



Bristol Early Years

Bulletin for Early Years Providers

October 2023

1. BRISTOL NURSERY TAKES TOP NATIONAL AWARD



Huge congratulations go to the team at **Archfield House Nursery** who have won the country's most prestigious early years award, the **Nursery World Nursery of the Year 2023**. The team picked up their award at the gala



event in London at the weekend.

Judges praised the Archfield team for the “exceptional care” provided and the way they “strive to ensure that every child is supported to achieve their potential in a safe, nurturing and enabling environment.” As well as the outstanding provision, the Nursery was also recognised for its staff wellbeing scheme and track-record on recruitment and retention. Nursery manager Cassie Holland also supports settings as a Local Specialist Leader (LSL) with the Bristol EY Teaching Hub, and the nursery itself is a partner in the Bristol & Beyond Stronger Practice Hub.



Well done to everyone at Archfield House for your achievement and thank you for being such great ambassadors for everyone in early years in Bristol.

2. PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS



Settings with children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 should ensure that all their parents are aware that they must make an application for Reception in September 2024 **by midnight on 15th January 2024**. A pdf flyer is attached to the Bulletin email for you to share with parents/carers.

We also encourage settings to contact parents/carers via Facebook, Twitter, and Group Text, as well making information available on the setting's website and issuing paper or on-line newsletters. School Admissions information is available [on-line](#) for parents/carers to view and download. The preferred method of application is on-line, and we would ask you to encourage parents to apply on-line where possible. Where parents/carers might struggle to access a computer and or the

internet, we would also encourage you to consider allowing access to facilities in your setting. You may wish to assist in creating a free email account such a Gmail or Hotmail for parents/carers who do not hold one. If parents/carers are unable to apply on-line they can apply using a paper application form. Application forms are available from School Admissions upon request or can be downloaded from their website.

Please remind parents that the national submission date for on-time applications set by Central Government for a Reception school place for September 2024 is **midnight on 15th January 2024** and this is when the on-line system will close. Paper applications received after this date and time will be treated as late applications and a school place will NOT be allocated in the first round of offers. Please note that **the national statutory offer date is 16th April 2024**.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

Please make parents and carers aware that there is a separate procedure for these children. The SEND team will be sending a unique application form to each of these children. **They should NOT apply on-line**. The SEND Team will still need to check that the school understands and can meet the child's needs as set out in the Plan before a place can be offered. In a few cases, it may be that the key stage transfer review recommends that the child transfers to a special school or resource base. In such cases you should check with the SEND Team.

3. PARENT & CARER SURVEY

<https://forms.office.com/e/1E6VHpieuc>

Bristol City Council would like to know whether childcare in our city is meeting the needs of parents and carers. Please share this survey with your parents and carers and staff with young children through your newsletters and social media channels. This part of the assessment is just as important, as we want to know whether we are meeting the needs of parents.



We have created a QR code which can be copied and pasted to allow parents and carers easy access to the survey just by pointing their smartphone's camera at it (displayed in a place where phones are allowed obviously – safeguarding first!). It's one child per survey so if you or your families have multiple children, please feel free to complete the survey as many times as needed. (Poster with QR code attached to the Bulletin email)

4. DINGLEYS PROMISE SEND SURVEY

A request from Dingley's Promise... As you know at Dingley's Promise we are passionate about change, and we know you are too. We also share your concerns that our young children with SEND are not always as welcomed and supported as they could and should be in early years settings and we want to document and quantify the reasons why. Our Chief Exec Catherine has been working hard to form partnerships and build a national picture. This work is particularly pertinent as the new entitlements' rollout over the next few years and the attainment and access gap is at risk of widening.

To that effect Dingley's has created three online surveys and are keen to distribute far and wide. There is a survey for Local Authorities to complete, one for parent/carers which has been sent out via our parent/carer networks and one for early years settings. We know there are lots of surveys out at present for lots of reasons and we will of course share the results, which we hope will support you to evidence you are "taking reasonable steps" to be legally compliant as the new

entitlements roll out. We know you are as committed as we are to driving change for children and families, and we appreciate your support. **Please note the deadline is the 8th of October.** THANK YOU! Collectively we will continue to make a difference!

Survey for Settings - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/99V8MPP>

5. COLD WEATHER & WINTER GUIDANCE



Even though the leaves are still on the trees, settings are encouraged to plan now for the cold weather ahead. The UK Health Security Agency has recently published guidance on [Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during cold weather: teachers and other educational professionals.](#)

6. MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN 5-11

You may have families or staff members who need mental health support for a child aged five to eleven. This might include signs of anxiety, low mood or any other behaviours that cause worry. There is help available. Please find information regarding support attached to the Bulletin email that can be shared and or displayed in your setting.



