



# Bristol Early Years

## Bulletin for Early Years Providers

December 2023

### 1. FAREWELL AND THANK YOU



At the end of December, we will say farewell and wish a happy retirement to one of Bristol's most well-loved early years faces – Nicky Bale. Thanks to Nicky's incredible work as lead for the Bristol Standard, and as a valued early years consultant, almost everyone working in early years in Bristol and beyond will know Nicky and want to join us in wishing her a very happy retirement.



The Bristol Standard has developed so much during Nicky's leadership. Nicky has been the inspiration behind the digitalisation, creating the powerful Bristol Standard film and creating links with our international settings.

Our children are at the heart of the Bristol Standard and Nicky has worked tirelessly to ensure this message is heard by all who embark on their Bristol Standard journey. The launch of the 7th edition of The Bristol Standard has now taken place and as Nicky has mentored the Bristol Standard team, who all share her values and vision, she can retire knowing she is leaving behind a strong team to lead The Bristol Standard forward. There are not enough words to thank Nicky for her dedication, inspiration and passion for her work but as she starts this next part of her journey, we wish her a happy, healthy and fun filled retirement.

### 2. FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Calling all level 3 and above practitioners! Funded by the Department for Education in England and delivered by [Education Development Trust](#), the EYPDP is a tailored professional development programme which aims to address the continued effects of the pandemic on young children. The programme offers up to £800 (subject to terms and conditions of the programme) to contribute to backfill or overtime for staff to complete the course.

Early Years practitioners who are qualified to at least level 3 and who work with children between 2 and 4 years are eligible, with priority given to applications from settings that meet at least two of the following criteria: Provide to at least one child with an EHCP or Disability Access Fund indicator; provide to at least one child in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP); provide to at least one child taking up the disadvantaged two-year-old offer. Settings can also be recommended by the Local Authority – please contact [Kate Irvine](#) if you think you would benefit from this programme or register interest here. [Early Years PDP Expression of Interest \(educationdevelopmenttrust.com\)](https://www.educationdevelopmenttrust.com)

The training is available to eligible practitioners across all participating local authorities in England including Bristol. The next cohort is due to start in January 2024.

### 3. SUPPORT FOR CHILD MENTAL HEALTH



We all have mental health, just as we have physical health. In the same way that we can be more or less physically healthy from time to time, we can also be more or less mentally healthy from time to time too. 'Help for Early Years Providers' has now added [new information and guidance on supporting babies and young children with their mental health.](#)

The guidance explains how practitioners can support positive mental health in early years children includes emotional and behavioural support strategies to use in early years settings and links to further reading and resources. For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for Early Years Providers website](#)



#### Online Resources for supporting Neurodiversity (and all children)

Kerry Murphy and Fifi Benham's book ['50 Fantastic Ideas for Supporting Neurodiversity'](#) has a great website of online resources to support children in settings. The website has numerous downloadable ideas and resources to inspire practitioners and teachers in supporting children with developmental differences.

### 4. EARLY YEARS WELLNESS NETWORK



The new Early Years Wellness Network is for professionals working in the ever-demanding field of early years and play in Bristol. The network will provide wellness resources and workshops to help staff manage their wellbeing.

When staff join the network, they will gain access to a range of wellness resources and workshops focusing on different aspects of wellbeing. These sessions will help practitioners to alleviate stress & develop resilience. Being part of the network also

means being part of a supportive and understanding community of early years & play professionals who share similar experiences and challenges.



The Early Years Wellness Network is a free wellbeing network aimed at promoting overall wellness specifically for professionals working in early years and play settings in Bristol. Staff working in a Bristol setting can register to join via the link <https://forms.office.com/e/6kwnP04zG5> or by scanning this QR code: Please also share the flyer with staff. If you have any questions about the network, please contact [Elizabeth@bandltd.org.uk](mailto:Elizabeth@bandltd.org.uk)

## 5. SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



The latest edition of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership newsletter can be found following this link: [KBSP November 2023 Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

The information and presentations from the Autumn term **Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads Meeting** will be available on the Bristol Early Years website [DSL Meetings - Bristol Early Years](#)

**Contact updates** - A final reminder to ensure that all early years settings contact details for safeguarding are up to date on the Contact Lists that the Local Authority hold as we will be sharing the link for the Early Years Safeguarding Audit in the next few weeks.

