



# Bristol Early Years

## Bulletin for Early Years Providers

3rd March 2022

### 1. COVID-19 UPDATES

#### Asymptomatic testing

The Government announced on 21 February that staff and students/children in all mainstream education settings (including PVI and maintained nurseries) are no longer advised to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing. You will no longer need to distribute test kits to your staff for regular testing. Updated guidance was published on 21 February which can be found in the [Testing in Education Settings document sharing platform](#).

You may need to resume regular testing in the event of an outbreak within your setting but should only do so following advice and agreement with a Director of Public Health or local Health Protection Team. Further information regarding this is in the [contingency framework](#). If you are experiencing an outbreak you should agree what measures you are taking with your Director of Public Health or local Health Protection Team before placing any orders. They will help your setting to decide who should test, how frequently and for how long. Settings should keep a record of discussions with local authority / health contacts, and be ready to provide information about the additional testing measures that have been agreed.

Staff in all settings can access test kits from their local pharmacy or by ordering on gov.uk if required.

#### Notifying Ofsted

Early Years settings no longer need to tell Ofsted about confirmed COVID-19 cases. They also do not have to submit notifications for any cases in the last 14 days.

It still remains a legal requirement under the statutory EYFS to report serious illnesses. Settings should still notify Ofsted within 14 days, of a notifiable event happening. Guidance on what constitutes a notifiable event is available [here](#).

#### COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 to 11

Children aged 5 to 11 who are clinically extremely vulnerable or household contacts of people who are severely immunosuppressed are being offered two doses of a paediatric version of the Pfizer (Comirnaty) COVID-19 vaccine. Parents and carers of children in this position have been contacted by their consultant, GP or national letter with information about how to book a vaccination at a dedicated clinic. Full details of eligibility can be found in the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation guidance [here](#), in table 4.

It has been announced that from April, **all children aged 5 to 11** will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine. In our area, children in this age group will be invited to have their vaccine in dedicated community clinics outside school hours. Our local NHS vaccination programme will provide more information on how to book an appointment, nearer the time at [www.grabajab.net](http://www.grabajab.net).

## Childcare During Covid-19 report

Settings may be interested to read the recently published Childcare During Covid, a ESRC/UKRI funded project looking at disruption to early years education and care as a result of Covid-19 from Leeds University, Bristol University and a coalition of early Years organisations. The report includes key findings about the impact on families and the workforce and the sector

<https://childcare-during-covid.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CDC-19-Final-report.pdf>

## 2. POSITIVE TRANSITIONS IN THE EARLY YEARS – WEBSITE NOW LIVE!

In response to the Local Area SEND Inspection and following a sector-wide consultation, Bristol Early Years have developed detailed guidance to support positive transitions in the Early Years. This guidance has been written to support schools and early years settings to provide all children with a positive transition experience that fosters their wellbeing, learning and development. It builds on existing good practice to provide clarity regarding responsibilities, processes and strategies that support transition to enable a coherent city-wide approach.

We encourage you to try to ensure that a representative from your school or setting attends one of the free Network CPD Sessions, and that your SENCo attends one of the Early Years SENCO clusters. These sessions will provide the opportunity to look in detail at the guidance, discuss processes with colleagues and explore transition resources available on the [Bristol Early Years website](#). We will also consider the new [Universal Transfer Record](#) that has been updated following the EYFS reforms.

### Positive Transitions in the Early Years Network CPD sessions for all EYFS practitioners

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 1pm – 3pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/266929321787>

Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> 4pm – 6pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/269522648497>

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 6.30pm -8.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/266954186157>

### Early Years SENCo Transition Clusters for SENCOs in early years settings and schools

Exploring the new guidance and supporting transition of children with SEND with a focus on transfers into reception classes.

Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2pm – 4pm. Venue - Oldbury Court Children's centre

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-senco-cluster-north-tickets-225238714057>

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm – 3.30pm. Online session.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-senco-cluster-south-tickets-225253929567>

#### Positive Transitions in the Early Years


• principles, processes and responsibilities.

#### Introduction

Starting school or nursery is a time of change and can be a source of both excitement and anxiety for children and for their parents/carers.

Positive transitions are vital for all children's emotional wellbeing and achievement, and planning for these transitions is fundamental to effective early years practice. Some children, such as those with SEND or those experiencing adverse childhood experiences will need additional enhanced transition arrangements.

