

Childminding News

Spring 2022



News in Brief

Your Sickness Policy.



UK Health
Security
Agency

The UK Health Security Agency, previously called Public Health England, has updated its Exclusion Table for educational settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/exclusion-table>

It is advised that children with mild symptoms, such as a runny nose or a headache can continue to attend a setting. The Exclusion Table advises that children with a high temperature should not attend their educational setting, but it does not specify an exclusion period for a temperature. The Exclusion Table advises that children with a positive Covid test should not attend a setting for 3 days (bear in mind that nowadays you are less likely to have a Covid diagnosis: PCRs are no longer generally available and LFD home tests are no longer free. Note that the NHS advises adults with Covid to avoid contact with people for 5 days, rather than the 3 days, as for children).



Develop your own Sickness Policy with your own exclusion periods: for example, even though UKSHA Exclusion Table advises no exclusion period for Conjunctivitis or Hand Foot and Mouth, from experience you may have found that allowing children to attend with these infections can really impact your setting! (N.B. there is a recommended exclusion period for Impetigo; and for diarrhoea and vomiting the recommended exclusion is still 48 hours after the sickness has stopped). Likewise, in your bespoke Sickness Policy you can choose to have a zero-Calpol policy - meaning you do not allow a child to attend who has needed a dose of Calpol in the morning, before arriving at your setting.

You no longer need to have a risk assessment specifically for managing Covid: Covid can now be managed as you would any respiratory infection. Your risk assessment can address good infection-control practices in general e.g., handwashing, ventilation, educating children to manage their own coughs and sneezes.

Ofsted has published a five-year strategy. Ofsted will step up its focus on Early Years to address the impact of the pandemic on some children's communication and language skills, the delay in social and emotional development and delay for some children in their readiness for school. The report says that Ofsted will step-up its focus by giving inspectors specialist training in Early Years.

According to Ofsted, the early years workforce has lost 5,000 since the beginning of the pandemic and most losses are in the childminding workforce! Childminding Support in Bristol is acutely aware that we need to do all we can to recruit, train and support prospective childminders.



Refugees from Ukraine: as families arrive in Bristol as part of the government's Homes for Ukrainian scheme, there are translated welcome-guides on how to find a home, access essential public services, healthcare, find work and childcare and education services

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

Although government advice stops short of saying childminders cannot host a Ukrainian family (unless you have separate premises with a separate access) the advice implies that childminders cannot realistically do so, due to difficulties around checking household 'suitability'. Read more on Pacey website, including about exceptions to childminding ratios for Ukrainian children. [Information for childminders hosting people from Ukraine | PACEY](#)

Contact Deborah Brown, Free Entitlement Development Officer, for information about funding, if you have a request for a place for a child from Ukraine.

deborah.brown@bristol.gov.uk

Talking to young children about war There is a useful article by early years expert Tamsin Grimmer, on how to discuss the subject of war with very young children [Early years expert Tamsin Grimmer on how to talk to children about war | Nursery World](#)



EYFS TRANSITIONS

Transition to School 2022 All settings and schools are encouraged to read and share the new *Positive Transitions in the Early Years* guidance which you use as an audit of your provision for transition and development of actions for all children and children who may need an enhanced transition. The guidance and all the updated transition resources are available on the Bristol Early Years website. [Transition | Bristol Early Years](#)

Bristol Early Years requests that a Universal Transfer Record is completed for all children transferring to reception class in September 2022, and the record is delivered by hand or by a password protected email to the receiving school by June 24th, 2022. The new UTR form itself, plus examples, a letter for parents, instructions, together with useful resources can be downloaded. Click on the welly boots on the Transitions page! Do ask your Lead Teacher or Childminding Support for help with the Universal Transfer Record.



Bristol's Clean Air Zone will start in late summer this year [Bristol's Clean Air Zone - bristol.gov.uk](#) The community toolkit provides information about the zone to make the air we breathe cleaner. [Bristol Clean Air Zone community toolkit](#)

Childminding Support is very pleased to welcome Rosie Coulstring to the team. Rosie brings her experience and knowledge of working both as a childminder and prior to that as an Early Years teacher. Rosie is already well known to childminders who use the Oldbury Court childminding group.

