

Positive Contribution

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Economic Wellbeing

Be Healthy

Childminding Newsletter

Winter 2023

Happy New Year

The childminding support team hope that you've managed to get some rest over the festive season. 2022 was a busy year as we all emerge from the pandemic and work to support children through what has been a difficult time for many. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of Bristol's youngest citizens. Whilst visiting your settings and meeting you at groups, we have witnessed all of the hard work and dedication you put in to caring for the children in your care. The team love to come and visit your settings and support you when needed and we look forward to doing more of this in 2023. If you would like a visit, please do get in touch at cmsupport@bristol.gov.uk

Your childminding support team are:

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What's in this issue?



What's in this issue?

1. Happy Retirement Sharon
2. Useful info and reminders
3. FEEE information
4. CPD dates
5. DfE Mentor support
6. Consent form
7. Ofsted news
8. Ofsted inspection feedback
9. Ofsted inspection tips
10. Activity Day
11. Group updates
12. Group updates
13. Group updates
14. Group updates
15. Groups updates
16. Bristol Standard
17. National Story Telling Week
18. Reducing Parent Conflict
19. Miscellaneous

Wishing Sharon a very happy retirement!

Sharon's presence in the Childminding Support team will be very much missed. Sharon has been a constant source of encouragement and guidance for her colleagues and for the Bristol childminders. Her absolute dedication and commitment, over many years, to all things childminding related has been greatly appreciated.

We wish Sharon all the best for a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.



Useful information and links

Did you know that Ofsted have an Early Years blog?

You can find it here:

[Ofsted: early years \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk/Ofsted-early-years)



There is a song by the NSPCC, featuring Pantosaurus, a pants-wearing dinosaur, that wants every child to be safe from sexual abuse. So, he shares his important message, without any big, bad, words of course, but through a song.

[Talk PANTS & Join Pantosaurus - The Underwear Rule | NSPCC](#)



Early years practitioners play an essential role in helping young children learn the foundations of safe online behaviour, supporting parents and children to recognise the value of technology and use it safely. In this vodcast, Gill Holden, Principal Officer of the Early Childhood Unit at the National Children's Bureau, speaks to Sue Asquith, an Early Years Consultant, to discuss this and offer some practical tips for practitioners working with young children.

[Foundation Years vodcast on online safety | From pregnancy to children aged 5](#)



This shares lots of useful information about weaning and what to feed babies and when. It might be useful to share with your families, especially first-time parents.

[What To Feed Your Baby | 7 to 9 mths | Weaning | Start for Life \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)



Free Hours with Childminders in Bristol

Free Hours with Childminders in Bristol

As 2022 draws to a close, we are ever grateful for the provision and support of our Childminders who are delivering the free hours across the city. Thank you for keeping your live registers updated and for submitting your claims on time.

The next headcount date is Thursday 19th January 2023. This one is a headcount and annual census (so please ensure your provider and staff details are up to date). The deadline to submit is Friday 27th January 2023, and if you need any help please contact eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk or call

- 07827 348719 (general enquiries / complaints / policy)
- 07780 222293 (allocation of 2 year olds)
- 07780 193419 (funding of 2 year olds)
- 07780 169561 (funding of 3 and 4 year olds / 30 hours / EYPP)

The deadline to offer free hours in Spring 2023 (Jan-Mar has now passed, but if you are interested in offering free hours from April 2023, please send an email to eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk for an application pack. We can provide support with the paperwork through our Childminder Champions 😊😊

Season's Greetings and Happy 2023!

The Free Entitlement Team



CPD sessions



January

07 Childminder: Paediatric First Aid

JAN

**12 Reflective Forum: Accountability, Monitoring
and Impact**

JAN

**14 Be Savvy, Be Solvent – Financial advice for
Childminders**

JAN

**21 Childminder: Child Protection and
Safeguarding**

JAN

28 Childminder: Food Safety

JAN

February

07 Childminder: Baby Talk for Practitioners

FEB

23 Reflective Forum: The Physical Environment

FEB

**25 Advanced Safeguarding and Child Protection
for Childminders**

FEB

March

**16 Reflective Forum: Play and Learning
Experiences**

MAR

22 Childminder: Makaton Taster

MAR

For more information visit

[Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#)

Department for Education Early Years COVID-19 Recovery: Childminder Mentor Programme

The Early Years Childminder Mentor programme from the Department for Education is focused on supporting early years childminders, to address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest children.

This support is free and available across the country.

The programme will offer mostly online support.

Some of the main aims of the programme include:

Supporting childminders:

- To identify strengths and areas for development
- To improve knowledge of child development
- To build confidence following the pandemic
- With the implementation of the EYFS framework 2021

And providing advice for supporting children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or English as an Additional Language (EAL).



