



Bristol Early Years

Bulletin for EYFS in Schools

October 2024



1. FREE MULTILINGUAL TOOLKIT



Bristol Early Language Project is excited to announce the launch of the **Supporting Multilingual Families at Home Toolkit**. Created by the Early Years Alliance, this toolkit is an incredible resource which will enable us to support practice and engage more effectively with multilingual children and their families.



Thanks to BEL (Bristol Early Language) funding there is a **FREE** digital toolkit licence for every Bristol early years setting, school and childminder.

Access your free toolkit by clicking this link:

[Register for your Early Years Alliance multilingual toolkit for children and families](#)

It is important that schools know how to make the most of the toolkit, so please also sign up to the free training run by Early Years Alliance see the leaflet attached with more information to book on or use these links. [8th October 1-2pm](#) or [16th October 6-7pm](#)

Early Years Alliance are also running free half day training sessions, with a choice of dates in December, at Engineers House. Book via the Bristol Early Years Calendar here:

[Bristol Early Language Programme \(BEL\) – Bristol Early Years](#)

We can't wait for settings to start using this fantastic resource – if you have any questions, please email BEL Lead Becky Newman: Rebecca.newman@bristol-schools.uk or CLL Lead, Anna Morgan: anna.morgan@bristol.gov.uk

2. FREE POTTY TRAINING CPD FOR PRACTITIONERS



Free Potty Training e-learning

Practitioners who support children with potty training at all Bristol early years settings can now benefit from a new [eLearning](#) course designed by the experts at ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity. Funded by Bristol Early Years this incredible training is free to Bristol early years providers.



Let's Go Potty is an eLearning course that has been developed by ERIC in collaboration with Bristol City Council in response to a need identified by early years practitioners. Practitioners from a range of early years settings co-designed and piloted the resource, which follows the 3-step approach to potty training, adopted by ERIC.

It's delivered via informative and educational videos from specialist continence nurses, bite-sized, easy-to-digest information and quizzes. At the end, participants receive a certificate recognising their achievement in completing the training.

Schools with nursery staff supporting potty training can access this [training FREE](#) using a unique code. Please contact your lead teacher to get your code.

3. PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE APPLICATIONS OPEN



It is that time of year again when the new school admissions round opens up for next September's admissions.

Early Years Providers with children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 should please ensure that all their parents are aware that they must make an application for Reception in September 2025 **by midnight on 15th January 2025**.

A pdf flyer is attached to the Bulletin email which we would ask you to bring to parents/carers attention.

You may wish to contact parents/carers via Facebook, Twitter, and Group Text, as well making information available on the school's website and by issuing paper or on-line newsletters.

Please make it clear to parents/carers when carrying out pre-school home visits or meetings that parents/carers must apply separately for a Reception school place by the **closing date of 15th January 2025**.

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.

A guide for **parents and carers** on applying for a **primary school** place for the school year **2025-2026**

If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2025

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE
15 January 2025
APPLY ONLINE

TRADING WITH SCHOOLS
BRISTOL LEARNING CITY
www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

4. UKHSA WINTER ADVICE FOR EARLY YEARS



NHS

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child

- 1. Protect your child**
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu Immunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

© Crown copyright 2018. Produced under the terms of the Health Security Agency's general licence. 2018014
If you need to order more copies of this poster, please visit healthsecurity.gov.uk/health-secure or call 0300 123 1000

Flu Immunisation

Staff working in the early years sector can help raise awareness of the flu vaccination programme for children amongst parents.

[Immunising children against flu](#) provides information about the programme and how children can get vaccinated. You may want to display resources like this [poster](#) or give copies of this [leaflet](#) to parents,

Managing Infectious Diseases

You may already know, but the infamous 'spotty book' has now been replaced by national guidance [Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) – this very useful A-Z list provides advice on how settings can manage specific infectious diseases by themselves - and also helps you know when you need to contact the SW Health Protection Team (SWHPT). Most infections you see in your

settings can be safely and effectively managed by the setting themselves so we highly recommend that you refer to this guidance before contacting the SWHPT.

