



Bristol Early Years



Bulletin for EYFS Leaders in Schools February 2024

1. RELATIONSHIPS MATTER WEEK



to the bulletin email or register interest [here](#).

All Bristol education settings are invited to take part in Relationships Matter Week from 5th to 9th February. As well as giving a focus to relationships in our curriculum planning all professionals can take part in a series of free workshops across the week. Please see the flyer attached

2. EIGHT TO RELATE LAUNCH

Bristol Early Years and Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub are very excited to launch the much anticipated PSED audit tool, [Eight to Relate](#).

Eight to Relate is a practical and informative audit tool to support all settings to:

- Support **wellbeing**.
- Be trauma aware and build trusting **relationships**.
- Respond positively to children's **behaviour**.
- Develop Knowledge and **resilience** in practitioners.
- Provide strategies and ideas to **engage** parents.



Bristol Early Years Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub invite Early Years managers, leaders and practitioners in Bristol to join them for an evening at Engineers House and to be inspired by the guest speaker, [Suzanne Zeedyk](#), who has also written the Foreword for the publication. Please do come along and learn how Eight to Relate can support you in enhancing PSED and wellbeing in your setting. Read more and **book a space** [here](#).

3. EYFS PROFILE 2024



[The 2024 EYFS Profile handbook](#) is now available from the DfE. It is important to ensure the 2024 version of the handbook is referred to in all planning and preparation for EYFS Profile assessment.

The 2024 handbook has been updated to ensure it includes clearer expectations on exemptions from the EYFSP. Please note that the DfE requires the EYFSP to be completed for all children registered at the school, unless:

- An exemption has been granted for the setting (reserved only for independent schools or schools with established principles in conflict with the EYFS by agreement with the Secretary of State for education).
- An exemption has been granted for an individual child (reserved only for cases where a child's family has religious or philosophical beliefs that contradict the EYFS by agreement with the Secretary of State for education).
- The child is continuing in EYFS provision beyond the year in which they turn 5.

[Case Study Exemplification Materials](#) are also available from the DfE to support with assessment in the summer term.

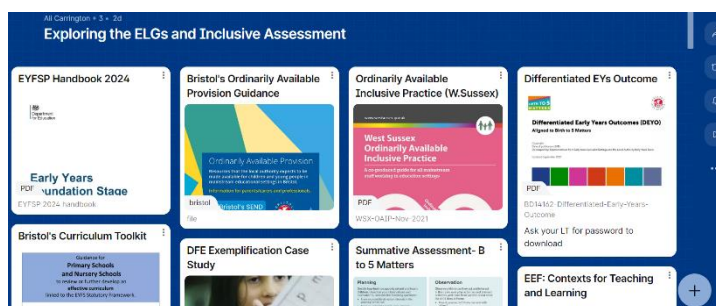
Exploring the ELGs

We were joined by over 60 reception teachers at the end of January for two days of incredible in-depth reflection and exploration of inclusive assessment and the EYFS Profile. Teachers and leaders shared knowledge and practical ideas around Ordinarily Available Provision and anti-discriminatory practices to support and assess children.

Inclusive assessment is a key principle of the EYFS Profile. The Statutory Profile handbook states: *“Teachers need to be alert to the general diversity of children’s interests, needs and backgrounds to accurately assess their development and outcomes against the ELGs. This includes children with a special educational need or disability (SEND), whose development may be identified by teachers in different ways. Children whose home language is not English should have opportunities to engage in activities in the security of their home language. Children will demonstrate their development not only through what they have been taught but also when activities such as role play, cookery, celebrations, visits or events are linked to their cultural experience” (EYFSP 20224 p.7).*

“Children must be assessed on the basis of what they can do when using the adaptations and reasonable adjustments they normally use to carry out daily activities. Examples of adaptations include: mobility aids, magnification, and adapted ICT and equipment. Reasonable adjustments can be any of those ordinarily available in the school’s provision including: prompts, visuals, sensory support and movement breaks.” (EYFSP 20224 p.11-12).

We have collated the slides from CPD and the accompanying resources in an [Exploring the ELGs Inclusive Assessment Padlet](#). This is accessible by all reception teachers. Please do contact your lead teacher if you need any support in developing your inclusive provision and assessment.



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4. MEASLES

Public Health Briefing for Early Years Leaders - information on Measles

When: 09 February 2024 10.00am – 11.00am

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 360 476 320 551



Cases of measles are growing in London and Birmingham. In the Midlands, cases have increased by 30% in a week, infections are occurring across all ages, not just children. However, among children under the age of five, the infection appears to be spreading the fastest, with 40% of those who test positive requiring hospital care.

Whilst there are **currently no reported cases of measles in Bristol**, measles can spread very quickly. Bristol's school age and young adult population currently has a 'below safe' level of measles vaccination.

Bristol City Council have agreed with UKHSA to develop a proactive local action plan, to try and get ahead of a possible measles outbreak by organising the delivery of MMR vaccinations. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective, two doses provide the individual with 99% protection against catching measles. We are calling this briefing amongst Early Years leaders to explain more about the vaccination approach and key information you need to know about the disease.