This guidance has been written for all Bristol early years settings, childminders, schools and linked professionals to support consistent and effective transition planning for all children, particularly those with SEND and other vulnerabilities. It focuses primarily on transition into school, however many of the ideas will be useful to support any of the transitions that young children experience. (e.g. starting at an early years setting, moving between rooms or classes in a setting or school, transitions within the daily routine etc.)

 A continuously improving setting will have well qualified and experienced staff who work together with other practitioners and parents to support transition, within and between settings and between early years settings and primary school (pg. 15)

#### Aims of the guidance

- To support schools and settings to provide all children with positive transition experiences that foster their wellbeing, learning and development
- To build on existing good transition practice across the city
- To provide clarity regarding responsibilities, processes, and strategies that support transition to enable a coherent and consistent city-wide approach
- To develop a city-wide commitment from all professionals to improve transition experiences for our young children, particularly those with SEND

#### Key principles for positive transitions

Following a consultation process with the early years sector and linked professionals, feedback was gathered regarding what is important for transitions to work well. This feedback has been used to develop the following Bristol transition principles:

- Transition should be seen as a process rather than an event.
- There is continuity of inclusive child centred provision across early years settings and schools.
- The child's voice is captured and valued as part of the process.
- Parents/carers are valued, informed, included and supported to navigate the transition process.
- Senior leadership teams in schools and early years settings have a commitment to good transition support as well as respect of one another's aims and ethos.

### 3. TRAINING

#### Free ERIC Toilet Training CPD

Based on previous discussions about support for children with toilet training difficulties to successfully transition into reception, Bristol Early Years is funding ERIC training for practitioners in nurseries and schools. Training is open to both EY settings to support children before transition, and reception staff/school SENCos to support following transition.



The training will cover a number of areas around toilet training including, how bowels and bladders work and how to keep them functioning properly, how to identify common continence problems, and how to support families with children who are experiencing toileting difficulties and children with additional needs with toileting. The training runs across two sessions both of which must be booked.

March 15<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 1.00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/272058092077>

March 16<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 11.30am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/272063989717>

#### Level 3 Certificate in Outdoor Practice.

Bristol Early Years is delighted to be able to share information about the new level 3 Certificate in Outdoor Practice, designed by Professor Jan White with Open College Network accreditation. Outdoors Thinking is an OCN Approved Training Centre and the Certificate in Outdoor Practice is registered for 15 credits at level 3 (each Module carries 5 credits).



The full fee for the 12-day OCN accredited Certificate for 2022-23 is £1200 (which equates to £100 per training day) +VAT, but for this course only, Bristol City Council is able to half-fund 20 places for Early Years Practitioners, Teachers and TA, PVI's and Childminders, so that one place per setting is available for just £600 +VAT for the whole qualification.

The course will be facilitated by Pippa Hawkins, at Hartcliffe Nursery School on one Saturday each month over a year (see flier for dates) starting 30th April 2022. It will mean committing to one term time only Saturday a month 9.30-3.30pm for 12 months.

To register your interest in the course and apply for a 50% subsidised place, please contact Pippa Hawkins at [Pippa.Hawkins@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:Pippa.Hawkins@bristol-schools.uk). A flyer is attached and for further information about the course, please contact Esther Mason at [info@outdoorstinking.co.uk](mailto:info@outdoorstinking.co.uk) or come to the Network BEYORN zoom session on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 5-6pm where Jan White will be discussing this exciting opportunity to deepen your own outdoor practice. Booking details for this are on Free Network CPD flyer for term 4

Please note that bookings will be open until **Friday 8th April 2022**

## Network CPD

The [term 4 network CPD](#) offer is now open for bookings with a rich variety of training to support settings with ongoing quality improvement. Courses this term include the Characteristics of Effective Learning, Five to Thrive and dates for the CPD to introduce the important new Transitions Guidance.

## Tax Free Childcare Webinar

HMRC want to hear from you about how you have provided information and raised awareness of Tax Free Childcare with parents. Have you raised take-up? Please let HMRC know. They would like to showcase this work and help others to learn from it. HMRC are working with Hemsall's on all these issues through two UK-wide webinars and with targeted work in 10 areas over the next few weeks. They need examples of what you have been doing, including what you have learnt and the difference (if any) it has made. HMRC is happy to talk! You can find out more about the project here: <https://hemsalls.com/tax-free-childcare-with-hmrc>

**A FREE Tax-Free Childcare webinar for all types of childcare and out of school providers.**

- Book your place [here](#) - 15 March 2022 - 1.30pm – 3.00pm
- Book your place [here](#) - 16 March 2022 - 6.30pm - 8.00pm

## Free online speech & language training for families

The Churchill Fellowship Covid-19 Action Fund is generously supporting the provision of free online speech and language stimulation education sessions UK-wide to parents/ carers/ guardians/ educators. Please only choose one date. Each week is a repeat of previous week.

