

Welcome to the Early Childhood Service Newsletter for the Summer Term. 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

Val Aspinall, who was on a 12-month secondment to the Quality Improvement and Training team, sadly left at the end of July, she will be greatly missed, and we wish her well for the future. Daniel Franklin will be returning as Quality Improvement and Training Officer (QITO) for the Wallasey area from the 31st July.

NEW RECRUITS

Claire Coles and Emma Lewin have been recruited to Business Support Officer roles. Working alongside Stephen Dagnall they will be working on sufficiency of early years provision, issuing portal tasks and analysing the data, co-ordinating the Family Information Service (FIS) and processing funding applications are but a few of the tasks they will be completing.



Emma has joined the Early Years Business Support and Performance Team as a Business Support Officer. She has already been with the team for over a year as the Business Administrator and you may well have had interactions with her regarding SEND support. In her new role, Emma will be responsible for various aspects of the Portal including Better Start. This will involve cohort tracking data, reviewing GLD and reporting.



Claire Coles has very recently joined the Business Support and Performance team as a Business Support Officer. The main focus of Claire's role will be Childcare sufficiency.

Wirral Early Years Conference 2019

Have you booked your ticket for the 2019 Wirral Early Years Conference, entitled **My Child Can... Be Understood?**

The focus for this year is Speech, Language and Communication in The Early Years. In addition to listening to well-known keynote speakers Alice Sharp, the language Lab and attending two workshops, attendees will receive a hot lunch, a delegate pack (including a free children's book) and time to access the marketplace.

We are delighted to announce our keynote speakers for 2019 are:



Alice Sharp - alicesharp.co.uk/about

And The Liverpool Language Lab - language05.co.uk

After lunch delegates will have the chance to attend 2 workshops from the following options:

Rachel Lewis - hindleynurseryschool.co.uk/nursery/staff/

The Isabella Trust - theisabellatrust.org

Dr. Helen Bibby - leasowenurseryschool.co.uk

Alice Sharp - alicesharp.co.uk/about

Tickets cost £75.00 and following the completion of your ticket purchase you will be asked to send the following information to the Early Years Team at fis@wirral.gov.uk - Name of Attendees, Preferred Choice of Workshops & any dietary requirements.

Please note: Places for the workshops are limited and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Although we endeavour to give you your preferred options, we cannot guarantee them.

Schools are able to journal payment to the Early Years Team - by selecting the request invoice option. This will be processed after the event.

National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)

Catherine Hargreaves

I would like to thank the ECS team for inviting me as an NDNA rep to be part of the Peer Review process.

During the follow-up meetings, I was on the table that was discussing partnership working and information sharing with Health Visitors. This was a great opportunity to hear from many different partners and

agencies I didn't know existed.

We would welcome more members of the Wirral NDNA to participate in our meetings, so a wider number of settings can share views. The meetings are a great opportunity to ask each other questions about best practice, and interpret changes in funding or topical issues, especially at a time of EYFS changes.

Ofsted updates

Make sure you are ready for the revised Early Years Inspection framework coming into operation on the 1st September - information, regarding this can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/education-inspection-framework>

Hungry Little Minds



Hungry Little Minds, launched on 2 July 2019, aims to support the government's ambition, over the next ten years, to halve the proportion of children who finish reception year without the communication, language and literacy skills they need to thrive.

The new campaign encourages parents and carers to adopt positive activities and behaviours to boost children's communication, language and literacy development.

The three-year campaign aims to help parents understand that they have a massive impact on their child's learning. Reading, playing and chatting with them are simple things they can do to help them develop, even when they are too young to say much back. Parents can [access tips and activities](#) from and also search for activities in their area using a new postcode finder service. Practitioners also have a key role in encouraging and empowering parents, professional organisations, such as PACEY have produced some guidance linked to the Hungry Minds project to support with this.

Professional Development Fund

Wirral LA have been successful in securing 3 partnerships for the Professional Development Fund securing £391,800.00. The national deliverer for the scheme will be Education Development Trust and ElkLan.

Each partnership will comprise of 15 Wirral early years providers, the business team are currently identifying providers that meet the criteria to be part of the partnership. The national deliverer will also train a number of Wirral Champions who will then provide training to the partnerships. Wirral Council are currently awaiting further information from the deliverers, but it is anticipated that training for champions will commence October onwards.

Local Offer Update

Sally Tittle



GREAT NEWS! The Local Offer has recruited the support of a fabulous young lady Miss Poppy Cain.

Poppy has been a member of Wirral's SEND Youth Voice group for several years and knows only too well how tough life can be growing up needing a little extra help and support. Poppy is passionate about youngsters in Wirral with SEND



having their voice heard.