Rosie says "I am delighted to join the team and continue my early years journey. I am really looking forward to meeting everyone and supporting childminders in Bristol!"



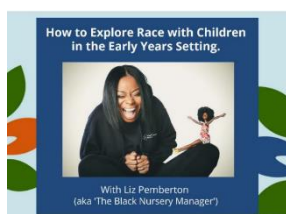
Bristol Early Years Events Calendar has been launched.

The calendar pulls together CPD from all the different Bristol Early Years teams, all in one place. This new events calendar can be accessed directly via this link [Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#) which you might like to save into your browser bar or save as a 'favourite'.

You can also access the events calendar directly from the Bristol Early Years website by clicking on 'Events Calendar' at the top of the home page. Upcoming events are on the left-hand side with the Eventbrite link to book on. On the right-hand side is a

diary of the dates for types of setting or team.

For childminders the calendar enables you to browse what CPD is on offer - childminders can attend any session which is available to practitioners - just check time of day and cost for your own convenience. Below is an example of a CPD opportunity which is for all practitioners.



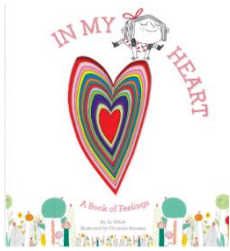
Exploring Race with Children in EYs Settings: a course on the 11th, 18th, and 25th May, 7.00 – 8.30pm. The course is £75 and can be booked here [Exploring Race with Children in Early Years Settings with Liz Pemberton AKA The Black Nursery Manager - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub \(beytc.co.uk\)](#)

Childminder Conference: We are looking forward to welcoming you to the conference on Saturday May 14th at Engineers House. Not only is this a great CPD opportunity, listening to our keynote speak Dr. Suzanne Zeedyk, but the conference will also provide opportunities for professional discussions with other childminders, lots of free goodie bags and a chance to meet other professionals within the Bristol Early Years Team.

We know how hard the last few years have been, so we hope that you will enjoy the surroundings of Engineers House and the delicious food that will be served

Please book on with Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-covid-has-left-our-children-needing-extra-cuddles-tickets-288473159987>

Books which support children's emotional literacy



In My Heart: A Book of Feelings, by Jo Witek

Sometimes my heart feels like a big yellow star, shiny and bright.

I smile from ear to ear and twirl around so fast,

I feel as if I could take off into the sky.

This is when my heart is happy.

Happiness, sadness, bravery, anger, shyness . . . our hearts can feel so many feelings! Some make us feel as light as a balloon, others as heavy as an elephant. *In My Heart* explores a full range of emotions, describing how they feel physically, inside. With language that is lyrical but also direct, toddlers will be empowered by this new vocabulary and able to practice articulating and identifying their own emotions. With whimsical illustrations and an irresistible die-cut heart that extends through each spread, this unique-feelings book is gorgeously packaged. Review taken from the Mental Health Book Club podcast [In my Heart: A book of feelings by Jo Witek and illustrations by Christine Roussey – Mental Health Book Club Podcast](#)

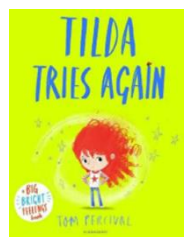
[\(278\) In My Heart: A Book of Feelings - YouTube](#)



Ruby's Worry, by Tom Percival

Ruby loves being Ruby until, one day, she finds a worry. At first, it's not such a big worry, and that's all right, but then it starts to grow. It gets bigger and bigger every day and it makes Ruby sad. How can Ruby get rid of it and feel like herself again? [Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival - YouTube](#)

Also, by the same author and focusing on feelings and emotions, are Ravi's Roar and Tilda Tries Again.



The Colour Monster, by Anna Llenas

One day, Colour Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place; he feels angry, happy, calm, sad and scared all at once! To help him, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through colour.