Scan the QR code to view a digital version of this infographic, which includes web links to the organisations mentioned and additional information.

healthwatch
Bristol

7. DBS ASSURANCE LETTER

Please find a letter attached to the Bulletin email to be shared with your front office staff who are likely to manage visitors. This is the new updated version from our Director of Education Reena Bhogal-Welsh regarding Bristol City Council staff and complies with the requirements of KCSIE.

This is also available on our website using the following link: [Safe Recruitment and Safer working Practice \(bristolsafeguardingineducation.org\)](https://www.bristolsafeguardingineducation.org) Please bookmark the page should you require it in the future.

8. BRISTOL CPD

The Bristol Early Years Networks and the Stronger Practice Hub have co-produced a useful overview of CPD up to Christmas. This is also attached to the Bulletin email.

CPD Overview Autumn 2023



ABOUT BRISTOL & BEYOND EARLY YEARS STRONGER PRACTICE HUB
Our Hub for the South West region covers: **Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, Somerset, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon.**
We aim to support settings to adopt well-evidenced practice improvements in a number of ways.

- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Establishing and supporting EYs networks
- Providing evidence-based CPD with the EEF
- Bespoke Support

To book go to: www.beyth.co.uk/sph/



OCT	NOV	DEC
Attachment Aware Practice: Developing a Sense of Belonging for all Children in your Setting (PSED) 03 Oct (4-6 pm)	Beyond Behaviour: Understanding and Responding to Childrens Behaviour (PSED) 02 Nov (4-6 pm)	Open/ Study Day - Knowle West Nursery School Exploring Relationship based Practice in EYFS Setting 20 Nov (9.30-4.30 pm)
Using your Bristol Standard to inform your unique curriculum 09 Oct (4-5.30 pm)	Unlocking the Outdoors... Beyond the Garden Gate 06 Nov (4-6 pm)	5 to Thrive - RESPOND 28 Nov (4-5.30 pm)
Curiosity Circle with Kerry Murphy: Understanding and Addressing Ableism in the Early Years 10 Oct (7-8.30 pm)	Anti Racist Forum @ Easton Community Children's Centre 07 Nov (5.30-7.30 pm)	
Working in partnership with Parents (For Childminders) 11 Oct (7-8.30 pm)	How to manage the Bristol Standard in your setting 08 Nov (4-6 pm)	
Working with Babies Network Meeting @ Magic Roundabout Nursery 11 Oct (5-6.30 pm)	Curiosity Circle with Kerry Murphy: Collaborative Support for Neurodivergent and Disabled Children 08 Nov (7-8.30 pm)	Introduction to Trauma and Adversity (PSED) 05 Dec (4-6 pm)
Babies Rights Panel Webinar 18 Oct (7-8 pm)	New to EYFS Bundle (Face to Face (all day) 17 Nov (Reception) 20 Nov (Nursery)	Working with Babies Network Meeting @ Daisychain Nursery 05 Dec (6.30-8 pm)
An introduction to the Bristol Standard 18 Oct (4-6 pm)		Curiosity Circle with Kerry Murphy: Divergent Pathways of Development 07 Dec (7-8.30 pm)

BRISTOL EARLY YEARS NETWORKS

ABOUT BRISTOL EARLY YEARS NETWORKS
Network CPD is provided by **Bristol Early Years**. It offers a comprehensive range of training opportunities to meet local needs and priorities.
All sessions are free and are open to EYs teachers, practitioners, leaders and childminders in Bristol. The network sessions are a place to connect with other early years professionals from across the city. More sessions are added as dates are confirmed. Keep an eye on the **Bristol EYs Events Calendar**.
To book go to: www.bristolearlyyears.org.uk



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK ONLINE VISIT WWW.BEYTH.CO.UK/COURSES OR SCAN THE QR CODE

[The Stronger Practice Hub Newsletter](#) contains more detailed about the wider offer from the Hub.

OPEN DAY
AT KNOWLE WEST NURSERY SCHOOL
Exploring Relationship Based Practice in an EYs Setting:
21 November



Don't miss an opportunity to join the team at **Knowle West Nursery School for their Open Day on 21st November**. They will describe how they have transformed practice and policy to support children's behaviour and promote wellbeing and developed attachment aware practice and create psychologically safe environments for children, parents, and staff. Limited spaces so [book early!](#)



Babies' Rights Panel Webinar
18th October
7 - 8pm online



Do babies have a voice in your setting? What do your babies need? Have you ever thought about babies' rights? Join Rachel Pirie (Bristol Early Years) and Sacha Powell (The Babyroom Project) to hear more about the babies' rights project, how this triggered a wealth of work in Bristol about Babies' Rights, and how you can embed the guidance and make a difference in



your setting.

[Book here](#)

New to EYFS (Face to face) for Nurseries [November 20th, 9.30 – 4.30pm](#), St. Pauls Nursery, Bristol



This full day course will support you to embed the Early Years Foundation Stage in your setting whilst ensuring that children and families are at the heart of good practice. It will cover three areas: Principles of EYFS, Observation, assessment, and planning, and The Role of the Adult and an Enabling Environment.