In the autumn term, Poppy will be working with young people in Wirral schools and Early Years settings. Poppy has qualifications in childcare and has worked in a couple of Wirral nurseries so is well placed to work with our 'little ones'.

Poppy is looking forward to meeting parents and carers too. By offering support and signposting families to Wirral's SEND Local Offer will benefit the whole family. Take a look: <https://localofferwirral.org>

Summer holiday activities can be found in the 'What's new' section:

<https://localofferwirral.org/whats-new>

Hope the sun shines and you and your family have a lovely summer.

Health Updates 0-19 Team

Lindsey Costello, (Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust)

WITH ANOTHER busy term nearly to an end it is a good opportunity to reflect on mental health and wellbeing whether this be from a team perspective or thinking about supporting families. The essence of being ok is the same from a professional and personal stance.

Take 5 is a public health approach that has recently been a focus for taking 5 steps to positive health and wellbeing they are:-
CONNECT: Meet up with others, join a group, and talk to a friend.

BE ACTIVE: Enjoy some activity each week.

TAKE NOTICE: Be aware of things and be curious.

KEEP LEARNING: Take any learning opportunities available.

GIVE: Volunteering or just giving someone a compliment or some of your time.

0-19 service have been able to put some of these points together following the Wirral Coastal Walk 2018 and pleased to say we now have reading corners at some of the Healthy Child Clinics. These areas will benefit and encourage children attending to look at or enjoy a story. Thank you to Wirral Libraries for the donations of books. The areas look great and will really encourage and promote our commitment to a Chat, Play, and Read message. Please let families know

about our reading corners.

We have been attending some of your wonderful settings to complete School Entry Assessments ahead of children starting school in September 2019, these are normally completed once children have started school but this pilot has allowed support to be offered to parents and interventions for children to reduce the impact of health issues on starting school. If you are aware of any children that would particularly benefit from this and may not have been brought to our attention as a service, please inform your link health professional. If this is not in place, please let me know.

We continue to work through mapping of a collaborative Speech and Language pathway for children in Wirral requiring Speech and Language therapies or onward referrals. Please remember that all children requiring a referral at this time require a completed Wellcomm assessment. Thank you for all the high-quality referrals that allow children to benefit from the right intervention at the right time.

Happy Summer Season – enjoy the sunshine and take some time to think about how we can all implement the Take 5 approach.

Good News & Celebrations

Two settings achieved an Outstanding Ofsted grade at recent inspection, they were...

THE LEARNING TREE DAY NURSERY



CHILDMINDER CHRISTINE MCANDREW



Cosy Corner Day Nursery

THE NURSERY had a visit from the residents at Oxton Grange Residential Care Home. As they always visit their home, they thought it would be a nice idea for some of the residents to come along to the nursery setting and visit the children in their learning environment - everyone participated in a short baking activity and a game of animal sound bingo! The children and the residents had lots of fun!

The nursery also participated in the Big Toddle for Barnardo's and followed this year's theme of animals, with many of the children and staff dressing up. We raised a massive £547 for Barnardo's.



ST PAULS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

recently celebrated the fifth birthday of their Twos setting with a party.



PENGUIN NURSERIES

featured in a recent issue of Nursery World - the article discussed sustainability and recycling, There was also a visit to the setting by the Chief Fire officer and of course the fire engine.

DAISY DAY NURSERY

celebrated their preschool graduation on Friday the 28th of June - what a successful afternoon and a lovely way to end their preschool children's journey at nursery.



Early Help - Jane Egan

Working Together to Reduce the Impact of Parental Conflict Upon Wirral Children and Young People



AN EVENT was held at the Floral Pavilion bringing together strategic leads and a large number of partners and agencies, including Councillor Tom Usher, Lead Member for Children, Families and Education, to look at how we can work together to reduce the impact of parental conflict on children.

Research tells us that the quality of the relationship between parents has a significant influence on effective parenting, specifically how they communicate and relate to each other.

The event was a great success with the guest speaker, Honor Rhodes O.B.E. leading a highly engaging and inspirational multi-agency workshop.

Various strategies and innovations were discussed, a training programme will be rolled out in the coming months, to provide staff with the knowledge, skills and understanding to help them reduce the negative impact of conflict between parents on their children.

Following the event I will contact DWP training provider, Knowledge pool, to negotiate 'Reducing Parental Conflict' training based upon the agreed competencies framework, once agreed I will ensure that you are informed on how to access this training, which will be made available through WLSCB.

Useful links

- If you have families that may require further support, there are various groups that can be accessed within various Children's Centres throughout Wirral. Copies of the Children's Centre 'What's On' timetables of activities can be accessed through the Wirral Borough Council website: www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/childrens-centres