[The Colour Monster - Read Aloud by Mr. Joshua Brooks - YouTube](#)

Other books with similar themes

[Lucy's Blue Day: Children's Mental Health Book: Duke, Christopher, Bartolini, Federica: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

[Lucy's Blue Day Read by the Change Your Mind Movement - YouTube](#)

[The Worrysaurus Bright, Rachel, Chatterton, Chris: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

[The Worrysaurus read by Rachel Bright - YouTube](#)

[Feelings: Inside my heart and in my head...: Amazon.co.uk: Walden, Libby, Jones, Richard: 9781848576902: Books](#)

[Feelings - Read by Libby Walden - YouTube](#)



Childminding groups

Showcase

Stockwood Childminding Group Wednesdays during term time 10am – 11.30am.

We've had lots of fun this term following the children's interests as well as introducing them to new ideas. We've had dinosaur days, mud days and exploring woods days, with trips to Folly Farm and Nightingale Valley. We've enjoyed sensory play, making bird feeders and using the outdoor space for football and scooting. The sessions always end with a story and some songs and the children enjoy singing 'what's in the bag?' in anticipation of our favourite songs.

Booking required for each session. To book on contact Julia.harkess@bristol.gov.uk



Knowle West Childminding Group - Wednesdays during term time 9.30am – 11.00am.

We have a small group of six childminders visiting with their childminded children each week. It has been lovely to watch the children grow in confidence and begin to familiarise themselves with the group routines, build relationships with other children and to recognise me as a safe adult. Likewise, the childminders themselves are getting to know each other and are able to share their worries and ways of working together. It feels like a really friendly group, just what we need after the stress of Covid. We have talked a lot about the children's social and emotional development and how Covid has impacted on this. Childminders recognise the importance of getting together with others and appreciate how we can use the group to rebuild skills lost during lockdown. With the coming of spring there is a feeling of optimism and the hope that we can get back to doing what we are good at; helping children to grow and learn together.

Helen Hogg



St Pauls Childminding Group - Tuesdays during term time 9.30am – 11.00am.

We are now part of the Nature Discovery Project. We have new garden planters which the children helped prepare ready for planting. The first plants to go in were the strawberries followed by a variety of vegetables. Hopefully next time we will be able to share the photos of our amazing harvest!

Through making their own bird feeders the children showed high levels of involvement and fascination. They persisted when challenges occurred and were very proud of what they had accomplished.

Jo Franklin



Bishopsworth, Four Acres & Hartcliffe Childminding Group - Mondays during term time 9.30am – 11.00am.

We had an interesting start to the year at Bishopsworth CC as the centre had building work going on. We were moved into the clinic room temporarily and spent half our sessions meeting local green spaces.



It was great to spend time in the outdoors, even though it was pretty chilly in January! The children particularly enjoyed feeding the ducks at Crox Bottom, jumping into, and getting stuck in the mud at Manor Woods. We're hoping the sun will be out for our final session this term for our Easter Picnic at Ashton Court.

This term we've had a lot of young 1 and 2 year olds who are really engaged with filling and emptying using a range of resources - cereal, sand, water, lentils, beans etc. We've had a great time exploring the different textures and colours, and using a range of tubes, pots, scoops and sieves to explore.



Our older children have been interested in recreating familiar experiences and developing their narrative skills in the home corner and with the small world toys. There was a huge dinosaur last week that kept climbing onto the roof of the house trying to eat all the people inside! Thankfully one of the people was able to scare the dinosaur away before everyone could be eaten!

Rowena (Boe) Meaton

Avonmouth Childminding Group - Mondays during term time 9.45am – 11.15am.

Following discussions at the beginning of the term the childminders who attend the group reflected that their children could do with some extra focused time on physical development. As a result, we have been planning activities following the children's interests to develop these skills. We have had lots of fun outside on bikes and scooters, rolling heavy tyre's, painting with water using different sized rollers and brushes. Inside, we have been painting different textures and dimensions such as bubble wrap and large cardboard boxes. Our loose parts play and treasure baskets have provided opportunities to develop large and gross motor skills while encouraging creativity. We have also incorporated our focus during our short group times at the end of the session with jumping to pop bubbles and some incorporating yoga with some of our favourite stories.

