

Welcome to the Early Years and SEND team newsletter,

As we come nearer to the end of term, I want to thank you for your commitment and support for our early years' children of Medway.

For those of you taking a break over the summer, enjoy and stay safe.

Deborah Allcorn

Head of Early Years

Wraparound Childcare

Hi, my name is Adele, Medway Council's Wraparound Childcare Coordinator. My role is to support and establish partnership working and promote Wraparound Childcare in Primary Schools and Early Years settings.



What is wraparound childcare?

Wraparound childcare is before and after school childcare, such as breakfast clubs and after school provision for primary school aged children in England.

The provision typically runs before school from 8am and after school until 6pm, during term time, either on a school site or another local setting such as a community centre, a nursery, or a childminder.

This is different from out-of-school activities, or school clubs that can be a one-off activity. From September 2024, you can expect to see an increase in the number of wraparound childcare places available across Medway.

Further information can be found on [ChildcareChoices Wraparound childcare](#)

Best Wishes

Healthy Early Years Awards

What are the Healthy Early Years awards?

The Healthy Early Years (HEY) awards are a series of 4 awards open to schools, childminders, private, voluntary and independent settings within Medway that work with children 5 years and under.



It is FREE to join the awards pathway. The awards are designed to recognise, support and celebrate settings that promote a healthy lifestyle. They are a great way to demonstrate that you are committed to working with your children, families, staff and community to promote a healthy start. Commitment to the HEY pathway is often reflected in the Ofsted inspection reports of active settings.

Settings on the award pathway have access to FREE training and workshops, covering a wide range of subjects from oral health, fussy eaters and physical activity to healthy lunchboxes, cooking with children and emotional wellbeing. The training is delivered as a mix of in person and online.

There is also access to a dedicated member of the Public Health team, a closed Facebook group and a regular newsletter.

To find out more or to sign up please email change4life@medway.gov.uk

Early Years Funding

Reminders

15 & 30 hours free childcare for eligible working families with children aged from nine months

From September 2024, eligible children from working families aged between nine and 23-months can receive up to 15 hours free childcare. Eligible two-year-old children from working families can also receive up to 15 hours free childcare.

Eligible three- and four-year-old children of working families can receive up to 30 hours free childcare.

Applications for all working families is the same process. Codes must be applied or renewed by 31 August 2024 to ensure they can take up or continue their place from September. Working family codes from nine months to four-year-old children are a combination of 11 numbers and applications should be made [here](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) – 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](https://www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions) 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

Early Years SEND Team updates

Early Years SEN inbox

We've created a new way for parents, childminders and PVI settings to contact the Early Years SEND team.

For general queries relating to Early Years SEND, please email earlyyearssen@medway.gov.uk

If SENCOs have specific queries or questions relating to children you've already discussed during a SENCO surgery, please continue to contact your allocated Early Years SEND Officer directly.

Please note that it may take us longer to respond to queries over the summer, as some of the team members work term time only. Thank you for your understanding!

New Provision Map

Reminder that all settings were sent the template for the new Provision Map to be used for SENIF funding. The new provision map and a completed example of the form are now available to be downloaded from the elearningatlast website.

From the homepage <https://www.e-learningatlast.org.uk/>, click on **Early Years Information and Guidance**, click on **Referral forms for Practitioners**. It will ask you to log in but if you don't have log in details, you can just click on 'Log in as Guest' to access all the forms.

There is a grace period that you can still use the previous version of the Provision Map but from **1st September 2024**, only requests using the new Provision Map will be accepted. For EY funding, please send to eyhighneeds@medway.gov.uk.

EY SENCO Forum

The EY SENCO Forum will be via Teams on Tuesday 17 September, 9.30 to 10.30 am.

Please email familyinfo@medway.gov.uk to confirm your attendance if you haven't done so already, with your name and setting name.



Childcare
Choices



Medway
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