Note: There is a free online option for nurseries in January 2024: New to EYFS and an option for Reception staff on 17th November with BEYTH: New to EYFS

Speech & Language Therapists CPD

Bristol Early Years Speech and Language Therapy - Children's Centre Team

Continuing Online Professional Development (CPD) for Early Years Professionals in Bristol, South Gloucestershire & North Somerset

Autumn 2023

There is a wide range of free training for speech and language development and practice available from the Speech & Language Therapist team. The Sirona flyer with the details and links is attached to the Bulletin email. For more information contact: sirona.sltearlyyearstraininginformation@nhs.net

9. UNTAPPED PANDEMIC STORIES EVENT



The Covid pandemic often feels forgotten but the impact of it is still very much with the early years sector which was very much at the front line throughout. The unique Untapped Stories exhibition at the University of Bristol School of Education in Berkley Square, showcases the work of one nursery and their embodied and affective experiences of the pandemic using participatory arts-based methods to explore experiences and their healing journey.

On the day you will be able to stroll through the exhibition, engage in a mapping activity and share your own reflections of the exhibition and pandemic experiences on a living wall. You can find out more about 'Untapped Stories' via the project website: <https://untappedstories.myportfolio.com/> The Eventbrite links are below with all the information needed.

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Saturday October 21 - <https://Untappedstories.eventbrite.co.uk>

11:30-3:30pm

Wednesday November 1 - <https://Untappedstories2.eventbrite.co.uk>

5-7pm

10. SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



The latest issue of the Safeguarding Newsletter is now available.

[KBSP September newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

DSL meetings for the coming terms are listed on the [Early Years Calendar](#).

The next meeting is on 7th November 9.30 – 11.30am or 9th November 1.30 – 3.30pm. Links to join the Teams are on the DSL Flyer attached to the Bulletin email.



11. BAND TRAINING training@bandltd.org.uk

Children's Resilience & Mental Health 21st September 9.30am – 2.30pm on Zoom.

This course is run by Chris Calland & Nicky Hutchinson - With over 50 years' combined experience of supporting children's emotional well-being, they run an independent consultancy Not Just Behaviour www.notjustbehaviour.co.uk. This course focuses on how to support all children to reflect on their experiences, process their feelings and develop their resilience and coping skills.

Domestic Abuse Awareness 28th September 9.30am – 12.30pm on Zoom.

This course is run by Mandy Parry a freelance trainer and coach [Mandy Parry Training - Professional safeguarding training for the children's workforce](#). Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. Book onto our course to explore different ways to practically support parents and children affected by domestic abuse.

Exploring LGBTQ+ 5th October 9.30am – 11am on Zoom.

This session is being delivered by Dr Shaddai Tembo www.criticalearlyyears.org. Shaddai is a lecturer in Early Childhood Studies (UK and China) at [Bath Spa University](#) and an associate lecturer at the Open University. This course examines the role of gender and LGBTQ+ inclusive practice to understand how we, as educators, might raise children un-limited from the gendered and heteronormative beliefs which negatively impact their identities.

BAND Play & Playwork Level 2 November start (10 session course). Thursday's 7pm -9pm at

BAND. An introduction to the key aspects of supporting play opportunities for children and young people aged 4 to 16 in a variety of play settings. **Note: This is a certification equivalent to a Level 2 Award. It's not a qualification. Cost:** £200 to Bristol based Ofsted registered groups and BAND members, £250 to all others.

To register your interest or book any course: - contact BAND at training@bandltd.org.uk

12. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES



We are delighted to announce the launch of the new updated Bristol Standard Birth to Five framework. The 7th edition will be available online as an electronic version, but we will also have some hard copies. These will be available at our launch afternoon at Engineer's House on Thursday 23rd November. There are three sessions: 1.30pm - 2.30pm 3.30pm - 4.30pm 5.30pm - 6.30pm. All sessions will be the same, you should only book onto one of them.

Please use the link below for booking: [Bristol Standard Birth to Five 7th Edition Launch Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Using your Bristol Standard to inform your unique curriculum



Facilitated by Jane Smith and Liz Leeson

Bristol Standard Network Meeting Monday 9th November

This session will link with the curriculum sessions held in the summer and will show how the Bristol Standard can be used in conjunction with the Early Years Curriculum toolkit.

[Book here](#)

Bristol Standard also has regular posts on [Instagram every Thursday](#) so please do have a look. If you are not already using the Bristol Standard and would like to please get in touch with nicky.bale@bristol.gov.uk

13. USEFUL CONTACTS

All settings can 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 (interim)– Kate.hubble@bristol.gov.uk

East & Central – Ali.carrington@bristol.gov.uk

South - Kate.irvine@bristol.gov.uk

Deborah Brown Free Entitlement Development Officer deborah.brown@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol Standard – nicky.bale@bristol.gov.uk

Birth to Threes – beth.osborne@bristol.gov.uk

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LEARNING CITY