Terri Mitchell





TINY LITTLE FLY by Michael Rosen

This term in the Filton Avenue Childminding Group we have been reading 'Tiny Little Fly' by Michael Rosen. It's a simple rhyming story with lots of great 'onomatopoeia; words like 'stomp' and 'crash' which when you say them out loud sound like a stomp or a crash!

The text is very simple and has lots of repetition so children naturally join in and quickly get a sense of the flow of the story.

Visually, the text is appealing as key words are written in different fonts making them easy for children to notice and begin to recognise key words.

There is a tiny little fly who lands on different parts of the larger animals' children have had fun making their fingers into a tiny little fly landing on of their body. There is a lot of winking in the story which we have all been are now very good at!



bodies so the different parts practising and

The Hippo rolls and squashes in the mud so we explored different tools in the mud kitchen such as trowels and potato mashers to see what we could do with some mud.

SCOOP



BASH



MIX



We also experimented with pestles and mortars, using our muscles to grind and pound pasta, rice and spinach leaves

Pound



GRIND



East & Central Childminder Hub

Nature Discovery

At last SPRING is here!!

We had a great Nature Discovery session Speedwell Allotments...

Children chose fruits, vegetables and herbs they would like to grow including; baby tomatoes, beef tomatoes, peas, beans, coriander, parsley and lettuce. We counted the seeds carefully and remembered how many plants they would make. We shared how growing food with children creates interest and fascination and is a great tool to support children trying new things to eat.



We got busy getting our pots ready; emptying and filling them with soil using a range of utensils. We chose what size pots we needed depending on how big we wanted the plants to grow. We added labels and wrote our names, and took them home to watch them grow.



We picked rhubarb, shared recipes with each other including rhubarb cake, stewed rhubarb with vanilla/ginger/cinnamon (and rhubarb gin!).



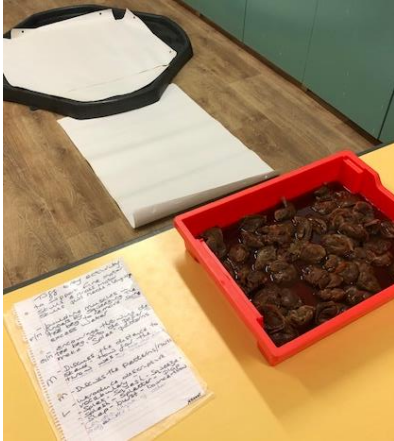
Luci demonstrated how to take a cutting from Honeysuckle and Rosemary. We shared how you can get honeysuckle nectar droplets from the plant, and it tastes delicious! No wonder the bee's love it!

We planted Spring bulbs around our trees and growing into beautiful flowers....



Southmead CC Childminding Group Tuesdays 9 30am - 11 15 am

The mindees and childminders have been having lots of fun over the last couple of months - as have I! We set up a range of activities, specifically promoting language, fine and gross motors skills and mathematics with written prompts guiding what to look at and what could be gained from that activity. Singing and story sacks are also huge hits with the children - Ten Green Bottles and Five Speckled Frogs seem to be the favoured songs selected from the song box.



Tea Bag Activity - used tea bags were rehydrated in water. The idea was to promote muscle development through the child being encouraged to pick up the tea bag, squeeze some of the excess water out, then throw, drop, or splat the tea bag onto the paper, supporting the child's gross motor skills as well as fine motor skills. What a success! This photo was before – what a pity we don't have the 'after' photo! Lots of language was encouraged and reinforced, some of which had been predicted on the prompt sheet. There were clear links to counting and the use

of mathematical terminology.

Some of the children liked to wear clothing which featured dinosaurs, so we thought it would be a good idea to set up a dinosaur swamp! We collected a range of foliage, large stones and small branches, adding sand with gloop to create the swamp and then the dinosaurs.