You can apply for support as an individual, or with other childminders as part of a small group. You must currently be providing childcare to children aged between 0-5 to be eligible for support.

You could receive up to 4 days of support over one term. The programme will run from May 2023 until the end of July 2024.



We appreciate childminders' very busy schedules, so as part of the application process, wherever possible, we will match people together with similar availability and preferences.

Apply for support from the DfE Childminder Mentor programme.

Would you welcome some support to further develop your childminding practice?

You will receive free support from experienced early years practitioners.

**Closing date for applications for support is 17th
February**

To submit an application to receive support, or to find out more about the programme please visit

[COVID-19 Recovery Childminders |
Hempsalls](#)



Thanks to those of you who have already completed the consent survey. This is just a little reminder to those who have yet to get to this task, please complete this as soon as possible. Please use the link below to access the survey. If you need any support with this, please let us know and we would be happy to help.



[Consent to Share Contact Details - Childminder](#)

Why is it important?

- **If you haven't filled in this form the Family Information Service can no longer give out your details to parents looking for childcare.** This is especially important at present as an interim measure until the FIS directory is complete (if you've not updated your profile on that, please do so asap).
- **Without your consent we will no longer be able to email information to you, so you may miss vital bits of important information!**



Congratulations to Michelle Harte and Emily Mackwell
on their 'Outstanding' inspections and gradings.

98% of Bristol childminders are now graded either 'Good' or 'Outstanding!'

Curriculum Webinar

Ofsted have produced a really interesting webinar about curriculum, tailored specifically for childminders. It also includes lots of useful information regarding inspections and what inspectors are looking for.

The webinar focuses on the importance of communication and language and how that can be promoted through your curriculum.

To view the webinar visit [View Recording \(gotowebinar.com\)](https://www.gotowebinar.com)

Early Years Inspection Handbook for Ofsted-registered provision.

This document is full of useful information regarding what to expect at your next inspection.

Part 3 of the document provides specific guidance for inspections of childminders.

The document is available here [Early years inspection handbook for Ofsted-registered provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-inspection-handbook-for-ofsted-registered-provision)

Top tips and inspection feedback from a graded 'Outstanding' childminder

Dionne's top tips

Believe in yourself!

Stick to your routine and don't introduce anything new on the day.

Know your children really well.

Dionne has kindly offered to share her inspection experience. Dionne had a phone call with the inspector prior to the inspection, when she was asked about changes to her practice as a result of the pandemic, how she had maintained communication, changes and how the children had settled back in. Dionne explained her setting's routine, asking if the inspector was happy for them to still go out to the local park during the inspection. Dionne also invited the inspector to look at her setting's Facebook page.

On arrival Dionne began conducting a learning walk, showcasing her setting, alerting the inspector to things she wanted her to notice. This included telling the inspector about the children's ages and stages of development, explaining how she rotates the resources, that there are plenty of opportunities for the children to have free flow around the setting including access to the garden where there is a plethora of loose parts to promote children's interests, critical thinking skills and enabling them to be autonomous learners.

Dionne had a few activities prepared, but didn't do them as she was following the children's lead and interests. The inspector went to the park with them and was able to observe how embedded safety routines were and how familiar the children were with these. Dionne explains how proud she was of all of the children demonstrating kindness towards one another, this was noted on the inspection report.

The inspector didn't do a formal joint observation but was constantly observing, building a picture of Dionne's provision, watching interactions between Dionne, her assistant, the children and also how the children interacted with each other. The inspector saw how children's independence, communication and social skills were promoted and how Dionne encouraged the children to make progress. Dionne needed to be able to know where each child was developmentally and how she intended to support their future learning. The inspector spoke with Dionne's assistant, assessing her knowledge of the children and of safeguarding. The inspector gave them both hypothetical safeguarding scenarios, asking how they would deal with them.

Whilst the inspector didn't read them at the time, she did take parent reviews, away with her and referred in the report to the positive relationships that Dionne has forged. Towards the end of the inspection Dionne asked the inspector if there was anything else she would like to see, providing the opportunity to make the inspector aware of other things for example Dionne's outdoor learning training and her commitment to reflective practice through the Bristol Standard. The inspection lasted for five hours and Dionne describes it as a positive experience that went very quickly. This was Dionne's third inspection since becoming registered and she explains that she felt more confident this time, knowing that she really knew all of her children well and what their individual needs were.



More Ofsted Inspection top tips!

Inspections can be stressful and the childminding support team want to be able to help you through this experience. Ofsted just want to see what is it like for a child in your setting and for you to showcase the wonders that you do. Home visits from our team, can help you to feel more confident and prepared for when you do get that call. In the meantime, here is a flavour of what some inspectors have noted on inspections.

