

Bristol Standard goodbyes

We have recently said goodbye to three key people in our Bristol Standard Family. Sally Jaeckle OBE decided to take retirement following a restructure in the Council. Sally was instrumental in creating the original Bristol Standard framework and has promoted it widely. She has been head of early year's services in Bristol for nine years and has been recognised nationally and internationally for her inspirational work with children and families. Elizabeth Fee has job shared the role of managing the EY consultants team for the last 12 years after working for Gloucestershire and then the National Strategies. Elizabeth played a large part in the development of the Bristol Standard during this time. Sharon Lindsay was the lead officer for the Bristol Standard in Slough. She retired at the end of the academic year and is looking forward to pursuing new interests and travel. Slough has had a restructure of services and will be leaving the Bristol Standard Family. We will miss our colleagues and our links with Slough but wish all of them the very best for the next stages of their journey.



Bristol Standard in Bangkok

We are very excited to be linking with the British International School Bangkok Patana. In 2018 Raj Ladeev, the Foundation Stage leader used the Outdoor Audit with his team when they embarked on developing their outdoor learning environment. At the end of the year Raj said:

It has been a worthwhile and valuable process and also has the benefit of being very transferable – we have a new specialist joining the team next year and it will be very easy to pick up where we are at as a team.

This year the team is using the Bristol Standard Birth to Five framework. Mentoring is taking place electronically and is working very well. It has been great to link up with a school across the world and to see how the Bristol Standard can benefit children in other countries.

To read more and see the outdoor evaluations and a video of the school please follow this link:

<https://www.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/international/>





Bristol Standard Family Conference

Every September at the start of the new academic year, a conference is held in Bristol for all the local authorities that are part of the family. It is a training and networking day for our mentors and validators. This year we were treated to two excellent keynote speakers. Nicky Hutchinson from Not Just Behaviour presented on emotional well-being and resilience for young children. This was followed by Linda Sparkes from Ashton Gate Out of School Club who talked about the mindfulness club she has set up for children. Both speakers were very inspiring and left us with loads to reflect on. In the afternoon the BAND team led us in an activity to make an object out of a range of materials. It was amazing to see the creativity in the room. As always there was an exercise related to validation and this year we looked at an excellent example of Dimension 3 to assess what made it a really good example. The conference was closed by Nicola Theobald – Early Years Improvement Officer who inspired everyone with her talk on linking the Bristol Standard to local and national priorities.

Bristol Standard for Play Provision 4th edition

The new version of the Bristol Standard for Play was launched in October at a celebration event at Bristol Zoo. We were pleased to welcome guest speakers Kirsty Wilson from ScrapStore and Nicola Butler from Play England. There was also an opportunity to take part in a competitive creative activity. Winners received vouchers for a free session with the bug lady. The Bristol Standard and BAND teams are very excited about the new look document. It has been written by a team of Play experts and promises to be an essential part of every Playworker's toolkit. The document has a fresh new look with a new colour scheme, new photos and layout, making it very accessible. BAND mentors will offer support to those settings interested in using the Bristol Standard as their reflective tool to improve quality.





National Quality Improvement Network

The Bristol Standard team is part of the National Quality Improvement Network which is led by the National Children's Bureau. Nicky Bale travels to these meetings in London twice a year. There is a range of organisations present – Early Alliance, PACEY, Early Education, as well as representatives from Quality teams around the country. These are great meetings for keeping in touch with the national Early Years agenda.



Network Meetings

The Bristol Standard Network meetings provide a friendly nurturing group where practitioners meet to discuss the dimensions, receive mentor support for their submission and network with other people on the Bristol Standard journey. The sessions are facilitated by Carol de-Beger and Pat Kendall. Practitioners look forward to having deep reflective discussions about a particular dimension and take away ideas for their own submission. There are usually nice biscuits too! We welcome more than one practitioner from each setting but please make sure you book on through askcyps@bristol.gov.uk All meetings are held at Bristol Education Centre or Eden Grove Community Centre. See website for details

Forthcoming meeting:

Wednesday 18th March – Dimension 4 focusing on indoors and the emotional

Bristol Standard Website

The Bristol Standard webpages are currently being redesigned and will be easier to navigate. We will let you know as soon as this happens. In the meantime remember to keep looking on there at the inspiring case studies and information about Bristol Standard. www.bristolearlyyears.org/the-bristol-standard . For more information please contact: nicky.bale@bristol.gov.uk