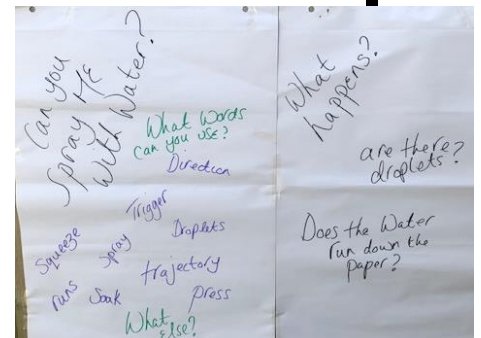


Here was the 'provocation' and now we only needed children to explore it!



Skittles were a triumph! We collected a range of bottles and added a number on each of them 1- 4, and then arranged them in four rows. To help with stability and to create challenge, water was added - the amount of water would vary according to the size of the bottle and how hard the children were able to throw the 'ball': children experimented, adjusting their choices with different types of balls - soft, hard, or even socks! Clip boards were added to keep score. The use of lots of mathematics vocabulary was encouraged. This skittles activity also offered opportunity for the development of gross motor skills – Physical Development.

Water play is always a success - mop and bucket at hand to clear up the spillages! We set up a water spray activity - paper was taped up outside and prompts were added (see photo) to extend language and thinking. The children were then encouraged to spray the paper with the water (great for strengthening little hands) to see what happened. What a pity we don't have a photo of the result – the paper was successfully soaked and the ink from the pens spread outwards creating interesting patterns and colours! Joanne Dennis



Bedminster Childminding Group - Mondays during term time 9.30am – 11.00am.

Our Childminder Group at Bedminster Children's Centre is a welcoming inclusive group. Children and childminders have been having lots of fun and making lots of friends. Term 4 was very busy with planting, painting, and enjoying the start of the Spring weather. Here are some photos of what we have been up to:



Lucy Dale

Bannerman Road Childminding Group - Wednesdays during term time 9.30am – 11.00am.

During Term 4 we have been concentrating on developing our outside space at the centre with lots of wonderful planting and support from Lead Teacher Jane Francis and Luci Gorrell-Barnes. The children have been involved in growing seeds, planting bulb, beans and strawberries. We are excited to use this space more as the weather warms up! Here are a few photos of what we have been up to:



Lucy Dale





Celebrating Success!

CONGRATULATIONS to these childminders on their successful Bristol Standard submissions:

Joanne Burley

Karen Da'Casto

Zoe Hull

Dionne Dickens

Well done!! Woohoo!! Hooray!!

Five to Thrive



Bristol Early Years' Five to Thrive vision:

'Through working collaboratively with a range of early years and family support professionals the Five to Thrive principles will be embedded in the work of integrated early years & family support practices across Bristol.'

What are we aiming to achieve?

- Promote secure attachments and attunement.
- Promote self-regulation and resilience.
- Be trauma informed.
- Share and inspire a shared understanding of the Five to Thrive principles.
- Empower both practitioners & parents/carers to develop this style of interaction.
- That practitioners feel their wellbeing is being supported.

"Am I safe?" and **"Do I matter?"** is a thread that runs through Five to Thrive and it is the responses that the children gain from the adults around them that will help children to recognise that **they are safe** and that **they do matter**. Childminders are in an excellent position to support this.

Learn more about Five to Thrive approach. A session for Childminders on Thursday 26th May at 7pm by Zoom. Eventbrite booking <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/313440708597>

Seasonal Activity Ideas

With Spring well and truly sprung we can get out more and explore and support children's learning and development in the outdoor classroom. There are lots of celebrations and holidays happening over the next few months where we can celebrate too!

Sensory playdough

Ingredients: 1 cup salt, 2 cups flour, 1.5 cups boiling water, 2 tsp oil, a few drops of fresh lemon juice (this works in the same way as cream of tartar!), fresh herbs eg rosemary, thyme, sage, oregano, mint (anything that smells nice and is not irritant! Mix all of the ingredients together in a bowl with a metal spoon. As soon as it is cool enough to touch, start kneading until it becomes soft, stretchy and pliable. Mix in the herbs.