It is important to note that Measles can spread very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. The MMR vaccine is our best line of defence against measles and will help stop outbreaks occurring in the community.

Health and Education teams are calling on all parents, guardians, and those who work with children to make sure they and their children are up to date with their two MMR doses. To see if you or your child is up to date with MMR vaccines, check your personal child health record, known as 'the red book', or contact your GP practice.

Unvaccinated staff who come into close contact with a measles case will have to isolate for up to 21 days. Having two doses of the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent this. **The MMR vaccine is free, safe, and effective on the NHS, whatever your age. Two doses provide the individual with 99% protection against catching measles.**

If you have symptoms of measles, please stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. Do not visit a healthcare provider without calling ahead as Measles is extremely contagious and you will be putting others at risk.

5. TOOTH BRUSHING



Tooth decay remains very common in young children especially in those living in deprived areas. Tooth decay can be very painful, cause problems eating/sleeping and stop children attending early years settings.

There is a requirement within the Early Years Foundation Stage to promote good oral health to children and supervised toothbrushing programmes are an effective way to do this. To make sure more children get to benefit from taking part in supervised toothbrushing programmes a new website has been developed, as part of a national research project, to include resources needed by all those involved in getting toothbrushing programmes set-up and running well: [HOME | BRUSH Toolkit \(supervisedtoothbrushing.com\)](http://HOME | BRUSH Toolkit (supervisedtoothbrushing.com))

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: **February 8th** or **February 21st** booking is via the [Bristol Events Calendar](#).

Once you have signed up to a session the 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. SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

We know that bringing up young children is always challenging but help and support is on hand. Bristol's Family Hubs and [Children's Centres](#) have a range of free parenting courses to provide guidance and support for all families.



Parenting courses are useful for all parents. All settings are encouraged to share the **parenting course flyers** attached to the Bulletin email with their families and to sign post them to their nearest Children's Centre to find out more and find the course that is right for them. [Family Support Hubs - Bristol Early Years](#)



8. EYPDP



Have you considered the EYPDP Programme for you and or your early years team? A number of Bristol schools have already signed up and there are still a few places remaining. Funded by the Department for Education in England, the [Early Years Professional Development programme \(EYPDP\)](#) is a tailored programme that forms part of the government's Early Years Education Recovery Plan. The training is available to eligible practitioners in Bristol, with cohort three underway and cohort four due to start in April 2024. The programme includes a contribution of up to £800 towards backfill or overtime.

On the EYPDP programme, participants receive evidence based CPD (continuous professional development) to support them to improve outcomes on school readiness, early language, early mathematics and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED). Pre-reception practitioners and childminders from schools and private, voluntary and independent settings (PVI) 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 Education, Health and Care Plan 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.

Even if your setting doesn't meet those criteria, you may still be referred by the local authority, so please get in touch with your lead teacher who will pass on your contacts. To register interest, click the link below. [Early Years PDP Expression of Interest \(educationdevelopmenttrust.com\)](#)

9. NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION IN EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP (NPQEYL)



Department
for Education

The **National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)** is free, flexible, and designed by sector experts to help leaders and aspiring leaders across the early years sector develop their skills. It trains leaders to support children impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as helping them to lead effectively through:

- creating and implementing a vision and policies
- improving staff recruitment, development, management and appraisal
- marketing their setting
- working in partnership with parents and carers

[Read this blog](#) to learn about the experiences of an NPQEYL facilitator and how they feel the course could benefit you. The application window for the February 2024 cohort is open. Apply today at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

10. BRISTOL EY NETWORKS



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](#)

Don't miss this great opportunity to find out more about using Loose Parts in your setting!



Igniting Fascination with Loose Parts

Tuesday 20th February

4pm-6pm

At Children's Scrapstore

This session is **free** to Early Years settings in Bristol.

To book follow the link to the Early Years Calendar

<https://calendar.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/>



Stronger Practice Hub Updates

[The Stronger Practice Hub Newsletter](#) contains more detailed about the wider offer from the Hub. There are lots of great events and training offers coming up for 2024. Please see the What's Coming Up SPH Flyer.

Events not to be missed include:

Attachment & Attunement with Jacqui Lewis. March 19th


[Relationship Mapping - Attachment and Attunement in the Early Years? With Jacqui Lewis \(Bundle\) - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub \(beyth.co.uk\)](#)


11. BAND EARLY YEARS WELLNESS NETWORK



The Early Years Wellness Network is inviting all professionals who work with children to join us for a **free workshop focused on anxiety management**. This session aims to equip **professionals with tools** to handle their own worries and anxiety and learn some easy self-calming techniques.

 Wednesday February 7th

 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

 Online, so you can join comfortably from home!

Reserve your free spot through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discover-how-to-manage-anxiety-by-understanding-your-mind-tickets-780206948987>

12. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES



If you would like to find out more about Bristol Standard and how it can help you with your early years school development plan, please contact the team via Bristol.standard@bristol.gov.uk

13. USEFUL CONTACTS

All settings are able to 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

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

South – Kate.irvine@bristol.gov.uk

Birth to Threes (Two-Year-olds in Schools) – beth.osborne@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol Standard – bristol.standard@bristol.gov.uk