory for Early Years and Childcare Providers

We are in the process of finalising the CPD Directory and this should be available from the middle of September.

Please note that there are a few changes to the Booking policy and Payments procedures:

- Event bookings should be made online. CPD Online Demonstration and Drop-in Sessions will be available upon request.
- No booking confirmations will be sent via post. Therefore, please make sure that your CPD Online details are up to date as confirmation emails will be sent out automatically via CPD Online.
- Payments will be processed 10 working days prior to the start of the event and cheques should be received by that time. Cancellation/non-attendance policy applies.

Rhianon Richards, Workforce Development Officer
Tel: 01275 884 214

Inter Agency Child Protection: E-Safety

This half day module provided by South West Grid for Learning is suitable for all early years practitioners. It will take place on Tuesday 8th November 1pm-4pm and Tuesday 31st January 9.30am-12noon. Both sessions will take place at The Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.

We live in a world in which change now happens faster than ever before, which is why it is so important that we all keep up with all the latest developments in the world of E-Safety.

We need to understand not just how to help, support and protect children today, we also need an on-going exchange of ideas to ensure we are able to protect children from the dangers inherent in tomorrows technology.

The training will be delivered by Alan Earl, eConsultant. There is a standard charge for each delegate of £20 which will be requested within two weeks of the start of the course. No discounts can be applied on this occasion.

If you need further information about this course, contact Sarah Taylor, Trainer on 01934 426349.
Places can be booked via CPD Online and cost £20.

Brand new courses available this Autumn

- **Child Development** (2 day course) – *Aimed at practitioners who would like a multi-agency perspective, or have no previous knowledge of child development.*
- **Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviour** – *Aimed at practitioners who would like a multi-agency perspective on managing behaviour..*
- **Working with Loss and Resilience** – *Multi-agency perspective*
- **Effective Communication with children, Young People, parents and groups.**(2 day course) – *Multi-agency perspective.*

These are available to all practitioners who work with children, young people and / or their families at no cost to the delegate.

Please visit cpd online for further details and to book a place

<http://cyps-nsomersetcpd.webbased.co.uk/default.asp>

Or contact Louise for more details

Louise Lynch
Integrated Working Support and Development Officer
Integrated Workforce Development
Children and Young People's Services

Telephone: 01934 426373
email: louise.lynch@n-somerset.gov.uk