- Implement a curriculum that builds on what children already know and can do, to ensure they are all engaged in play that supports their individual stages of learning consistently well. Improve the planning of children's learning experiences by considering the individual needs, interests and stage of development of each child.
- Review and adapt activities to support all the children's interests even more closely, developing their involvement and skills as much as possible.
- Give children more time to consider and contribute their ideas. Help develop children's critical thinking skills.
- Develop the sharing of information about children's needs with other settings that children attend.
- Promote children's independence further by encouraging them to independently wipe their nose and enable them to access hand wash. Further develop children's independence by supporting them to do things for themselves. Make better use of every opportunity that arises to promote children's independence. Extend children's opportunities to be independent at mealtimes.
- Promote children's understanding of the importance of oral health.
- Reduce background noise to minimise distractions.
- Develop communication and listening skills.
- Help children to learn to understand their feelings and emotions, and to manage them in an appropriate way.

Rain did not stop play!

Bristol Childminders don't let the rain get in the way of having lots of fun!

Outdoor Activity Day at Arnos Vale.

November 9th 2022

We had great fun in the **POURING RAIN!!**
Many childminders and children donned their waterproofs and turned out to splash in puddles, make leaf bracelets, go on a leaf hunt and sing songs in the rain!

Everyone showed great resilience and enthusiasm.
We were soaked but we were happy!

These activity days are such a fabulous way to get together and embrace the great outdoors and all the learning opportunities that it has to offer. We had so much fun, we're hoping to put on another activity day in the Spring (hopefully without the torrential rain). Keep a look out for more information in the coming months.



Childminding Group News

Find out what's been happening at some of our groups.

Broomhill Childminding Group

The Broomhill Childminding Group have really appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the running of the group and having autonomy regarding the activities and resources they use. The childminders have shared ideas and inspiration and brought in resources to share with the group. We're looking forward to next term and thinking about potential play provocations we can provide following a trip to the Scrapstore. Exciting times ahead!



Bannerman Road Childminding Group

We have been super busy at our Bannerman Road childminding group this term!

The children have enjoyed lots of different activities as well as all the loose parts on offer inside and out!



We have lots of new babies so have been exploring our baby area each week and encouraging sensory play and story trays.



Stockwood Childminding Group

The children who attend Stockwood Childminders' Group have enjoyed having free flow access between the inside and outside spaces, giving them the opportunity to choose and to make the most of all the wonderful activities and resources that are available to them. They've been able to take part in sensory play and craft activities, especially in the run up to Christmas.

Song time is a lovely way to end the session each week and the children are becoming really familiar with our favourite songs. They enjoy the anticipation of discovering which song prop is going to be chosen from the bag.



East & Central Childminder Hub

Childminder Groups: Oldbury Court Children Centre, Bannerman Rd
Children Centre, St Pauls Children Centre and Broomhill Children

Across our Childminder groups we have been using core books, story sacks and songs as part of our weekly groups.

Such as:

- Owl Babies
- Gruffalo
- Incy Wincy Spider
- Little Red Hen
- Room on a Broom
- Dear Zoo
- Dear Santa

Repeating reading (and singing) core books with props and songs has been really beneficial in developing CLL and Literacy skills.

Nature Clay Creatures!



Leaf Painting



During the Autumn we spent time at Oldbury Court/Nature Discovery, taking strawberry cutting, collecting seeds/ making seed packets, leaf painting, clay/nature sculptures, picking apples and making apple mandalas



Seeds

We collected sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds. We designed seed packets and will plant them in the Spring!



Each session we love singing 'What's in the Box'!

'What's in the box?
What's in the box?
Look inside...
Look inside...
What's in the box?'

(Name) found a cow
(Name) found a cow
(Name) found a cow
Moo, moo, moo

(Lots of other things too that make sounds...)



APPLES!

We have been fortunate to pick apples from our orchard and make Apple Mandalas and eating them too! We discovered that sometimes other things like apples too.... caterpillars and larvae!



Loose Parts Play

We have had a focus this term on developing our loose parts play provision both inside and outside. We have noticed that open ended play opportunities have really supported children's fascination, exploratory, imagination and testing skills. We have looked at how loose parts support children's Characteristics of Effective Learning skills and how important these opportunities are for to develop all areas of learning.



We love Scrapstore!!
Why not organise a visit?



Filton Avenue Childminding Group

One of the highlights of the term for the Filton avenue childminding group was a visit from Rachel Shelley who is part of the Scrapstore team. Rachel brought a whole range of open ended resources with her and set them up to encourage the children to explore and engage using all their senses. Here are some photos from the session...



