



# Bristol Early Years



## Bulletin for Early Years Providers

January 2024

### 1. EYFS CHANGES

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework is changing from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 with two versions of the EYFS framework replacing the previous single version.

- EYFS for childminders
- EYFS for group and school-based providers

A full summary of changes for each version can be found [here](#) but the main changes for group and school-based settings to implement are to:

- ensure your setting's safeguarding policies and procedures include all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities, not just mobile phones and cameras (Section 3)
- ensure all level 2 and level 3 staff members hold a valid paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate, otherwise they cannot be included in ratio (Section 3)
- ensure setting managers appointed on or after 4 January 2024 hold a level 2 maths qualification, or they achieve one within 2 years of starting in the position (Section 3)



There are also two key changes to introduce more flexibilities around qualifications and ratios that settings may wish to implement if appropriate and safe.

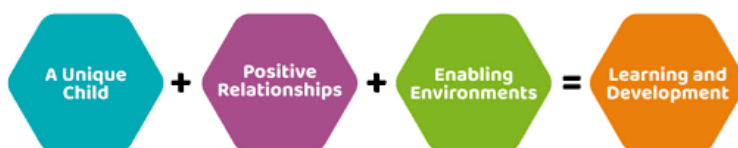
- Level 3 practitioners in group and school-based settings are no longer required to hold a level 2 maths qualification to count within staff:child ratios (Section 3, Staff:child ratios)
- a manager in group and school-based settings can now allow students and apprentices to count in staff:child ratios at the level below their level of study, if the manager is satisfied that they are competent and responsible (Section 3, Staff:child ratios)

All providers are requested to communicate the changes to their staff. You can use these printable poster and information sheets to communicate the changes to your colleagues. You can download these by clicking on each of the links below.

[All early years settings: Poster about the changes](#) (pdf, 317KB).

[Childminders: Information sheet about the changes](#) (pdf, 873KB).

[Group and school-based settings: Information sheet about the changes](#) (pdf, 844KB).



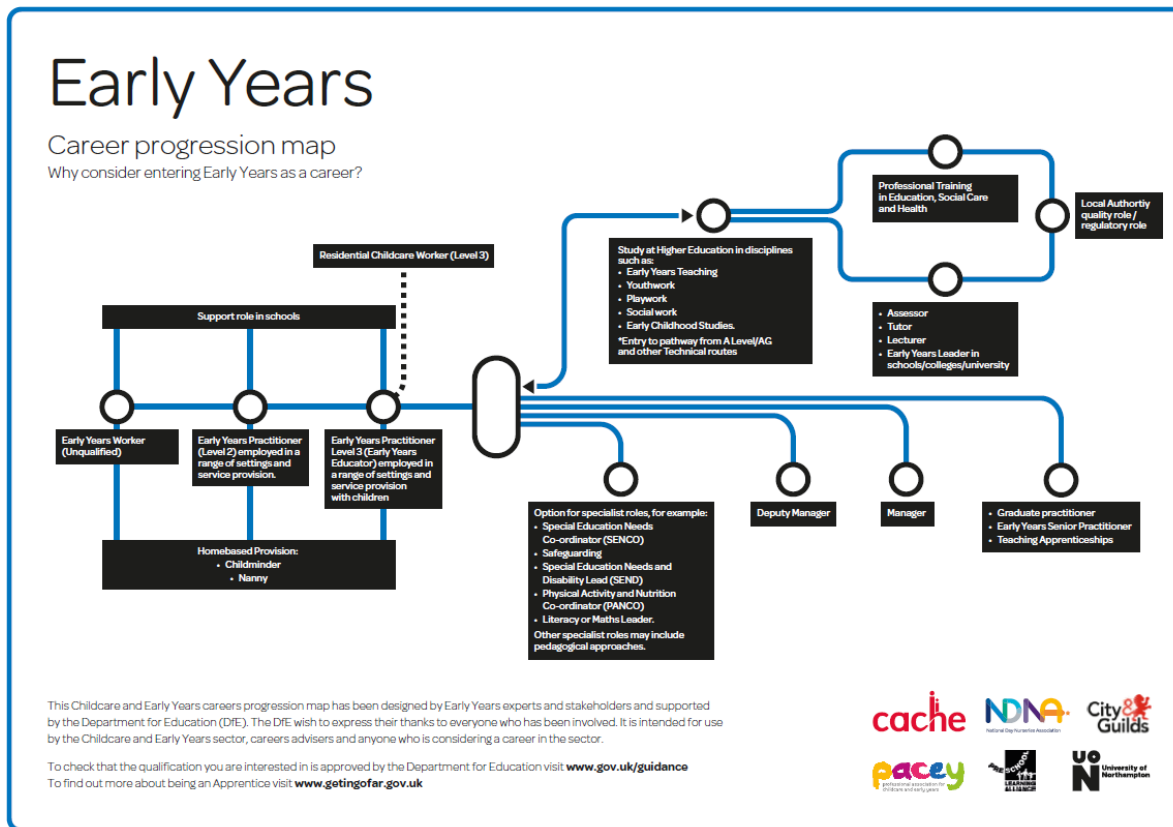
Please note, there are no changes to the learning and development requirements.