[Early Years - Safeguarding Contacts Update \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](#)

Please also find attached to this Bulletin the following information:

- Bereavement Guidance for Parents
- Bereavement Guidance for Early Years
- Talking About Parental Relationships
- SIPCO Parents Leaflet
- One Plus One Courses



## 6. CHILDCARE EXPANSION

As a provider already offering free hours, we would now welcome confirmation on whether you will be offering free hours to 2-year-olds from working families (phase 1 in April 24) and / or Under 2s from working families (phase 2 in Sept 24).



Just to remind you that initially, phases 1 and 2 are only for 15 (term time only) or 12 (all year round) free hours per week. Then in September 2025 you will be able to offer the full 30 expanded free hours per week. This is also an opportunity to sign up to offer places to Eligible 2-year-olds (paid at the same hourly rate) Please find the attached two documents (to the Bulletin email):

**EYR07b Existing Local Provider Re-Application Form – December 2023 – this is the application form which needs to be completed by 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and emailed to [eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk) to show your intentions (for all the age ranges you want to offer free hours to). If there is no reply, we will assume you do not wish to take part in the expansion and carry on as before, however you can change your mind at a later date but will no longer be invited to webinars and training sessions.

**EYR06 FEEE Admission Policy Template 2024** – this is a template for new providers but details the new information about the expansion age groups. Feel free to adopt it, cut and paste sections etc. to amend your own admissions policy and **submit your revised admissions policy by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

Please ensure your provider name is added to the document file name when emailed to [eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:eyclaims@bristol.gov.uk). Application forms received without an updated admissions policy by the end of Feb will be rejected, as you are required by the statutory guidance to have your offer in writing. Please note that in this revision, we have assumed that there will be notice period of 1 month for Eligible 2-year-olds – but this will need to be confirmed by the Schools Forum in early January 2024 – so watch this space!

If you have any questions about the application form, the admissions template or the expansion, please get in touch with [Deb Brown](#).

## 7. EXPANSION PROVIDER ENGAGEMENT GROUP

The Bristol Early Years Sufficiency team are providing support to all settings interested in and/ or concerned about the forthcoming Early Education and childcare expansion through **the Expansion Provider Engagement Group** – if you still want to join, the opportunity to attend is available to all and the dates are below.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 1.30pm to 3pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 10am to 11.30am [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 – 1.30pm to 3pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 10am to 11.30am [Click here to join the meeting](#)

## 8. CHILDCARE CHOICES FOR FAMILIES



[Childcare Choices](#) is a cross-government campaign that aims to make more parents aware of the financial support on offer to help them with the costs of childcare. While most families in the UK are entitled to some form of support, many are missing out because they simply don't know they are eligible.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> January, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31<sup>st</sup> March to apply for a code, with the best timing being mid-January to the end of February in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](#) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs. Settings are encouraged to promote the campaign and to support with this the government's Childcare Choices team has published a new [toolkit](#) which contains a range of resources to use in promoting the offers to parents such as social media posts and text for newsletters.

## 9. PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS



Please ensure all support families with children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 have made an application for Reception in September 2024 **by midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. A pdf flyer is attached to the Bulletin email for you to share with parents/carers.

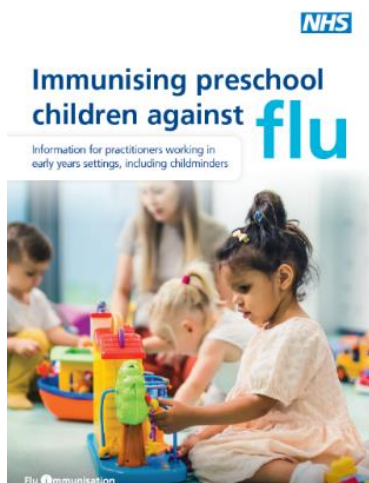
Paper applications received after this date and time will be treated as late applications and a school place will NOT be allocated in the first round of offers. **The national statutory offer date is 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

### **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.

## 10. CHILDREN'S HEALTH



The UK Health Security Agency have a suite of resources for early years settings and schools to inform parents about the benefits of vaccinations including:

[Immunisations at one year quick guide](#) (also available in other languages) and as a [video](#)

[A guide to immunisation for pre-school parents leaflet](#) and [video](#)

Back to or starting nursery, primary or secondary school reminder [postcards](#) and posters

[Resources to support the pre-school 'flu immunisation programme](#)

## Caring for children with COUGHS

Please also find a flyer attached to the Bulletin email to share with parents on caring for children with coughs.