World Bee day 20th May 2022

Celebrate World Bee day by going outside and exploring nature. Plant or sew wild 'bee bombs' in your local area to encourage bees.

How to make seed bombs



You will need:

- Meadow flower seeds or seeds collected from the garden

- Peat-free compost

- Water

- Powdered clay (from craft shops - use clay soil if you can't find any!)

- Mixing bowl

- 1 In a bowl, mix together 1 cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 1-3 cups of clay powder.



- 2 Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together, then roll mixture into firm balls.



3



- 4 Now for the fun bit - plant by throwing your seed bombs at bare parts of the garden!



Growing beans

All you need for this easy activity is a glass jar or bottle, some cotton wool balls/ wads and a bean! This is an easy, visual way to teach children about root systems.



Printing flowers with Okra

When you make a sideways cut into okra a beautiful, perfect flower shape is made, ready to stamp onto paper!

We only needed 2 or 3 okra, one ink pad in multi-colours and some large pieces of plain paper to get started. Simply push down firmly into the ink until it has transferred enough onto the whole edge of the okra, then push onto the paper!



Congratulations to 8 childminders who join colleagues from across Early Years, having embarked on a year - long qualification, the **Certificate in Outdoor Practice**. The course is taking place at Hartcliffe Children's Centre and is led by Pippa Hawkins, Lead Teacher. We look forward to hearing about the learning!



Are you interested in contributing your childminding skills to work with children and families with social disadvantage or additional needs?

Enhanced Provision are keen to recruit childminders onto the scheme across the city, however their areas of priority areas are: Long Cross, Shirehampton, Sea Mill, Henbury, Brentry, Southmead, Horfield, Lockleaze, Easton, Eastville, Southville, Bedminster, Knowle, Brislington, Hartcliffe and Withywood.

Enhanced Provision Placement Officers, Fiona Townsend and Jayne MacIver would love to hear from you - they will give you an idea of what the work entails. EP childminders have their own private work as well as EP placements. Although the work might have some challenges, there is the benefit of having the support of a Placement Officer and liaison with other professionals, plus the reward of knowing that you will be giving a vulnerable child opportunities and experiences.

Contact epcm@bristol.gov.uk or let one of the Childminding Support Team know and we will forward.

Dear Childminders offering free hours,

With the welcomed warmer weather, it's not long until the Summer 2022 headcount. This term's count is on **Thursday 12th May** (which is a little later than usual – but we didn't want to interrupt your Easter break). Please remember to log in between 12 and 20th May to submit your headcount 😊

Did you know that **60%** of all childminders in Bristol now offer free hours? If you are thinking of signing up and want to know more, drop an email to either of our Childminder Champions Hannah – shirehamptonchildminder@hotmail.co.uk or Alice missslocombe-say@live.co.uk who will be happy to talk with you. Or you can contact us directly by emailing eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk

Lastly, information about the new academic year (headcount dates, payment dates, funded weeks and the 22/23 EYR1 form) will be emailed out to you around the end of May, so look out for the email soon. Thanks again, for all your hard work helping to deliver free hours in Bristol.

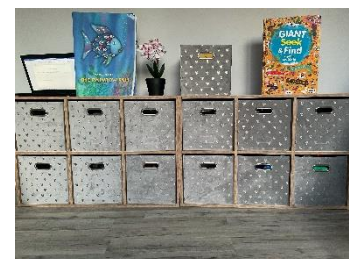
The Free Entitlement Team

Lisa Liminton runs a busy childminding setting, operating with childminding assistants. Here she shares some photos of her new garden cabin, the 'literacy room' which they use for quiet reading and singing time. Lisa says she decided not to make the room too full or cluttered so that it could be an adaptable space.

