

Early Childhood Service

Newsletter

Early Childhood Quality Improvement
and Business Support Team

Welcome to the second edition of this newsletter produced by the Early Childhood Quality Improvement and Business Support Team. We would like to thank all those settings that have sent in their good news stories and celebrations! We have included as many as we can please keep sending us these items and we will save them for our next newsletter in spring term.

We are now based at Bromborough Children's Centre, Gratix Road, Bromborough, and our new telephone contact details are: **0151 666 3980**.

We would like to introduce you to two new members of the team who should be in post during the Autumn Term: Daniel Franklin will be the Childcare Quality Improvement Officer for Wallasey, and Stuart Glavin, the new Data Officer linked to the team.

Funding updates

15 hours increase to 3/4 year funding (30 hours)

From September 2017 the government will be providing 30 hours free childcare for working parents of 3 & 4 year olds. A survey for parents to complete will be available on the Wirral Council website www.wirral.gov.uk and in the council's monthly publication 'Wirral Today' which will be delivered to every household in Wirral.

Tax-free childcare

The Government will also be introducing tax-free childcare from early 2017, and parents will be able to apply for this and the additional 15 hours free childcare for through a single online application. The government will be contacting childcare providers during September/October 2016 inviting them to sign up to the scheme, before it is opened up for parents early 2017. If providers do not sign up parents will not be able to use their tax free childcare to pay them.

For more information on the Tax-Free childcare and how to sign up for the scheme please visit www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-top-things-childcare-providers-should-know

The Department For Education is consulting on proposals to the way 3 and 4 year entitlements to childcare are funded through the Early Years National Funding Formula. You can access further information about these proposals and the consultation document using the following link: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/eynff> The closing date for responses to the consultation is 22nd September 2016.

A guide to the proposed changes has also been produced by the Pre-School Learning Alliance with access to a free online calculator to help settings work out what rate they might expect to receive when the changes come into effect: www.pre-school.org.uk/EYNFF

SEND

If you have concerns about a child relating to SEND, the Request for Involvement form can be found in Appendix G of the Early Years Intervention Brochure on the Wirral Local Offer website, see <http://localofferwirral.org/before-school/information-for-parents-and-early-years-settings/information-for-early-years-settings>

This brochure also contains information and the request for Inclusive Practice funding (see appendix A & B). If you are requesting additional funding for a child with SEND you will need to have the involvement of the Early Years Intervention Officer and evidence in support of your application. Learn, Explore, Debate conferences are run through 4Children (www.4children.org.uk) and keep you informed



about Early Years. These events are free of charge and the next one will.

www.ican.org.uk provides lots of information around supporting children's speech and language development. It provides a link to Talking Point (www.talkingpoint.org.uk.) This site contains resources which can be downloaded and used to support children who are struggling to communicate.

Ofsted

Trends from inspections over the last three months

- Ineffective/missing children's starting points-strengthen the partnerships with parents, in order to help them share what their child knows and can do from the start
- Develop further strategies to support parents to contribute their own information to children's ongoing learning and assessment
- Build on the process of self-evaluation, focussing more precisely on ways to secure continuous improvement
- Organisation of group activities for children.
- Develop effective staff supervision/ performance management to share best practice, raise the quality of teaching and identify professional development opportunities/ requirements
- Need to encourage children to develop independence
- Monitor educational programmes to compare the progress of different groups of children who attend to identify gaps in learning.
- Strengthen the links with other early years settings that children also attend
- Provide children with enough time to think and respond during conversations. Maximise children's language and communication skills-broaden children's vocabulary to enhance language development.
- Ensure opportunities to extend children's knowledge and thinking skills.
- Help children to recognise similarities and differences and support children's understanding of diversity

First Aid update

Millie's Mark - The Department for Education has awarded the National Day Nurseries Association the contract to deliver a voluntary quality mark for nursery providers that have trained all of their staff in paediatric first aid. From summer 2016, early years settings will be eligible to apply to be accredited with this unique quality mark. The quality mark will be in addition to the existing statutory requirements for paediatric first aid. In the updated Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage which we are waiting to be published, the statutory requirements for paediatric first aid will change, and all newly qualified level2/3 staff will need to have a relevant paediatric first aid qualification to enable them be included in the settings ratios. There will be an appendix stating what the contents of the qualification need to be. To find out more about Millie's mark follow the link www.gov.uk/government/news/new-gold-standard-in-paediatric-first-aid-launched

Safeguarding update

We would draw your attention to the updated Ofsted document 'Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings' 23rd August 2016 (you can access this document through the link below). On page 11 of this document it states that, 'the designated safeguarding lead or appropriately trained deputy should be available during the settings opening hours for staff to discuss safeguarding concerns.'