## 2. EARLY YEARS CAREERS

To help practitioners and leaders at all levels in their career progression and development Bristol Early Years will be focussing on career development and progression throughout 2024. Look out for developments later in the year to support staff in fulfilling their career potential.



This career progression map shows some of the more typical career opportunities that are possible for early years practitioners. Settings might like to print out the map (attached to the Bulletin email) and display it in staffrooms to show staff the range of opportunities that a career in early years can offer.



## 3. EARLY YEARS WELLNESS NETWORK



The new Early Years Wellness Network is for professionals working in the demanding field of early years and play in Bristol. 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. 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)

Bristol Early Years encourages all settings to get involved with this great initiative.

#### 4. 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](#)



#### 5. 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 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](#)

#### 6. BRISTOL EARLY LANGUAGE (BEL)



If You haven't done so already, the New Year is a great time to sign-up to the **Bristol Early Language, or BEL, programme** and get a fully funded WellComm Early Years Toolkit worth over £500 for your Early Years Setting.



The WellComm toolkit will enable you to screen the language and communication development of your children and give you intervention and curriculum planning activities. There are free introductory sessions run by the Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Team, to tell you more about the programme and using WellComm. Choose from: **January 16<sup>th</sup> February 8<sup>th</sup> or February 21<sup>st</sup>** booking is via the [Bristol Events Calendar](#).

Once you have signed up to a session, Penny Groves, BEL Programme Lead, will get in touch by email to provide the session link and when training is complete arrangements will be made for you to collect your kit or for it to be dropped at your setting.

#### 7. LEARNING LANGUAGE AND LOVING IT

The Bristol Speech & Language Therapists are pleased to announce that Hanen's evidence-based **Learning Language & Loving It** course is back for 2024.

Workshop dates: 31/01/24, 7/02/24, 28/02/24, 06/03/24, 20/03/24, 17/04/24, 01/05/24

Service provided by:



**Learning Language & Loving It** is a research-based approach, focusing on the quality interactions that support "children's social, language and literacy development in early years settings," including "easy-to-use strategies that help children interact."

Eventbrite: <https://LearningLanguageandLovingIt.eventbrite.co.uk>

## 8. 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**.

## 9. ANTENATAL SERVICES SURVEY

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership (BNSSG MNVP) want to hear from as many people as possible, especially from communities that don't always feel heard, and our aim is to build an antenatal education offering that works for all women, birthing people and their families.

Anyone in BNSSG who has received antenatal care/education or who has been pregnant within the past two years is encouraged to complete this survey. This includes adult women, pregnant people and their partners/birth partners.

BNSSG are keen to hear from as many people as possible and have the survey available in 10

different languages. If a language is not included, then please get in touch with them to arrange it.

A flyer is attached to the Bulletin email with links and information to share with families and staff, or scan the QR code above.

## 10. 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](#)





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



**What's Coming Up.....**

- New to EYFS on the 11th, 18th and 25th Jan, 4-6pm
- Understanding Children's Behaviour Through Attachment And Relationship-Based Practice on Jan 17, 9.30 - 4.00pm
- Tamsin Grimmer: Exploring Schematic Play for Childminders on 23 Jan, 7-8.30pm
- Talking with Babies: 24 Jan, 6.30 - 8.30pm
- Developing Relational Attunement with Jacqui Lewis (2 sessions) on 29 Jan and 20 Feb, 9.30 - 11.30am
- Boosting Communication, Language and Literacy through Movement (2-5's) with Helen Battenley on 5 Feb, 5.30 - 7pm
- Authentic, Ambitious and Values Based Leadership (Leadership session 1) on 6 Feb, 4-6pm
- Courageous Conversations: (Leadership session 2): 27 Feb, 4-6pm
- Identifying and Supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs for Childminders: 28 Feb, 6.30-9pm

There are lots of great events and training offers coming up for 2024.  
 Check out the flyer attached to the Bulletin email or click on the flyer to the left, to find out more and secure a place.

**11. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES**



2024 welcomes in a new leadership team for the Bristol Standard with Liz Leeson taking on the role of Bristol Standard Strategy Operations Lead. Liz is looking forward to continuing her work on the digitalisation project and leading the LSL group as well as overseeing the mentoring side of the Bristol Standard

Jane Smith will also now be the Bristol Standard Strategy Partnerships Lead. Jane will lead on projects including the Health Pilot which will take place later this year. Jane is looking forward to linking with all our partners including the Family, BAND and children's hospitals. The Bristol Standard team is now working with the web designer to create the next phase of the online system. This will involve being able to complete a submission for The Outdoor Reflective Framework and Bristol Standard for Health, alongside or separately to your Bristol Standard submission. The team hopes to have this available later in 2024.

The Next date for your diaries is **10<sup>th</sup> January 4-6pm** when Bristol Standard team come together to provide information about **Using The Bristol Standard online (TBSO)**. This session will go through everything you need to know about using the online forms including how to upload evidence, access mentor feedback and print your document. There will be opportunities for networking and mentor support. Book via the [Early Years Calendar](#)

**12. 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 – [Anna.morgan@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.morgan@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)

Deborah Brown Free Entitlement Development Officer  
[deborah.brown@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.brown@bristol.gov.uk)

Bristol Standard – [Bristol.standard@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Bristol.standard@bristol.gov.uk)

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