Lisa says "Each child has their own cushion with their name on, which they have decorated themselves - giving them a sense of belonging ❤️"

"In each box there is a story sack which the children helped to make up, by taking their favourite books to the charity shops and finding all the things they needed need to make the story sack!"

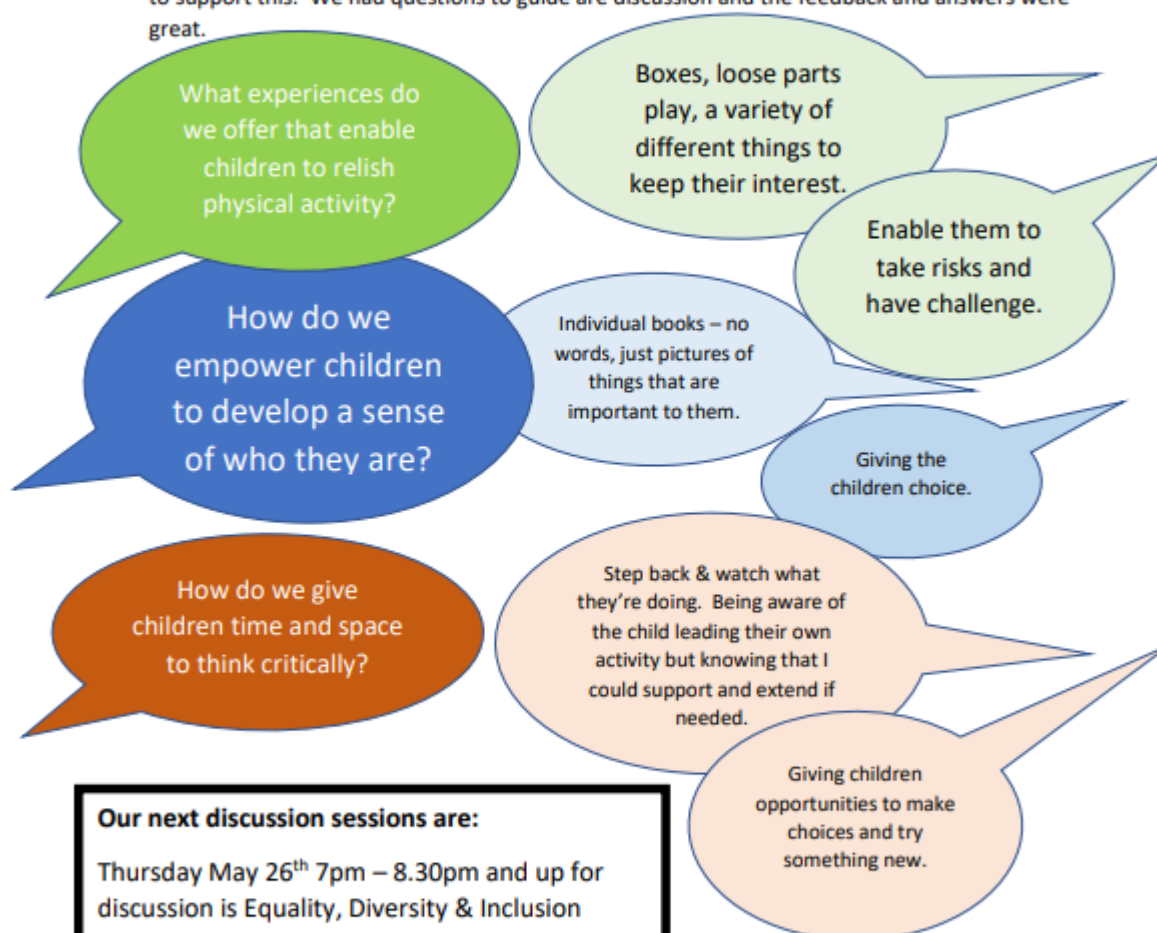
Congratulations to Lisa and the children - looks like they made 12 story sacks!



Join our professional, but informal, discussion sessions.