This provides important advice on when to seek further advice and how to look after a child with a cough.



More information can be found at [www.bristol.ac.uk/child-cough](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/child-cough)

## 11. SUPPORT FOR PARENT & CARER RELATIONSHIPS

Please share the flyer (attached to the Bulletin email) about online courses with your families.

Online relationship support for parents



There are THREE ONLINE COURSES for parents and carers from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne to support parents to learn to cope with stress and communicate better.



## 12. SEND & MINORITISED COMMUNITIES

**Meeting the needs of CYP with SEND from Black and Minoritised Communities – training for SENCOs and EY/school leaders.** This free one-day event on for SENCOs and EY/school leaders will explore what we know about disproportionality in SEND for CYP from Black and Minoritised Communities in Bristol and what we can do about it.

The day will include an introduction to our city-wide approach to anti-racist practice in education, share new SEND specific guidance for education settings and consider the role of cultural competency in ensuring we achieve our equality, diversity and inclusion aims.

The event will be held at Shaftesbury Park, Frenchay on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Tickets for the event can be booked on the [Trading With Schools](#) website.



### 13. BRISTOL EARLY YEARS CPD

The Bristol Early Years Networks and the Stronger Practice Hub have co-produced a useful overview of CPD FOR THE Spring term which is attached to the Bulletin email. Please do share with staff and display in staffroom areas. All Bristol CPD can also be found on the [Early Years Calendar](#)

- 07 **CURIOSITY CIRCLE WITH KERRY MURPHY: DIVERGENT PATHWAYS OF DEVELOPMENT**
- 11 **Bristol Network for 2-year-old practice**
- 12 **Developing A Loving Pedagogy In A Childminding Setting With Guest Trainer Tamsin Grimmer**
- 07 **AET (Autism Education Trust) EY Suite of Resources for leaders**
- 10 **Bristol Standard Network Meeting: Using the Bristol Standard Online**

### Stronger Practice Hub Updates

[The Stronger Practice Hub Newsletter](#) contains more detailed about the wider offer from the Hub but here are a few key events that may be of interest.

Can you help the Stronger Practice Hub shine a light on fantastic practice happening across our region?

Have you got an area of expertise, a research project or inspirational practice / provision that you would like to share with others in our sector? The QR code will take you to a form to register your interest.



#### CPD Overview 2024

##### JANUARY 2024

- Using the Bristol Standard** (Jan 10, 4-6pm Online)
- New to EYVS (Part 1)** (Jan 11, 4-6pm Online)
- New to EYVS (Part 2)** (Jan 18, 4-6pm Online)
- New to EYVS (Part 3)** (Jan 25, 4-6pm Online)
- Establishing and supporting EY networks** (Jan 25, 4-6pm Online)
- Providing evidence-based CPD with the EEF**
- bespoke Support**
- Information, Advice and Guidance**
- Scraptoria** (Jan 18/Jan 25, 4-6pm (Face to Face))
- WellComm Introduction** (Jan 18, 1:30-3pm (Online))
- Talking with Babies** (Jan 26, 6-8:30pm (Online))
- Attachment & Relationship Based Practice** (Jan 27, 9:30-4pm (Face to Face))
- SENDGO Network meeting** (Jan 27, 4-5:30pm (Face to Face))
- Progress Check at Age 2** (Jan 27, 8-9:30pm Online or 7-8:30pm (Online))
- Exploring Schematic Play for Children, with Tamsin Grimmer** (Jan 23, 7-8:30pm (Online))
- Developing Relational Attainment (Session 1)** (Jan 29, 9:30-11:30am (Online))
- Developing a Tool Kit for Room Leadership** (Jan 29, 5-7pm (Face to Face))
- Five to Thrive - Curriculum gaps** (Jan 30, 4-5:30pm (Online))

