



Welcome to the Early Years SEND team newsletter.

We hope you find the newsletter informative and helpful and please do let us know of any news that you would like us to share with other settings.

We wish you all a relaxing break over the Christmas period.

Deborah Allcorn

Head of Early Years



Department for Education (DfE) updates

Action for early years settings: Encourage parents to apply for support with childcare costs

From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours of childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March 2024 to apply for a code, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

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.

Action for early years settings: Applications open for the Childminder Start-up Grant Scheme

On 30 November 2023, the Childminder Start-up Grant Scheme [opened for applications](#). The scheme will support new childminders by providing them with grant funding worth up to £7.2million over the next two financial years, helping with the cost of setting up their own businesses.

The scheme will be available to all new childminders who have completed their registration on or after 15 March 2023. Individuals who have previously been registered as childminders and wish to re-register may also apply for the scheme. There must be at least a 12-month gap between the date of their previous registration being cancelled and their new registration being finalised.

We are providing £600 to new childminders registering with Ofsted, and £1,200 to new childminders registering with a childminder agency. Childminders must apply for the grant within two months of registering as a childminder, or within two months of the scheme launching.

Training

Sensory Processing in the Early Years: What is it and why it matters

Date: Tuesday, 9th January 2024, 2 - 4pm

Who: Council for Disabled Children

This training is for Early Years practitioners in family hub local areas. The session will:

1. Introduce sensory processing - what it is and why it matters
2. Explore sensory processing differences
3. Demonstrate how to create sensory environments conducive to learning
4. Understand how to support children with different sensory needs in their transitions into Key Stage 1
5. Provide an overview of the role of an occupational therapist

To book a place, please visit https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-processing-in-the-early-years-what-it-is-and-why-it-matters-tickets-765635575617?aff=oddtcreator&mc_cid=8d6729f967&mc_eid=52bfa1c93f

Guidance on supporting children in early years

The Department for Education - Help for Early Years Providers has 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
- links to further reading and resources

For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for Early Years Providers website](#).

DDD training

[\(DDD\) Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia and Developmental Co-ordination Difficulties \(For EYFS & Primary Schools\)](#)

If you are interested, then please book via the link.

Free Early Years training

Sessions which will provide practitioners with a thorough understanding of inclusive practice for SEND in Early Years settings.

https://nasen.org.uk/news/free-early-years-training-now-available?utm_campaign=3329956_Meeting%20the%20Needs%20of%20Every%20Child&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Nasen&dm_i=2F68,1ZDES,AY7X4S,71OK3,1

Positive Behaviour Support training

Virtual training on Wednesday 13 December from 9.30 – 11am

- EYFS Positive Behaviour and De-escalation
- To be able to understand the causes and potential triggers for behaviours
- To have a toolkit of strategies to de-escalate potential situations

To book a place, please contact - Lorraine Lewin lorraine.lewin@fortitrust.co.uk

Meeting Dates

Early Years Leaders Forum

Thursday 14th December: 9.30 – 11.30 am

MEY Ltd CPD Space Crest Infant and Nursery School

The agenda includes:

- Introduction of attendees
- Introduction of the focus and aspirations for the forum
- Meeting objectives
 - To agree key areas of focuses to support quality of early education in Medway
 - To agree some key goals for 2024
 - To agree smaller groups to work collaboratively on Form key areas of focus
- Discussion – what are the strengths and areas for development of the Medway Early Years Sector?
- Concluding thoughts and reflections

To book a space please click the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-leaders-forum-tickets-735887769127>

Early Years Funding

Reminders

30 hour codes – Please continue to remind parents to either renew or apply for their 30 hours codes at the latest by 31 December 2023.

Codes that have expired or new codes applied for after this date cannot be used in January 2024.



Childcare
Choices



Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You