First Words (supporting children to say their first sounds/words):

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/first-words-supporting-children-to-say-their-first-wordstickets-253858867707>

Phrases and Sentences (supporting children to develop speech and language):

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/phrases-and-sentences-supporting-children-to-developspeech-and-language-tickets-255955087557>

## Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub

### Upcoming CPD courses Term 4.

[Assessment: Scripting the Learning Story](#): 3rd March, 4-6pm

[Emotional Curriculum and the Environment](#): 7th April, 1–5pm



### Book Talk

We ran a very successful session on Book Talk recently. It was a free BEYTH / Network session and was jam-packed full of lots of carefully selected book recommendations.

[Read the feedback](#) and [email us](#) if you'd like a copy of the slides and the video recording.

### Loving Literacy and Amazing Communicators

Local expert, Ali Carrington, has written a blog for us about the magic power of literacy, how children try to make sense of the world around them, how they learn and the role of educators...

[Read Ali's fantastic blog in our Newsletter here](#)

Book the [Amazing Communicators Bundle](#) for Nurseries in April / May or sign-up for individual courses.

## Designated Safeguarding (DSL) Leads meetings

### Dates for the Spring Term Meetings:

DSL network sessions will be on Zoom next term.  
Booking is not required, please join the meeting using  
the Zoom Meeting links below

The sessions will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – 8.45am – 10.45am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97381116136>

Meeting ID: 973 8111 6136

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94646565657?pwd=U2xyOCTwNkxpWmNHS0dZeTNhVFFkZz09>

Meeting ID: 946 4656 5657

Passcode: 856463



#### 4. FOOD SAFETY & CHOKING HAZARDS

The Department for Education (DfE) have been working to get choking prevention information out to the sector in as many ways as possible:

Creating a food safety page on the 'Help for Early Years Providers' online platform. <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-and-welfare/food-safety>

Working with the Food Standards Agency to produce two choking prevention posters. <https://foundationyears.org.uk/2021/09/food-safety-advice-on-choking-hazards-in-settings/>

Working with OHID's Start4Life campaign to promote choking awareness via their website. <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/safe-weaning/choking/>

#### 5. CHECKING PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

From January 2022, all early years providers will be able to check the progress of any child old enough to apply for a Primary School place on the Portal. This will mean that you can see whether a child on your current live register has applied or perhaps needs to be reminded or supported to apply. This new functionality aims to help all providers to ensure a school application has been made for a school place and what stage the application is at.

The progress will show when a school place has been offered and when it has been accepted by the parent. The aim of providing this information is to support early years providers in the transition to school process for children. A child's new school can be identified early (once confirmed and accepted) so plans can begin to be made to start the transition process. A guidance document and instructions of how to access this is attached to the Bulletin email.

## 6. LOCAL OFFER FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH SEND



To support children and families with SEND Bristol's Local Offer team have produced a poster (also attached to the EY Bulletin email) which can be displayed on your notice boards and on your websites to support families of children with SEND.

## 7. WELLBEING

We understand that leading and working in an early years setting through the pandemic presents ongoing additional pressures for everyone in the sector. Please do take time to look after your own mental health as well as your colleagues and seek out help if you feel like you are struggling at any time.

Useful sources of help

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/>

<http://www.bristolmentalhealth.org/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>

<https://www.thrivebristol.org.uk/thriving-at-work-bristol/>

## 8. USEFUL CONTACTS

All settings are able to contact their link EY Lead Teacher for further support and advice. If you are unsure of who your lead teacher is, please contact your area consultant.

North Bristol – [Kate.irvine@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:Kate.irvine@bristol-schools.uk)

East & Central – [Ali.carrington@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:Ali.carrington@bristol-schools.uk)

South – [pippa.hawkins@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:pippa.hawkins@bristol-schools.uk)

Deborah Brown Free Entitlement Development Officer [deborahbrown@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:deborahbrown@bristol.gov.uk)