

Welcome to the Summer edition of Wirral Early Childhood Service Newsletter. Thank you to all settings that have sent in photographs and information for 'Good News stories and celebrations' We are excited to be holding our first Early Years Conference on June the 13th and 24th and look **forward to seeing you all there.**

Business Support and Quality Improvement

Wirral Early Years Conference

There are two separate events to enable as many Early Years providers to attend as possible:

- The first event will be held on Tuesday 13th June 2017 at The Floral Pavilion New Brighton, 9am-4.30 pm.
- The second event will be held on Saturday 24th June at Seacombe Children's Centre, 9am-1.30pm.

Both events are free, and all Early Years settings across Wirral are welcome to attend. The agenda for both events include: National and local updates, SEND updates, '30 hours what this means for your setting.'

We will be introducing the new 'Wirral Cohort Tracker' through an interactive workshop entitled: 'Does your data analysis

effectively impact on the quality of EYFS provision and the progress made by your children?'. There will also be a marketplace on Tuesday 13th June that can be accessed throughout the day with representation from local and national organisations.

To book places, contact Stephen Lindop on 0151 666 3980 / email fis@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Cohort Tracker

The Quality Improvement and Business Support Team are in the process of developing an electronic cohort tracker which will be presented at the Early Years Conference on June 13th. A small group of settings are piloting the tracker which should be available for all settings to access from September 2017.

Thirty hours funding

For Wirral updates see: www.wirral.gov.uk/fis. Three documents have been produced by the DfE to support settings and the local authority with the implementation and delivery of 2, 3 and 4 year old funding:

Model agreement

The model agreement is intended to bring greater consistency to provider agreements across all local authorities and all types of providers. It applies to the 15 hour entitlement for the most disadvantaged two-year-olds, and for parents of three and four-year-olds (the universal entitlement) and the 30 hours entitlement for working parents of three and four-year-olds (the extended entitlement).

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604417/Model_Agreement_FINAL_20170302.pdf

Statutory Guidance Document

The document valid until 31 August 2017 includes:

- Extension of early education entitlement for 2 year olds
- Introduction of childminder agencies
- Providers who do not actively promote fundamental British values or promote views or theories as fact which is contrary to established scientific or historical evidence and explanations.

The document valid from 1 September 2017 includes:

- Introduction of 30hours free childcare
- How local authorities should pay providers to deliver free places
- The requirement that local authorities publish information about childcare in their area, including free childcare entitlements

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596460/early_education_and_childcare_statutory_guidance_2017.pdf

Early Years Entitlements Operational Guidance for local authorities and providers April 2017

This guidance helps local authorities and providers understand in more detail the Department of Education's expectations about how the free entitlements should be delivered.

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/610170/Operational_guidance.pdf

The DfE has also published an infographic for providers highlighting the process of confirming eligibility and validating 30 hours eligibility code: www.foundationyears.org.uk



Childcare Choices website

Childcare Choices provides parents with a single point of information for all the Government funded childcare offers. www.childcarechoices.gov.uk Information for providers to access: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/providers

Tax Free Childcare

To sign up, childcare providers should visit www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk

Children's Centres

Thank you for bearing with us during our refurbishments, which are very nearly all completed. Please pop in and have a look around, we'd love to hear your feedback. The 'What's Ons' have been updated so make sure you pop in to collect one or take a look online (see link below).

Children's Centre summer activities:

Birkenhead Park Summer Events

- 9 August: 10am-2pm Sports Day
- 16 August: 10am-2pm Pirates and Princesses
- 23 August: 10am-2pm Woodlands and Fairies
- 30 August: 10am-2pm Superhero Day

Contact details for the centre hubs:

- Birkenhead Children's Centre: Brasey Gardens, 0151 652 1916,
- Wallasey Children's Centre: Seacombe, 0151 666 3506,
- South and West Children's Centre: Pensby, 0151 666 4819.

Visit www.wirral.gov.uk to find the Children's Centres 'what's on' timetables of activities.



Above, newly refurbished Pensby Children's Centre; Below, Birkenhead Children's Centre's fresh new look.



Training

Prevent Training

Tuesday 27th June 2017 6.30-7.30pm, at Bromborough Children's Centre.

Early Years Quality Training:

Training opportunities June / July 2017 www.eyqtraining.co.uk

Yoginis Yoga

How yoga impacts child development, and how to improve strength, flexibility, coordination and balance.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

This 2 ½ hr evening workshop explores changes within the revised EYFS, exploring the characteristics of effective teaching and learning within a positive environment supporting children's learning and development.

