

Dear Colleagues,

We hope today has been okay for you. We wish to thank you once again for the continuing dedication and commitment you are demonstrating at this very challenging time.

Please find below two important links issued by the DfE today. Firstly, a letter from Vicky Ford (Secretary of State for Children and Families) and a link to the DfE Early Years Q&A page, published this lunchtime:

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/sites/default/files/24.03.20%20Vicky%20Ford%20Letter%20to%20EY%20Sector%20-%20Covid%2019%20Response%20.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

These links will be further circulated in a bulletin from Alison Hurley, BCC Director of Education and Skills, which will arrive in your school/provision either later today or first thing in the morning.

The LA Early Years team is working in close partnership with the Lead Teacher teams to maintain daily contact with our private, voluntary and independent providers, responding to queries on a case by case basis. Please ensure that you keep in touch with us and alert us to any concerns relating to your capacity to stay open as this may require placement support for priority group children.

If you are closing, please contact us immediately and seek support from the Early Years Inclusion team or your Lead Teacher who will be able to support you in placing any key worker or vulnerable children.

Here are the contact details for the LA Early Years team (as previously circulated):

Enquiry type	Key contacts	Contact details
General Enquiries (All enquiries relating to Safeguarding, SEND and Food Provision/Distribution will be directed to the most relevant person who will respond to you)	Deborah Brown, Free Entitlement Development Officer	eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk Tel: 07827 348719
	Dawn Butler, EY Inclusion Manager	dawn.butler@bristol.gov.uk Tel: 07827 306287
	Nicola Theobald, EY Improvement Officer	nicola.theobald@bristol.gov.uk Tel: 07827 992760
Specific Childminder-related enquiries	Sharon McDonald	sharon.mcdonald@bristol.gov.uk Tel: 07825 106678
	Nicola Theobald	nicola.theobald@bristol.gov.uk Tel: 07827 992760

Specific Maintained Nursery School-related enquiries		
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With our best wishes,
The Early Years team