There are also an additional two statements that refer to child protection policies on page 10 of the document:

'Staff leaders and managers recognise that children and young people are capable of abusing their peers and this risk is covered adequately in the child protection policy'

'The child protection policy reflects the additional barriers that exist when recognising the signs of abuse and neglect of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities'

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/547327/Inspecting_safeguarding_in_early_years_education_and_skills_settings.pdf

Also be aware of any further updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Requirements which may come into force during September 2016.



Celebrations

There have been 19 inspections since the beginning of the year that have resulted in an 'Outstanding' Ofsted outcome, these settings are:

- St Agnes Pre-school
- Daisy and Jake Day Nursery Prenton
- Julia Bradshaw
- Cheryl Jones
- Emma Lally
- Andrea Page
- Pip New
- Claire Shepherd
- Trish Peacock
- Our Lady and St Edwards Pre-School
- Margaret Hansen
- Brookhurst Pre-School
- Honey Pot Nursery Ltd
- Catherine Jones
- Poulton Penguins
- Firbobs @ Thornton Hough
- Lisa Young
- Diane Hall
- Holy Trinity Pre-School Hoylake

Other celebrations included an Olympic day at Daisy Day Nursery where great fun was had by all and £245.00 was raised for Claire House.

A group of staff from Kingsmead School Hoylake have been learning Makaton. Makaton is a form of sign language used to support communication in children with speech or learning difficulties; however it has been proven to help all children learn to develop effective speech, regardless of their ability. The staff really enjoyed learning and practising the new signs they have learned and are using them in the setting to help all the children in their care.

Training

Prevent Training

From 1st July 2015 all Ofsted registered childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism - this duty is known as Prevent duty.

To enable providers to meet this duty we have facilitated six sessions specifically for childcare providers with 158 attendees representing 98 different settings - this includes childminders.

The next dates for Prevent training sessions are: Thursday 6th October at Bromborough Children's Centre from 4.00pm-5.00pm, and Tuesday 29th November at Pensby Children's Centre from 6.30pm-7.30pm. These sessions are free of charge. If you would like to book a place please ring the Quality Improvement Team at Bromborough Children's Centre **0151 666 3980** alternatively e-mail to fis@wirral.gov.uk

Early Years Quality Training

A new training timetable has been produced that can be accessed using the following link www.eyqtraining.co.uk There are a few new courses including 'Immersing children in story language' and 'How babies think, feel and learn' there are a variety of other courses on offer as well as the usual mandatory training. To book a course just follow the link and complete a booking form and return to Leasowe Nursery School and Family Centre

2 year Integrated Review

A number of briefings were rolled out and offered to childminders during May/June 2016. The aim of the briefings was to give childminders an overview of the integrated review process.

The briefings were well received and a number of childminders have been identified to be part of the pilot group. The pilot project will begin to trial the Integrated Review during September 2016.

Training will be offered to all childminders during October/November 2016, with an expectation that all childminders will implement the 2 year Integrated Review Health & Education from January 2017.

Schools Forum

From October 2016 there will be a vacancy on the Wirral School Forum for a representative from Private, Voluntary and Independent settings. To submit a nomination please email Sue Ashley; sueashley@wirral.gov.uk for a nomination form which will need to be returned by 22nd September 2016.

Useful links

Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk

Wirral Families Information Service (FIS) fis@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Council website Early Years and Childcare section – for information regarding 2 year funding, what's on in children's centres and other relevant information www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare

Please do not hesitate to contact the **Early Childhood Quality Improvement and Business Support Team** on **488 5948** or email fis@wirral.gov.uk or the **School Readiness Team** on **631 3311** or email pennybishop@wirral.gov.uk, suelamey@wirral.gov.uk or joannefrance@wirral.gov.uk

Childminder Information



Childminder stay and play sessions

Four Childminder Drop In sessions take place each week term time only. These are specific sessions run by childminders for childminders within Children's Centres.

Pensby Children's Centre

Fishers Lane, Pensby CH61 8SD
Monday, 9.30am - 11.30am

Cathcart Street Children's Centre

(Formerly at Brassey Gardens),
Dover Street Birkenhead, CH41 3JY
Tuesday, 9.30am - 11.30am

Seacombe Children's Centre

St Pauls Road, Seacombe, CH44 7AN
Wednesday, 9.30am - 11.30am

Bromborough Children's Centre

Gratrix Road, Bromborough, CH62 7BW
Thursday, 9.30am - 11.30am

Childminder introduction evening

We will be running an evening session to give out information, advice and guidance to prospective childminders. This session will be held at Bromborough Children's Centre from 6.30pm - 8.30pm on Wednesday 2nd November 2016.

If anyone would like to book a place please contact the Quality Improvement Team at Bromborough Children's Centre on **0151 666 3980** alternatively email fis@wirral.gov.uk