As we move towards winter, the SW Health Protection Team has partnered with SW Councils to provide additional regional health protection resources – these are focused on Infection prevention and control, vaccines and a range of topics including Group A Strep, norovirus/D&V and respiratory infections. You can find these resources here [UKHSA Infection Protection and Winter Readiness and Control Toolkit for Early Years and Education Settings - South West Councils \(swcouncils.gov.uk\)](#)

Measles. UKHSA are concerned about a possible back to school measles surge and have issued an urgent call to parents to ensure their children catch up on missed vaccinations before they head to the classroom – more information about this can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-warns-of-back-to-school-measles-surge>

The SW Health Protection Team will continue to run free Health Protection webinars aimed at providing early years and education colleagues with information about how to prevent and manage seasonal cases and outbreaks. The next webinar will take place on **Thursday 3 October 4-5pm**. You can book your place here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-protection-in-early-years-and-educational-settings-tickets-1005062718647?aff=oddtcreator>

Health protection in children and young people settings, including education, guidance has been updated in relation to both transmission and exclusions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>



5. HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATES



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a Safety Alert to warn of the risks that water beads pose to children and vulnerable adults.

The Safety Alert advises that water beads should be kept away from children under five, and only used with older children or vulnerable adults under close supervision.

Water beads can expand up to 400 times when exposed to liquid. They are marketed for various purposes, including for use as toys and in crafting.

When swallowed, they expand and can block the gastrointestinal passage, potentially requiring surgery. They can also cause choking and have harmed children in the UK, with reports linking them to deaths overseas.

If it is suspected that a water bead has been swallowed, medical help should be sought immediately. The Safety Alert can be found <https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-water-beads-psa7>.



Food
Standards
Agency

The Food standards Agency has recently updated its guidance on using and handling flour and flour products safely.

[Handling flour and flour products safely | Food Standards Agency](#)

Schools are encouraged to update policies and risk assessments for using uncooked flour or flour products not intended to be eaten e.g. dough for crafts and play, with the new advice.

6. BREAKFAST CLUBS

Breakfast club announcement: On Monday 23 September, the Chancellor announced that up to [750 state funded schools with primary aged pupils will begin delivering free breakfast clubs from April 2025](#). Funding will allow these schools to run free breakfast clubs for their pupils in the summer term (April-July 2025) as part of a test and learn phase to inform delivery of a national rollout.

Schools that are interested to find out more about becoming an early adopter can sign up [here](#) to be notified as further information is available. Please do share this link via your networks.

We are committed to working with schools, childcare providers, local authorities and sector experts as part of the early adopters programme, particularly in terms of the interactions with the current wraparound programme. The wraparound programme is already successfully increasing the availability of before school childcare. Local authorities should continue to provide wraparound funding to schools in this financial year, as planned, and as per grant conditions. The breakfast clubs programme will build on this programme, and take it further by supporting families with the cost of living and reducing the impact of poverty, by providing children with a free breakfast every morning. We will share further information about the breakfast club programme and future engagement opportunities when available.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please email our stakeholder mailbox at breakfastclubs.earlyadopters@education.gov.uk.



7.



Early Years Book Club aims to bring practitioners together over a shared love of GREAT children's books.

Follow [@bristol_ey on Instagram](#) to get great tips and videos or check [EY Book Club on the Website](#)

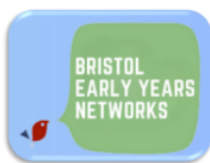


Instagram

Each month EY Book Club showcases

- 5 books we love
- A monthly non-fiction focus called 'what why wonder'
- A monthly poem called 'Knowing a Poem'
- Curated resources and booklists

8. FREE DOWNLOADABLE STAFF MEETING PRESENTATIONS



The Free downloadable staff meetings from Bristol Early Years Network Training are now live!