Developing Early Language Skills, Dr Helen Bibby - supporting children who are non or pre verbal or at early verbal levels of language, through a range of practical ideas.



WellComm Training

Mon, 3rd July at Seacombe Children's Centre; Thurs, 6th July at Wirral Multicultural Centre & Thurs, 13th July at Pensby Children's Centre all at 6.30-7.30pm.

This training will provide settings with a brief overview of the WellComm speech and language screening toolkit, and how to use it. It will help settings to utilise the toolkit at the most appropriate times for children, providing valuable information regarding children's development in terms of communication whilst implementing early intervention strategies. To book any of the above training, contact the Quality Improvement Team on 0151 666 3980 / fis@wirral.gov.uk

Childminder Information

Childminder sessions

Weekly sessions run by childminders for childminders in Children's Centres (9.30-11.30am):

- Pensby Children's Centre, Monday
- Cathcart Street Children's Centre (Formerly at Brasey Gardens), Tuesday
- Bromborough Children's Centre, Thursday
- Seacombe Children's Centre, Friday

Childminder Introduction / Information evening

Bromborough Children's Centre, Tuesday 11th July, 6.30-8.30pm.

Contact the Quality Improvement Team at Bromborough Children's Centre: 0151 666 3980 / fis@wirral.gov.uk

The Childcare Business Grants Scheme

Open to newly registered Early Years childminders, childcare providers on domestic premises and Childminder Agencies (CMAs) in England. (within the last 3 months.) For eligibility requirements and how to apply visit: www.childcarebusinessgrants.com or call 0207 444 4268

Comic Relief

Childminder Tracey Mulvey and her children have raised £250 for Comic Relief doing a sponsored pyjama day.



Youth & Play

Wirral Play Council

Each summer, Wirral Play Council operates free open-access Play Schemes throughout Wirral for children between the ages of 6-13.

Sessions operate on an Open Access basis, which means that children are free to come and go as they choose - The schemes DO NOT operate as care schemes.

Play schemes this year run from Monday 24th July until Thursday 10th August. Session times are 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm, Monday-Thursday each week, venues to be confirmed. Contact Pete Johnston / Bev Peters on 0151 650 0030 / wpc@wirralplaycouncil.org.uk

Teen Wirral

The Teenwirral website has a 'What's On' activity search is also available to keep young people informed of events that are taking place near them and also has five free memberships for the new Hive Youth Zone in Birkenhead to give away!

www.teenwirral.com/hive



The Hive

The new HIVE Youth zone for young people is now open at Bright Street Birkenhead CH41 4AB. Please access the following link for opening times, membership details, activities etc. www.thehiveyouthzone.org



Two Year Health & Education Integrated Review update

Link Health Professionals have now been identified for all child-minders on Wirral and contact details have been sent out.

For information / support please contact the Quality Improvement Team: 0151 666 3980 / fis@wirral.gov.uk

Health

Over the counter medicines in nurseries and schools

Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group has implemented a self-care policy for minor health problems.

To support implementation of this, Wirral CCG would like to clarify the interpretation around the current guidance around use of medicines in nurseries and schools. Referring to the guidance in the Statutory framework for the Early Years foundation stage pg. 27, 3.45, 3.46

This is clear that administration of non-prescription medicines can be administered following written permission by the child's parent and/or carer. GPs and other prescribers should not be required to write to confirm that it is appropriate to administer over the counter medicines - parents can provide this consent.

Local offer updates

Two new features to mention:

- The home page has a green 'What's New' tab allowing users to keep up to date with newsletters, revised documentation and up-coming events.
- Wirral Council are launching a Children's Disability Register. Registration is voluntary and information provided will help us to be better prepared to meet the needs of our young SEND population. For feedback on the site, and if you would like me to come and promote the Local Offer in your setting contact: sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk / 0151 666 4488.

Good News

Millie's Mark Update

Bluebells day nurseries in Bebington and Bromborough are the first nurseries in Wirral to achieve the Millie's Mark award. Potential parents can find reassurance by accessing the website to find nurseries near to them that hold the award

www.milliesmark.com/endorsed-nurseries | www.gov.uk/government/news/new-gold-standard-in-paediatric-first-aid-launched | www.milliestrust.com



Bethany Day Nursery

Bethany Day Nursery had a visit from Bromborough Fire Service following a project on old and new transport.



