



Bristol Early Years

Bulletin for Early Years Providers

July 2024



1. FREE MULTI-LINGUAL FAMILIES TOOLKIT



Early Years Alliance & Bristol Early Years present an exciting resource for supporting your multilingual families in your school or setting – [Launch event 23rd September.](#)



The Early Years Alliance has developed the Supporting Multilingual Children and Families Toolkit to support all educators to feel confident in working with and supporting multilingual families. The Toolkit includes a comprehensive Best Practice Guide, which is underpinned by the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework and contains information, advice and guidance on a wide range of practical topics, including settling in children who are new to English-speaking settings, the stages of early multilingual learning, and how to prepare your provision to support multilingual families.

Come along to our launch event on 23rd September and find out more about EAL support this year! There will be a Toolkit showcase, guest speakers and dinner is provided! [Book here](#)



2. TOILET TRAINING SUPPORT FOR STARTING SCHOOL



Did you know that 1 in 4 children in England and Wales are starting school not toilet trained? To help reduce that number and support families who might need extra support, ERIC is launching a summer campaign, **All Aboard the Toilet Train**, that aims to help more children get ready to use the toilets independently at school.

If you have children in your setting who are about to start school this September but might need help with toileting, please let parents know they can sign up to receive updates and tips from ERIC throughout the summer. A poster and leaflet to share with families before the end of term, are attached to the Bulletin email.

Parents can also sign up here: <https://eric.org.uk/all-aboard-the-toilet-train-get-ready-for-school/>

3. NATIONAL AWARD FOR BRISTOL NURSERY SCHOOL



Congratulations to Knowle West Nursery School on becoming a recognised Trauma Informed School. The team at the Nursery School is extremely proud of this achievement particularly as they are the first early years setting and nursery school in the country to achieve this status. The award acknowledges the skills and expertise of the whole staff team and validates their commitment to this critical area of their work for the Knowle West community.

In 2020 the school began an association with Trauma Informed Schools UK (TISUK) accessing a range of training and learning opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of trauma informed practice and the approach. The school's Senior Leadership Team all undertook aspects of the training offer and were keen to develop their expertise in this critical area of work for the school and it's wider community.

The staff team now has three qualified Trauma Informed Practitioners working in the school: Helen Hogg, George Wilcox and Rachel Stoyell. Head Teacher, Jenny McDonald, completed the Senior Leads training, and the whole staff team have accessed trauma informed training. The award assessors commented:

"This school is incredible, and the staff are rightly proud of their achievements and the long journey which has led them to this point. They will never rest on their laurels and are on a quest for constant improvement. Parents, as well as their children are true partners in this work. The compassion and care the staff feel for their children, their parents and the wider community of Knowle West is infectious."



l-r Helen Hogg, George Wilcox, Rachel Stoyell, Jenny McDonald (Headteacher)

4. WORKING WITH REFUGEES & FAMILIES ASYLUM SEEKING FAMILIES



Healing Classrooms are safe and nurturing learning spaces where children affected by crisis and conflict can learn, grow and thrive.

This FREE, trauma informed training consists of 3 online sessions led by an IRC education specialist who has experience of the English education system as well as

having worked with refugees both in this country and abroad. The sessions will provide you with an opportunity to learn about the Healing Classrooms model and to share expertise with other educators. This cohort is for EYFS practitioners only and will be adapted to fit the needs of students in this age group.

**Sessions will start at 4pm on Tuesday:
16 October /23 October /6 November**

All programmes and resources are free. For more information please contact HealingClassrooms.uk@rescue.org or visit [Healing Classrooms UK](http://HealingClassroomsUK.com).

5. BIG BRUSH CLUB

Supervised Toothbrushing - [Big Brush Club](#) now in Bristol!



Tooth decay is the most common reason for hospital admission for young children, and the sad truth is that this is largely preventable. In 2022, a shocking 60,000 school days were missed due to tooth extractions and 1 in 5 children aged 3-5 in England experienced tooth decay. Supervised toothbrushing aims to help tackle this problem.

[Big Brush Club](#) is a supervised toothbrushing scheme funded by NHS England, being delivered to primary schools and early years settings across the southwest. This evidence-based initiative is fully funded by the NHS and being delivered by At Home Dental's [Big Brush Club](#). They provide training for staff to become Oral Health Champions and support schools to carry out daily toothbrushing sessions to children aged 3-5 in the setting. It is simple, effective, and potentially life changing. Big Brush Club provides everything that you need to carry out the programme, including toothbrushes, toothbrush racks, toothpastes and a comprehensive toolkit to guide you through the process. They also supply each child with their own free home pack, which contains a toothbrush, fluoride toothpaste and information to take home and use with parents or guardians.