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK ONLINE VISIT [WWW.BEYTH.CO.UK/COURSES](http://WWW.BEYTH.CO.UK/COURSES) OR SCAN THE QR CODE

#### CPD Overview 2024

##### FEBRUARY 2024

- Boosting Communication, Language and Literacy through Movement (2-5s)** (Feb 5, 5:30-7pm (Online))
- Authentic, Ambitious and Values Based Leadership (Session 1)** (Feb 6, 4-6pm (Online))
- WellComm Introduction** (Feb 22, 10:30-12pm (Online))
- Developing Relational Attainment (Session 2)** (Feb 20, 9:30-11:30am (Online))
- WellComm Introduction** (Feb 22, 10:30-12pm (Online))
- Courageous Conversations Leadership session 2** (Feb 27, 4-6pm (Online))
- Inclusive Story-telling with Cassandra & Wye** (Feb 28, 4-5:30pm (Online))
- Bristol Babies network** (Feb 22, 6-7:30pm (Face to Face))
- WellComm Introduction** (Feb 8, 10:30-12pm (Online))
- Inclusive Story-telling with Cassandra Wye** (Feb 27, 6:30-8pm (Online))
- Identifying and Supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs for Childminders** (Feb 28, 6:30-9pm (Online))

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK ONLINE VISIT [WWW.BEYTH.CO.UK/COURSES](http://WWW.BEYTH.CO.UK/COURSES) OR SCAN THE QR CODE

#### CPD Overview 2024

##### MARCH 2024

- Let's Get Moving: Early Years Physical Development (2-5s)** (March 2, 9:30-11am (Online))
- Introduction to Staff Supervision - Leadership Session 3** (March 5, 4-6pm (Online))
- A reflective approach to equity, diversity and inclusion in early years settings** (March 5, 6:30-9pm (Online))
- Let's Get Moving: Early Years Physical Development** (March 6, 9-11pm (Face to Face))
- Anti-Racist Forum** (March 12, 9:30-7:30pm (Face to Face))
- Children's Kitchen - Outdoor Learning - Linking Plot to Place for EYs children** (March 14, 4-5:30pm (Online))
- Beyond Behaviour - Understanding and Responding to Children's Behaviour (PSED session for PVI's / Childminders)** (March 14, 7:00pm (Online))
- Celebrating the Depth of your Reflections** (March 6, 4-6pm (Online))
- WellComm Introduction** (March 15, 1:30-3pm (Online))
- Developing a Tool Kit for Room Leadership** (March 6, 5-7pm (Face to Face))
- Developing Number Sense (Maths 1)** (March 20, 9:30-11:30am or 7-9pm)
- Talking with Babies (PZF)** (March 21, 9-12pm (Face to Face))
- Boosting Learning through Movement (Birth-4s)** (March 22, 9:30-11am (Online))
- Brilliant Bilingualism** (March 25, 4-6pm (Online))
- Five to Thrive - (Reas)** (March 26, 4-5:30pm (Online))

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK ONLINE VISIT [WWW.BEYTH.CO.UK/COURSES](http://WWW.BEYTH.CO.UK/COURSES) OR SCAN THE QR CODE

### 14. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES



Bristol Standard is delighted to announce the launch of the new updated

Bristol Standard Birth to Five framework!



The Bristol Standard team has been working hard to update it with current research and to refresh the existing version. It has a brand new format and has all new photos to inspire you on your quality improvement journey. You can start using it straight away even if you are currently using the 6th edition. Three of the dimensions have new titles but the content is still relevant to your current submission. More detail can be found in the Bristol Standard Newsletter attached to the Bulletin email.

The Bristol Standard team would like to thank everyone involved in the review and all the settings who provided us with vignettes or let us take photographs to bring the framework to life. If you were unable to come to the launch, we will make arrangements to get a hard copy to all Bristol settings. Your mentor can give you the password. You can also access it online at: [Publications - Bristol Early Years](#)

### 15. 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](mailto:Kate.hubble@bristol.gov.uk)

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

South - [Kate.irvine@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.irvine@bristol.gov.uk)

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Birth to Threes – [beth.osborne@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:beth.osborne@bristol.gov.uk)