Little Cherubs Day Nursery & Preschool

Little Cherubs Day Nursery & Preschool in Bebington has been shortlisted in the NDNA awards 2017. The category is Champions' award for the settings work in the area of SEND. They are one of only three settings to be shortlisted. **Good luck Little Cherubs!**

Our Lady of Pity Pre-School

Our Lady of Pity Pre-School has been awarded £5000 from Tesco bags for help scheme. They will be using this to develop an outdoor growing area.



SEND

This is a busy time of year for settings gathering information to pass on to schools and working with children on transitions. We recognise the time and effort that putting in a request for assessment for an EHCP takes. The SEN Service is in discussions with us about clarifying and easing the process.

Supporting Transitions in the Early Years

Effective transitions and information sharing with schools should include:

- Summative Assessment of Progress (Tracker)
- Individual profile of child (Person Centred Plan) / All about Me
- Individual plans highlighting effective strategies; Play Plans or Additional Support Plans

- Sharing information on any visual support cards used (where appropriate)
- Communication booklet (where appropriate)
- Arrange a transition meeting with the school SENCO and other professionals if the child is going to require additional support to share information. Please ask parental permission before anything is shared
- Individual Health Care Plans - Contact Jayne Catton, Specialist Teacher for Children with Medical / Physical Needs based in Hamilton Building (her role is in support of schools to ensure they have any specialist resources equipment in place) and the school nurse.

Useful links

- **Focus: Listening to young disabled children:** National Children's Bureau / Council for Disabled Children new guidance leaflet www.ncb.org.uk
- **Wirral SEND Partnership & The Early Years Additional Support Plan** localofferwirral.org
- **Nasen:** Package of free training resources/courses and mini guides www.nasen.org.uk
- Nasen mini guides available for download at www.nasen.org.uk/miniguides
- **E-learning courses** www.disabilitymatters.org.uk
- **Report on the experiences of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) in early years settings** www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-with-send-meeting-their-needs-in-the-early-years
- **The study of early education and development (SEED)** www.gov.uk/government/collections/study-of-early-education-and-development-seed

Foundation Years Trust

FYT has a programme to support parents in settings, using the Peep approach. FYT staff are qualified Early Years practitioners who attend the setting on a weekly basis working with parents and children together.

FYT work with all children up to school age but are particularly interested in working with funded two year olds.

For more information contact Anne Parker: aparker@foundationyearstrust.org.uk or 0151 647 4830. Follow us on Facebook/ FoundationYearsTrust



Useful links

- **Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB)** - www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk
- **Wirral Families Information Service** - fis@wirral.gov.uk
- **Wirral Council website Early Years and Childcare section** - information regarding 2 year funding, what's on in children's centres and other relevant information www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare
- **Business Support and Quality Improvement Team:** 0151 666 3980 / fis@wirral.gov.uk
- **The Early Years Intervention Team** - 0151 666 3980 / pennybishop@wirral.gov.uk, suelamey@wirral.gov.uk or joannefrance@wirral.gov.uk

Ofsted

Ofsted have produced a new document: 'Early Years inspection myths' to confirm the facts about their early years inspections and dispel those myths that can sometimes result in unnecessary workloads for registered child carers. It should be read alongside the Early Years Inspection Handbook. Blog: myth-busting guide launched for early years - A new blog post from Gill Jones, Deputy Director, Early Years, which introduces the myth-busting guide.

Trends from Ofsted inspections for Wirral childcare settings Jan-Apr

- Resources to ignite children's imagination and areas for children to rest and sleep
- Using Information gained from assessments effectively to plan children's next steps in learning
- Making effective links with other settings children attend
- Reflection on practice to monitor staff performance effectively to identify additional training / professional development
- Enhance staff's skills and abilities to maximise opportunities for children to follow their own ideas and explore their own learning
- Compare the progress of different groups of children to identify if any are making better or worse progress than others.

The revised EYFS

Effective from 3rd April 2017. Download a copy of the revised framework and one page guide to changes using the following links www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/03/EYFS-2017_One-page-guide-for-providers_FINAL.pdf www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/03/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf

Outstanding inspections!

There have been three outstanding inspection outcomes since January 2017. Congratulations to

- **Lorna Milne Childminder**
- **Barnston Buddies full day care setting**
- **Lisa Baker Childminder**