Shredded shiny metallic paper was very popular for throwing in the air, hiding underneath and stretching out the individual strands to see how long they were. Large cardboard boxes with paint dabbers and big marker pens proved to be a very attractive way to get children mark making. Children spent a long time finding ways to fill large transparent baubles with coloured rice.

We all appreciated being able to stand back and observe the children, noticing which of the resources individual children were particularly drawn to. We noticed how engaged and focused the children were, spending a long time exploring the resources and often coming up with a unique way to use them. The session reminded us all of the value of using open ended resources for children to explore, they might not result in an end product but do provide opportunities to think creatively, be independent and find new ways to do things.

Jane Smith

North Bristol Childminding Hub lead.

Bedminster Childminding Group

Our lovely group on **Monday's 9:30am-11am** has welcomed and supported lots more childminders and their mindees since we started back in September! Over the summer break we have developed a 'mud laboratory' area that the children are beginning to really explore and be creative in! A chance to be creative and imaginative outdoors in an urban setting!



We have been focusing on the outdoor classroom and the benefit of these experiences for children. When it got too cold to play with the mud, we had a play with things that were 'big, heavy and awkward' to really help children develop their 'proprioceptive development' so children acquire awareness of their bodies and what they can do by pushing, pulling, lifting and carrying. Although this was sometimes a challenge, the children showed lots of perseverance and determination!



Knowle West Childminding Group



At Knowle West childminding group we have been exploring how the changing seasons transform our natural world. In the autumn our garden looked like a carpet of leaves so we enjoyed using all of our senses to find out more about them. The door to the outside is always open and it is interesting to see how the children often choose to play outside rather than in. We all understand the benefits that fresh air can have on the health and wellbeing of our children and for us too. It is that innate curiosity that drives children to make sense of their natural surroundings that makes the garden the perfect enabling environment.

As autumn turns into winter we have been thinking about the festive season. The children have enjoyed making Christmas decorations to take home and have been finding out about the Christmas nativity.



The group is now well established and it is lovely to see how relationships are being made. The children are making connections with each other and beginning to play together with a little help from their trusted adult.

Adults too have formed friendships, supporting each other and offering advice when needed, a lovely way to end the year.

St Paul's Childminding Group

This term we were visited by Bethan from The Avon Wildlife Trust. The children explored the resources that focused on nature-based play which were child-led and free-flow. Avon Wildlife Trust are currently looking into ways in which they can facilitate and support early years providers and families in getting out into nature. The hope was this informal chat with the childminders would begin a journey of support into nature connection and play into the future. This may be providing resources such as play plans or supporting with the development of a green space.



The Bristol Standard

Congratulations to Mandy and Colin at Arnos Vale Montessori and Karla Marmolejo for their Bristol Standard achievement this term!

We had a celebration evening recently to celebrate current journeys and to inspire new ones. The room was full of laughter and conversation as we all shared ideas and made connections.



Please contact Rosie if you would like to know more!!

Reflective Forums

Dates for your diary

January 12th – The Reflective Practitioner, along with, Accounting, Monitoring and Impact.

February 23rd – The Physical Environment.

March 16th – Play & Learning Experiences

April 20th – Observation, Assessment and Planning.

These sessions are a great opportunity to get together and share ideas and practice. They're informal and supportive and EVERYONE is welcome, you don't need to be on your Bristol Standard journey to attend.

To find out more please visit [Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#)

rosie.coulstring@bristol.gov.uk

National Storytelling Week

30th January – 5th February

Top tips for story telling



Choose a story that you like

- If you love the story your enthusiasm will shine through to your audience.

Know your audience

- Think about the age and understanding of the children and tell the story in the best way for them.

Use your voice

- Vary your voice; faster, slower, quieter, louder. This can create drama and keep the children's attention.

Use props

- Props and puppets will help bring stories to life and make them more meaningful for those listening. [How to make and use a story sack | National Literacy Trust](#)

Use expressions

- Use expressions to share the characters feelings.

Have fun!

- If you're having fun the children listening will too!

Reducing Parent Conflict

The impact of parental conflict on children can be significant. By knowing what to look for we can help and support families and children. When children are exposed to or are in an environment where there is conflict it can effect their social, emotional and educational development, potentially having an impact on children's long term mental health and life prospects.

These three modules are available for practitioners, to help understand and support families where parental conflict is present.



Module 1 – Understanding Parental Conflict and its impacts on child outcomes

https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/sscp-training/module1/story_html5.html



Module 2 – Recognising and supporting parents in parental conflict

https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/sscp-training/module2/story_html5.html



Module 3 – Working with parents in conflict

https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/sscp-training/module3/story_html5.html



Infant and Child Sleep Consultant

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Kath used to be a Bristol childminder and now runs a business as a sleep consultant. Kath has asked us to share this with you, hoping that it might be of use to you or the families you care for.

