



Welcome to our end of year newsletter. This year has seen a lot of changes for The Bristol Standard. We have been very busy with enquiries from around the country as well as focusing on our settings here in Bristol. The Bristol Standard is recognised nationally and internationally as a quality improvement tool of excellence. We have been pleased to start working with Play teams in children's hospitals following the success of the Bristol Standard in the Bristol Royal Children's Hospital.

Our digitalisation programme is continuing to go well and we hope to have the new system up and ready for September.



Bristol Standard team addition

We were pleased to welcome Penny Groves onto the Bristol Standard central team following Helen Brandford's retirement in March.

Penny has a degree in Psychology and Sociology, is a qualified teacher and a Level 3 Forest School Leader. Over the last eighteen years, Penny has worked with children and families of all ages through services including Children's Social Care, the Youth Offending Team, mainstream schools and Pupil Referral Units. She has managed Early Help Family Support Workers and Children's Centres, been an Acting SENCo, and a Residential Social Worker. Penny worked overseas for some years, managing Early Years Health and Wellbeing Partnership projects, coordinating pilot

projects, improving cross-sector processes and communication, and working on a city-wide strategic plan for Early Years on Australia's Gold Coast. Penny has delivered several parenting programmes and developed training for cross-sector delivery of a child development evaluation tool. Penny's remit at Bristol City Council as an Early Years Inclusion Officer is increasing the uptake of the Free Early Education Entitlement by 2 year olds, working alongside early years providers to maximise participation by Bristol families. Penny also runs her own freelance forest school leadership business, providing weekly sessions in local schools. Penny likes scuba diving, camping and walking, and Formula 1.

Childminder conference

There was an amazing buzz at the Childminder Conference one Saturday in May. This was the first time they had been together as a big group since before COVID. Nicky Bale and Julia Harkess ran a Bristol Standard promotional stall and were pleased to have a lot of interest including some childminders who have since signed up to start their Bristol Standard journey. This is an amazing way to become reflective practitioners and to support development plans for their setting. The dimensions support sessions are run every month on ZOOM and these have proved a very supportive way to network. The Bristol Standard covers everything in Early Years and the sessions are open to all childminders



Network meetings 2022-2023

Carol, Pat and Liz have planned some inspiring sessions for you for the coming year. The dimension sessions will work their way through the three criteria which are:

- Is your submission covered in depth and detail
- Is there evidence to support your strengths
- Are the benefits for children clear.

They will use a dimension at each meeting to illustrate how you can achieve each of the criteria effectively. In addition there are two meetings for those who are new to the Bristol Standard or would like to know more about it. These are open to all providers. There will also be at least one session on the upgraded digital forms.

The dates for the sessions are below and they can all be booked via Eventbrite. We will provide more details in September

Weds 28th September – Celebrating your Strengths

Weds 19th October – Introduction to The Bristol Standard

Weds 23rd November – How to use the Bristol Standard online forms

Weds 11th January – Bringing your setting to life with evidence

Weds 8th March – Recognising impact for the children in your setting



The Bristol Standard Newsletter

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www.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/the-bristol-standard

Weds 17th May – Introduction to The Bristol Standard

Weds 14th June – Ready to submit: Bringing your submission to life

Everyone in the Bristol Standard team wishes you a very happy summer and we look forward to working with you again in September.

Thank you for your commitment to The Bristol Standard.