

WELCOME to the Early Childhood Service Newsletter for the Autumn Term. We hope you have all had a lovely summer! Thank you to all those settings who have provided stories for our 'good news/celebrations' section please keep them coming!!

Team updates

Early Childhood Business Support and Quality Improvement



WE ARE PLEASED to welcome Val Aspinall to the team. Val is the Quality Improvement Officer for the Wallasey District and can be contacted on valaspinall@wirral.gov.uk

Early Childhood Service Years Conference

THE EARLY Childhood Service conference held on the 25th September was a great success, with some really positive feedback.

Keynote speakers Jane Evans, Andrea Vaughan, and Helen Bibby shared some

thought provoking concepts relating to the effects of childhood trauma. We are already planning next year's conference and will take into account any suggestions and feedback received from this year's evaluations.



Funding update: 30 hours

SUMMER TERM 2018 saw the number of extended hours taken up by families increase by over 17% compared to the Spring Term.

Can we remind providers that for Spring Term 2019 all codes need a start date of 31st December 2018 or earlier.

Furthermore we would like to remind you that families who are in grace periods are only eligible for funding if they were at the setting in the previous term.

Training

EARLY YEARS Quality Training (EYQ) would like to thank all the providers and participants who have attended training this term, making it one of the busiest terms ever.

Dates for courses in the New Year can now be found on our website www.eyqtraining.co.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a questions or further training needs. 0151 639 8923 or mcdonalds@ley.wirral.sch.uk

Ofsted and DfE Updates

UPDATED 'Inspecting safeguarding in Early Years' inspectors Handbook
At the start of September, Ofsted updated their guidance document 'Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings'.

The guidance is aimed at inspectors not childcare practitioners, but it is useful for providers on the Early Years register to be aware of what areas Ofsted will be looking at. Download the latest version of the Ofsted guidance on inspecting safeguarding: bit.ly/2S8iCx5

Change to Disqualification by Association - New Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 guidance has been released from September 2018. Under the 2018 Regulations, schools and settings are no longer required to establish whether a member of staff providing, or employed to work in, childcare is disqualified by association.

Disqualification by association is only relevant where childcare is provided in domestic settings. More information can be found at bit.ly/1Acjv6
DfE updates Working Together to Safeguard Children - The DfE has updated 'Working together to safeguard children', its statutory guidance on inter-agency working to promote the welfare of children. Download the latest version of Working Together at bit.ly/1OCvIwv
Also useful is the DfE's guidance on information sharing available to download at bit.ly/2AeXrm1

Children Centre updates

Charging policy

A **SMALL** charge is to be introduced when hiring a room at a children's centre. Further details will be shared on this in the near future.

Brassey Gardens Childrens Centre

BRASSEY GARDENS Childrens Centre now has an amazing refurbished outdoor area. Attendees to the childminder drop in at the centre were very pleased to be able to access such a well-resourced, high quality play environment both indoors and out



Launch of Musical Development Matters

MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT Matters is a brand-new piece of guidance written to complement the current Development Matters document.

The overall purpose is to support practitioners, teachers, musicians and parents to see the musical attributes

of young children and to offer ideas as to how they can support and nurture children's musical development by offering broad musical experiences, and forms part of the legacy of the Tri-Music Together project.

Printed copies are available to purchase, or you can download a copy for free,

from the dedicated Musical Development Matters page.

You can also find the free online accompanying resource here: network.youthmusic.org.uk/musical-development-matters

Setting Support

NDNA Wirral Network

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has a Wirral branch open to all – the information below has come from the local network development officer Harriot Wood.

Wirral Network was established in April 2017 and so far has built strong links with their Local Authority, working together through consultation to increase the number of early years' representatives on the Wirral Schools Forum. As a result of this partnership, a fair system was established for most disadvantaged children to receive inclusive funding.

The network also forged links with their local MP and as a result, discussed the

feasibility of 30 hours with a view to finding solutions. The chairs have also been invited by BBC 5 live to discuss the impact of 30 hours funding on providers and families accessing services.

The group has benefited from having a stronger voice and presence in the community and has grown in membership and attendance as a result of the success of engagement with providers who have voiced how supported they feel when meeting in the group.

If you would like information relating to the network contact harriet.wood@ndna.org.uk or call 01484 407067, if it's to do with membership then they can contact the membership team on 01484 407070.



Well done to the Wirral NDNA network group, who won the award for NDNA Outstanding Network, England 2018.

Good News & Celebrations

IN JULY 2018 Oakdale Children's Nursery celebrated their 20th Anniversary. They welcomed back past and present children, parents and staff to show them how the nursery had evolved over the years. It was a pleasure to show our local MP Angela Eagle and the Deputy Mayor Tony Smith what part the nursery plays in the children's education and what an asset it is for families in the local community.



Early Years Peer Review

LOCAL GOVERNMENT Association will be conducting Early Years Peer Reviews across Local Authorities. Wirral expressed an interest in receiving a review and this will occur between 26th February 2019 until 1st March 2019.

The focus of it is yet to be determined however it will link to the 2020 pledges and speech and language development. The review will confirm our strengths and areas to develop. Feedback will be sent to all stakeholders and Department for Education.

The reviewers may request to observe practice, arrange meetings or interview practitioners.

Local Offer Update

THE LOCAL OFFER has had an updated look including an improved search facility. The feedback has been positive, Work will continue to enhance the website and make it more accessible to users.

The numbers of children and young people signed up to the Wirral Disability Register continues to grow. Please make friends and family aware of this voluntary sign up – it enables us to better meet needs. To take a look or sign up visit the local offer website localofferwirral.org.

The Offer is keen to work in partnership with nurseries and Pre-schools to get the information to Parents/carers at the very outset of their SEND journey. Contact Sally Tittle, Local Offer Communications Officer on 666 4488 or email: sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk

Good News & Celebrations

Outstanding providers

THERE HAS been a high number of settings achieving an Outstanding Ofsted outcome in recent inspections. These include (clockwise from top left: Moreton Baptist Pre-School; Debra Bennett, Childminder; Harrison Day Nursery; Ladybird Playgroup; Abbie O'Halloran, Childminder; Sarah Kelly, Childminder and Daisy & Jake Nursery, Spital.



CHILDREN AND STAFF at Cosy Corner Day Nursery all dressed as Roald Dahl Characters and raised money for his charity; held a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer care! Just for fun dressed in pyjamas for Humphries pyjama day or pink for wear it pink day and then had a visit from the local fireman



LINDA PARNELL, a Birkenhead childminder has had a wonderful new addition to enhance the outdoor provision, in the form of this beautiful outdoor cabin. The setting also attended Forest school at Tam O' Shanter farm, organised by Childminder Nicola Volam. The children saw fox holes, wild mushrooms, roasted marshmallows on the campfire and enjoyed a mud kitchen experience using all natural resources. The children used hammers to make leaf imprints on material.



Useful links

- **Gov.uk infectious diseases and more** bit.ly/2qZ8ivS
- **Children's Centre 'What's On' timetables of activities can be accessed through the Wirral Council website:** www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/childrens-centres
- **Wirral Safeguarding Board** www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk This website has been designed to support all those who live and work in Wirral to safeguard and protect all our residents