

Welcome to the Early Years and SEND team newsletter

We do hope you find the information in the newsletter helpful.

Thank you to those of you that have completed the Wrap Around Survey.

After the Easter break, we will be sending you the Transition Document as we are aware that some settings have had challenges in downloading this from the E-Learning site.

Wishing you a relaxing break during the half-term.

Deborah Allcorn
Head of Early Years

Department for Education (DfE) updates

EYFS updates

- There are now 2 statutory EYFS frameworks:
EYFS statutory framework for childminders
EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers

Providers are responsible for ensuring they follow the current version of the framework for their provider type. Both versions are available to download here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

- [Myth Busting EYFS QA](#)
- [EYFS Changes Blog](#)
- [Early years inspection handbook](#) this was last updated on **19 January 2024**, please ensure you are referring to the latest version.

DfE-Childminder Consultation

The consultation seeks to gather evidence on a range of issues that impact childminder recruitment and retention such as property barriers, and support for childminders to remain in the profession. The consultation will be open for 8-weeks running from 9am on 15 March until 11.59pm on 10 May.

[Childminder recruitment and retention consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childminder-recruitment-and-retention-consultation)

Training

Foundation Years Live: March events

[Foundation Years](#) are hosting two free, early years practitioner-focused events in March. These events are a fantastic opportunity to hear presentations on topics including the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs, SEND in the Early Years, and practical approaches to language acquisition, as well as a chance to network with other practitioners.

In person event, live in London - Friday, 22 Mar 2024 10 am - 3:15 pm GMT - [register here](#)

Fortis Training

The training that will be offered virtually is:

Attention & Listening 'bucket time' - 45 minutes

Intensive Interaction - 90 minutes

Autism 1 hr

Sensory Processing - 90 minutes

Zones of regulation - 90 minutes

2x 1 hour sessions on Trauma and Attachment difficulties

Face to Face training will be:-

Signing (signalong) - 90 mins

Box tasks/communication boards/Teacch Approach/Identiplay - 1 hour

Dates and invitations will be emailed soon!

Basic Safeguarding and Child Protection Level 2

This course is appropriate for early years practitioners working in The Early Years Foundation Stage, for example, pre-school, nursery and childminding.

Learning objectives during this session, delegates will:

- Identify common signs, symptoms, and indicators of child abuse
- Demonstrate an understanding of their own and others' roles and responsibilities in the protection of children
- State the process to be followed within Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) procedures for child protection/children in need
- Support a child or adult when they want to talk about abuse
- Considered the competencies for Levels 1 and 2 of MSCP Competency Framework Date and

Date & Time: Wednesday 24th April 2024 10 am to 5 pm

Venue: Crest Infant and Nursery School Fleet Road Rochester ME1 2QA

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

Reminders

15- & 30-hours free childcare for eligible working families

From April 2024, eligible two-year-old children of working families can receive up to 15 hours free childcare. Applications for two-year-old working families is the same process as three- and four-year-old working family applications.

Eligible three- and four-year-old children of working families can receive up to 30 hours free childcare. Codes must be applied for by **31 March 2024** to ensure they can take up or continue their place from April. Working family codes for two-, three- or four-year-old children are a combination of 11 numbers and applications should be made [here](#) – www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

15 hours free childcare for two-year-old families receiving some additional forms of government support

Two-year-old children will not be eligible for funding unless they have a valid Medway Council code. Applications should be made [here](#) or www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions selecting 'Medway two-year-old applications' and then choosing the relevant application site link.

If found to be eligible, codes are issued immediately. This code will work on the provider portal, if it does not, please check with the funding team on two@medway.gov.uk.

Funded childcare applications for parents of 9-month-olds opens on 12 May 2024.

Useful links

- Kent Early Years Stronger Practice Hub can be found:
<https://www.strongerpracticehubs.org.uk/hubs/se/kent-eysph>
- [National Stronger Practice Hub - Shared Learning and Dissemination Event](#)



Childcare
Choices