Each month we cover a different aspect that is considered essential to offering high quality provision. These are based on the Bristol Standard's ten dimensions of quality. These sessions are always so inspirational & supportive. It's a great way of getting together (via zoom) and sharing ideas with other like-minded childminders who are also committed to ensuring the best outcomes for children in their care.

At a recent discussion session, we looked at Play and Learning Experiences and what we did well to support this. We had questions to guide our discussion and the feedback and answers were great.



Our next discussion sessions are:

Thursday May 26th 7pm – 8.30pm and up for discussion is Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (Dimension 8).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/319675306447>

Thursday June 23rd 7pm – 8.30pm and up for discussion is Partnerships with Parents & the Local Community (Dimension 9).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/318901853027>

26th May Eventbrite live link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/319675306447>

23rd June Eventbrite live link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/319689488867>

Contact julia.harkess@bristol.gov.uk for information about the Bristol Standard



HMRC TAX NEWS

HMRC - Making Tax Digital for Income Tax

From 6 April 2024 HMRC are changing the way you submit your Income Tax. As a childminder (sole trader), you currently submit your self-assessment form once a year. The new service will mean that you will need to use digital software to record your accounts and submit figures every three months, if your Income (before expenses) is £10,000+ per year. Below is a summary of the changes and links to where you can begin to look at the software that is available to use. It would be worth looking this software, as this is free to trial now to practice doing your accounts this way.

Self-employed businesses and landlords with annual business or property income above £10,000 will need to follow the rules for Making Tax Digital (MTD) for Income Tax from 6 April 2024.

Businesses, self-employed people, and landlords will be required:

- *to operate MTD from 6 April 2024 in relation to their trading and property income chargeable to Income Tax and Class 4 NICs if their gross income from these income sources for a tax year exceeds £10,000*
- *to keep their records digitally for Income Tax Self-Assessment (ITSA) purposes only, provide digital quarterly updates and provide their ITSA return information to HMRC through MTD compatible software.*
- *You can use the service voluntarily now. This will allow us to test and develop the service before 6 April 2024.*
- *You must use this service starting from 6 April 2024, if your qualifying income (before expenses) is above £10,000.*

What you'll need to do to use this service

To use Making Tax Digital for Income Tax, you'll need to:

- *get software that is compatible with Making Tax Digital for Income Tax*
- *use software to keep digital records*
- *send quarterly updates for business income and expenses*
- *submit your end of period statement*
- *submit a final declaration*

Before you start

- *Check to [see if you or a client can sign up](#) and [how to use Making Tax Digital for Income Tax](#).*
- *You must have [software that's compatible with Making Tax Digital for Income Tax](#) before you sign up.*

Clarification on the use of trampolines



There seemed to be a bit of confusion regarding the use of trampolines, so we contacted Ofsted, Pacey and Moreton Michel and this is what they said:

The response from Ofsted: **In response to your enquiry, there is no specific guidance on trampolines. We require all individuals follow the EYFS requirements. Please follow the link below if you require any further guidance.**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework-2>

The response from Pacey: **Our insurers always advise that you risk assess any equipment, that the manufacturers recommend age is correct for the child using the equipment and children are supervised at all times when using the trampoline. It would be advisable that childminders check with their insurers if they are in any doubt to check they are covered for this type of activity.**

The response from Morton Michel: **I can confirm that the Childminder policy will cover for the use of a trampoline.**

The following stipulations are:

Am I covered for using a trampoline, climbing frame, garden swimming pool, bouncy castle or other similar inflatable play equipment?

Your legal liability is covered in respect of trampoline, climbing frame, garden swimming pool, bouncy castle or other similar inflatable play equipment used by you for the children attending your setting, providing you adhere to the following policy conditions:

- **The manufacturers/suppliers' instructions in relation to use, safety and recommended number of children must be complied with at all times.**
- **The use of such equipment must be notified to Ofsted or other registering authority and no concerns or objections have been raised.**
- **Written consent must be obtained for each child stating they are allowed to use such equipment. You are not covered for any damage you do to the items or if you hire out to anyone else.**