These staff meeting presentations are all **FREE for Bristol Early Years Providers** – settings will need the password from their lead teacher to be able to download the session required. Your lead teacher can also come to your setting to deliver a staff meeting by request. So, do get in contact and take a look. **Watch the introductory Video [here](#)**



SUPPORT WELLBEING
(linked to 5 Ways to Well being)

Password



AN INTRODUCTION TO FIVE TO THRIVE
(linked to Webinars coming soon)

Password



CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING
(linked to C of EL Guidance)

Password



SETTINGS CURRICULUM
(linked to Curriculum Toolkit)

Password

9. FAMILY HUBS



Bristol Family Hubs support every family in the city with children up to 19 years old, or up to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities.

Family Hubs bring together all the things a family might need in one place, to make it easier and simpler to access support.

The hubs can help parents and carers with information about health, education and childcare, wellbeing and mental health, play groups, peer support, relationships – and more!

More information can be found at www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolfamilyhubs

10. PEEP TRAINING FOR SETTINGS



Bristol Family Hubs are excited to announce further training for the **Peep Learning Together Programme** for settings and schools.

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd October at Engineers House, 9.30am – 4.30pm

Peep training equips practitioners to :

- deliver universal or targeted sessions with parents and children together - in one-to-one, group or drop-in sessions.
- engage and support parents to enhance their child's early learning and development and explore practical ideas, strategies and resources, using the [Peep Learning Programme](#) .
- contribute to a smooth transition to nursery or school if appropriate, helping families to feel ready for school.

See the flyer attached to the Bulletin email for more information. Click here to book a place:



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peep-learning-together-programme-tickets-951534052967>

11. BRISTOL NETWORKS CPD

Creativity in the Early Years with Pete Morehouse - 5th or 19th October

The day will look at children's creative development and the characteristics of effective teaching and learning through working with Clay, Paper, Block play, Loose parts, and Photography. Please note, although the booking page states the event is for childminders, **this event is now open to all practitioners in nurseries and schools as well as childminders.**



5th October at Knowle West Nursery School [Book here](#) 19th October at Oldbury Court [Book here](#)



[Stronger Practice Hub News](#)



Live Panel Webinar



Join Suzanne Zeedyk and panel of early years experts for a live and dynamic conversation and Q&A about Eight to Relate: a newly launched Bristol audit tool to support you and your EYs team to develop the very best provision in which children's emotional wellbeing and personal and social development can thrive. **October 14th 7.00pm – 8.00pm online.** [Live Panel Webinar: Eight to Relate - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub \(beyth.co.uk\)](#)

Maths Matters More Than Ever!



Free Mini-Conference with Guest Speaker Dr Sue Gifford And Maths Workshops In-person: October 15, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Engineers House
Reflect on and practice developing high-quality, maths-rich, playful pedagogy and reducing and addressing high levels of maths anxiety.
<https://beyth.co.uk/course/maths-matters-more-than-ever-mini-conference/>

Early Literacy

[Literacy for Under 5s for Early Years Settings and Childminders with Dr Karen Boardman](#)

Online: October 10, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Join Dr Karen Boardman to consider our provision for early literacy and to reflect together on phonics, digital literacies, early reading, and storytelling in early years education.

Curriculum Study Day

[Exploring An Early Years Curriculum: Open Study Day At St Pauls Nursery](#)

St. Pauls Nursery School and Children's Centre, 28th October, 9.30am – 3pm

12. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES



Passwords Update: Please note that the passwords to all the Bristol Standard Frameworks have changed. Please contact your mentor if you do not have them or email lizleesonbs@outlook.com

PW3 Bitesize is now available to all settings. This is for settings who would like to do a minimum of two dimensions a year or would like to focus on more research-based targets. If you would like to find out more about how to change to a PW3 then please email lizleesonbs@outlook.com

If you want to know more about the Bristol Standard, and how it can support reflection and research within your setting to fully benefit the children then join the team on **15th October** to learn more about how it links to other initiatives and about the different Pathways available to ensure you find the best fit for your setting. [Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#)

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 – 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