In Bristol, Uptake has been very positive with 78% of Bristol schools so far participating! If your setting is eligible for this scheme and has not yet signed up, please contact info@bigbrushclub.co.uk for more information and visit www.bigbrushclub.co.uk



6. SUPERMARKET HOLIDAY VOUCHERS for Eligible 2s & EYPP



Bristol City Council uses a proportion of the Household Support Fund received from the government to provide supermarket vouchers for the families of eligible 2-year-olds and those claiming early years pupil premium during holiday periods. In March 2024, the government made the decision to extend the Household Support Fund until September 2024. Bristol City Council's Strategy and Resources committee have agreed to use the fund to award grants of £45 per pupil for the upcoming summer holiday period. They have recognised that this is a reduced rate compared to previous years due to the limited six-month extension.

We understand that this may cause real challenges for families over the school holidays. If you know someone who is struggling, there is further information and support on our dedicated [cost of living webpage](#). **The We Are Bristol phonenumber** is also available on 0800 694 0184 between 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

We do not yet know details about the future of the Household Support Fund beyond September 2024 when the fund is expected to end. This will be decided by the new government.

We would also like to take this opportunity once again to thank you for all your support and assistance with the distribution of vouchers, without your help we would not have been able to support as many families, those of which are some of the most disadvantaged in the city.

7. WELLCOMM UPDATES



Thank you to all the settings who have taken on the Wellcomm Language screening toolkit this year in their school/setting. We have had some great feedback and it's brilliant to hear about the impact you are seeing on children's communication and language skills.

Thank you also for the settings who have been entering data this year onto the report wizard and for those of you who have added data on recently. **If you haven't entered your data for this year yet onto the online WellComm Wizard tracker, please do so before the end of this term.**

Wellcomm Wizard from September

The focus age group for the BEL programme is 3–5-year-olds so for all settings who are using Wellcomm please make sure you have entered your screening data for **ALL** 3–5-year-olds in your setting by **8th November**. This would then give us a picture of language skills for all children in this age group across Bristol for the start of the next academic year.

After the initial assessment upload settings only need to screen and enter data during the rest of the year for the children who score an amber or red for their age. The WellComm Wizard will provide you with analysis and next steps for these children and support you to monitor their progress.

There are further [Wellcomm introductory sessions](#) in the Autumn for any settings not yet using Wellcomm who may be interested. Please contact Becky Newman: rebecca.newman@bristol-schools.uk

8. PARENT AND PROVIDER SURVEYS

Bristol City Council has a legal duty to ensure we are sufficiently providing childcare places in Bristol for children from 0 to 14 years old. To determine this, we are asking all providers to complete a survey to declare the number of childcare places you were offering (both freely and chargeable) at approximately the same time of the year and how many of these places were filled, to measure our annual sufficiency.



Primary Schools & Academies with nursery classes (and Primary Schools with breakfast and/or afterschool clubs), Private and Voluntary Nurseries, Independent Schools with nursery and reception classes, Maintained Nursery Schools, Governor Led Provision, LA Maintained Children's Centres, Independent Childminders, Childminders with Childminder Agencies, **all need to complete this survey.**

Please complete the Provider Survey as though it was a typical day in April 2024.

This time has been selected so that you can go back and check your records for attendance data and staffing levels requested in the survey and takes place at a time where we know places are starting to become full.

- If you were not open in April / not yet registered, then there is no need to complete the provider survey.
- If you were open in April and have since resigned / retired, please complete the provider survey.

Please note that there are two surveys:

1. **Provider Survey** (1 per Ofsted registration please) – **for a typical day in April 2024**

<https://forms.office.com/e/vQ676juUv7The>

The survey opens in MS Forms and can be completed on a laptop, tablet or phone. The survey is 'smart', so questions only appear if you say, 'yes' or 'no', with a hope to make the survey as short as possible. You can't save your progress as you go sorry, so please ensure that you complete the whole survey in one sitting, however you can navigate backwards and forwards between the sections. There are 5 sections to complete:

- About your provision
- Sessions in your provision
- Places in your provision (divided into the different age ranges)
- Wrap Around Childcare (schools and academies only)
- Accessing your provision
- Finance at your provision

2. **Parent and Carer Survey** (poster attached)

<https://forms.office.com/e/71g25VCVk5>

Please share this survey with your parents and carers through your newsletters and social media channels and by displaying the poster on your entrances. 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!). This part of the assessment is just as important, as we want to know whether we are meeting the needs of parents. Of course, if any of your staff are also parents using childcare in Bristol, they too can complete this anonymous survey. 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.

The results will enable us to highlight any gaps in childcare provision and address these where possible, which we will publish on our website. **As a current provider of early education, the completion of this survey is mandatory. The closing date of the surveys is Monday 30th September 2024.**

If you have any questions about how to complete these surveys, please contact 07827 348 719, or you can contact Bristol Association of Neighbourhood Daycare (BAND) on 0117 9542128.

9. SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN



The journey of parenting a neurodivergent or disabled child can be lonely, but by coming together with others who get it, parents can find strength, wisdom and the relief of feeling understood.

Murmuration Community Therapy. Starting in October 2024, the nurture group course aims to build connection and resilience, drawing on elements of mindfulness and compassion focused therapy. During the course attendees will: Meet the same parents each week, share experiences, explore a different theme each week, learn how to relate to difficult emotions with compassion and experience Somatic movement, guided relaxations and breath work. Bookings can be made via Eventbrite link on the flyer attached to the Bulletin email. Please share this flyer with your families of children with SEND.

10. SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



The latest **KBSP Newsletter** is available on the [Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website. \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](http://www.bristolsafeguarding.org)



11. BRISTOL EY LONG SERVICE CELEBRATION EVENT



Early Years 20-year Service Celebration

In recognition of the incredible service to the children and families of Bristol that the early years workforce provides, **Bristol Early Years will be holding a long service and thank you celebration for practitioners who have worked in our nurseries and settings for 20 years or more.**



**5th December 4.30pm – 6pm
At City Hall.**

It is important that we know who will be attending and settings are invited to put forward names and contact detail of practitioners who have worked in early years in Bristol for **20 years or more** to book on to attend the event, where they will receive a small token of Bristol's gratitude and we will celebrate their contribution to our wonderful city with some tea and cake.

Please register here for the event <https://forms.office.com/e/XPx3n6gdHG>

At this stage we are unsure how many people are eligible to attend this event. Places at the event will be on a first come first served basis but please be assured if numbers exceed the event capacity, please be assured we will organise a second celebration in early 2025 to make sure the contribution of all long-serving practitioners is recognised.



12. BRISTOL NETWORKS CPD



Network CPD

Get ready for some creative **CPD with Greg Botrill** to inspire your provision with **mark-making, writing, language and storymaking** and a bit of magic!



Bristol is excited to offer two amazing sessions with Greg, one to inspire joy and mark making and the other to spark playful story telling. Limited places – so book early!

[Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#)

24th October 4.00-5.30pm



24th October 6.00-7.30pm



It's all about play! Supporting the prime areas

Don't miss - Free Scrapstore training for all Early Years settings in Bristol.

- Explore the possibilities of loose parts play to support the prime areas of learning and the characteristics of effective learning.
- Consider the role of the adult and high quality interactions to support learning and development
- Take away a basketful of scrap to kick-start your practice and thinking.

Monday 14th October 2024 10am – 3pm

To book follow the link to the [Early Years Calendar](#)



Look out for an incredible new offer from Bristol Early Years in the Autumn – free downloadable staff meetings !

Early Years Team Development Ready-made staff meetings

A series of powerpoint slides that link to Bristol Early Years Guidance Tools...COMING SOON!



Curriculum (linked to curriculum toolkit)	Quality Interactions (linked to adult / child interaction checklist)	Characteristics of Effective Learning (linked to C of EL Guidance)	Positive Transitions (linked to positive transition guidance)
Introduction to 5 to Thrive (linked to a series of webinars)	Wellbeing for Life and work (linked to 5 ways to wellbeing)	2 Year old progress check (linked to statutory assessment)	Learning Outdoors (linked to BS outdoor reflective framework)

Bristol Early Years Lead Teachers have put together a series of powerpoint presentations that work alongside key Bristol documents with guidance notes attached. They are designed to be used in a way that suits you and your team, perhaps as a staff meeting or for an INSET day.



**Bristol & Beyond
Stronger Practice Hub**

[Stronger Practice Hub News](#)

A small sample of what is available is below but please see the attached SPH Flyer for details of all the amazing free CPD and events that are available.



Introduction to Makaton, with Jacqui Lewis

- For EYs Settings and Childminders: 13th August, 9.30 – 11.30am



Musical Creativity In The Baby Room With Dr Mona Sakr

19th September, 9.30 – 11am



Inspiring Provision For Babies

**At St. Pauls Nursery School, Little Bishop Street, Bristol,
28th October, 9.30 – 3pm**



Exploring And Growing Fresh Produce In An Early Years Setting with the Children's Kitchen

1st October, 9.30 – 11.30am



Creativity In Early Years Practice With Millie Colwey

24th October, 5-7pm



Exploring An Early Years Curriculum: Open Study Day At St Pauls Nursery

**St. Pauls Nursery School and Children's Centre Little Bishop Street, Bristol,
28th October, 9.30am – 3pm**

13. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES



Bristol University Day Nursery have been using the Bristol Standard for over 20 years and have been on an incredible improvement journey with it, evolving how they complete it over time. They were invited to speak at the Bristol Standard Development Day in June to share their inspiring journey.

They talked with real passion about how the Bristol Standard impacts them by keeping their teams engaged and looking forward and about how the previous targets they set themselves are now the strengths in their setting. They also described how writing up the team discussions straight onto the online forms during the team meeting makes the process really easy, which meant that they captured the essence of the conversations straight away.

The Bristol Standard is completely woven throughout all areas of the setting and is a great way of supporting all of their staff team, making everyone more accountable for their role and giving everyone a voice.

All settings and school in Bristol can use the Bristol Standard for free together with mentor support and free supporting CPD. Please contact your **lead teacher** or [Liz Leeson](#) to find out more about how Bristol Standard can be used to support your continuous improvement journey.



14. 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

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

South - Kate.irvine@bristol.gov.uk

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

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

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

