

Welcome to the Early Years and SEND team newsletter.

I hope you all managed to have a break over the Christmas period.

There are changes ahead with the extended entitlement for 2-year-old children from working families from April 2024 and our FIS team have been sending out information to you all as soon as we receive it from the DfE. Please do keep us up to date with any changes to your contact details as we want to ensure we keep you all informed.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

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.

Health update

Measles

Please look at the following health guidance information regarding measles.

[Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
[National measles guidelines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

This training is appropriate for practitioners who are working in The Early Years Foundation Stage, for example, pre-school, nursery and childminding. It is suitable for those who are new to the role of the DSL and/or Deputy DSL as well as practitioners who are experienced in the role of DSL or Deputy DSL.

Please note this course is **not** appropriate for a DSL or Deputy DSL working in school.

To attend this course, delegates must have previously completed an Intermediate or DSL safeguarding and child protection course and be a member of the senior leadership team as well as committed to taking on the role of the DSL or Deputy DSL.

Learning Objectives

During this session, delegates will:

- Identify the competencies for the role of the DSL
- Explore relevant legislation and guidelines relating to safeguarding and child protection
- Consider the role of the DSL in responding appropriately to child protection concerns
- Refresh participants prior knowledge and expand on aspects discussed on Intermediate training

Dates and time:

Thursday 18 April 2024 - 10am to 5pm

Thursday 21 March 2024 - 10am to 5pm

Crest Infant and Nursery School
Fleet Road
Rochester ME1 2QA

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For Medway Early Years Ltd (MEY Ltd) Partners, this course is available to book on BookWhen.

If you are not an MEY Ltd Partner, please email: anita@medwayearlyyears.co.uk for details of how to book a place.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please email: anita@medwayearlyyears.co.uk

Early Years Oral Health training on 22 February 2024 from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The session will be held virtually via Teams.

Bookings are now via the A Better Medway Health Portal <https://healthtraining.medway.gov.uk/>
Delegates will need to create an account if they are not already signed up.

<https://healthtraining.medway.gov.uk/training-courses/04c49700-461d-11ed-b32f-173496bcb7de/early-years-oral-health-training>

The session provides knowledge and understanding of the oral health guidance for babies and young children in the early years (birth to five). Every child should be able to grow up free from tooth decay as part of having the best start in life and child oral health must be on everyone's agenda to achieve this and reduce the hospital episodes for young children requiring teeth to be extracted.

The session will equip professionals working with early years children to follow best practice for oral health and to advise early years families on how to care for young children's teeth and the lifestyle choices that can increase the risk of childhood tooth decay.

Early Years SEND Team updates

Please could all Early Years settings be aware that we have made some minor amendments on our forms and the new versions are available now to download from e-learning.

Early Years Funding

Reminders

Headcount – The deadline for the spring headcount data is 9am Monday 29 January 2024. Please make sure you have edited the existing data and added new starters and leavers in the 'Actuals' tab.

DfE Census – This is a statutory requirement and all early year's providers MUST complete the forms on the provider portal. The deadline for this data is 9am Monday 29 January 2024.

Extended hour codes – Only codes applied for or renewed by 31 December 2023 can be used during the spring 2024 term.

Two-year-old funding – Two-year-old children will not be eligible for funding unless they have a valid Medway Council code. The code will work on the portal, if it does not, please check with the funding team on two@medway.gov.uk



Childcare
Choices



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