



Bristol Early Years

Bulletin for Early Years Providers

May 2024



1. BEL & WELLCOMM



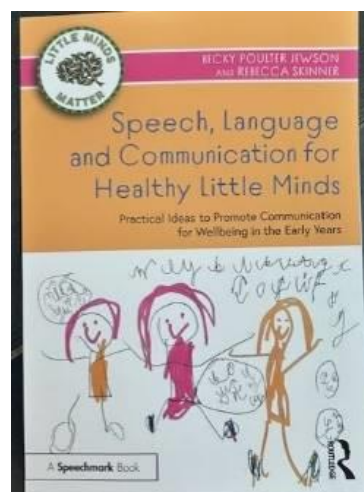
Have you signed up for the Bristol Early Language Programme (BEL) yet? If not, please do! You will receive a fully funded Wellcomm early language toolkit worth over £500 for your school or setting. This is a tool that helps you to screen the language and development of your children and gives you intervention and planning ideas. It also gives you access to the report wizard where you can enter the screening results and it will support you with next steps.

There are free introductory sessions online run by the early years speech and language therapy team – the next ones are: Tue 21st May 6.30-8, Fri 7th June 1.30-3 and Tue 2nd July 6.30-8. Booking is via the [Bristol Events Calendar](#).

Once you have signed up the BEL programme lead will contact you via email with the training session link. When the training has been attended arrangements can then be made for you to either collect your Wellcomm pack or have it delivered and to submit your consent form for the report wizard.

For any Wellcomm questions please contact Becky Newman: rebecca.newman@bristol-schools.uk

New additional free resources!



If you sign up and receive a Wellcomm pack this term, you will receive a free copy of the brilliant book "Speech, Language and Communication for Healthy Little Minds" and a Mantralingua interactive phrases poster and pen to support children with English as an Additional Language in your Wellcomm pack. Please note settings have signed up to Wellcomm within the last year will be contacted to arrange for your free resources to be collected.

Look out for information coming soon about how BEL will be helping settings further to support children who are bilingual!

2. SUN SAFETY



With the arrival of some long-awaited sunny weather comes the need to be alert to skin-care in the sun and a duty of care to keep children safe and healthy. Children are cared for throughout the year and every season presents its own challenges including during the summer when practitioners must consider **sun safety**.

There is no statutory duty to have a written suncream policy, but it is a good idea to have one, to inform parents how their child will be kept safe in sunny weather. Where practitioners will be applying suncream, parents will need to sign a permission form for this, and it is good practice to note times when suncream is applied to a child through the day. Sun hats are also important to think about.

Many settings request that parents apply the first layer of suncream before they arrive in the setting and will top-it up according to the manufacturer's instructions. As part of promoting independence and self-care older children should be encouraged to apply their own suncream, with careful supervision and support according to age and stage of development.

Remember also, that as the weather heats up, children will need more hydration and to ensure there is **clean fresh drinking water available, and accessible to children**. Younger children in particular will need support in recognising and responding to thirst and accessing water.

The Early Years Alliance has a useful article with more details on suncream and sun safety in general including in hot weather.

[How to be sun safe | early years alliance \(eyalliance.org.uk\)](https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/how-to-be-sun-safe)

3. CRITICAL INCIDENT TRAINING

Responding to Critical Incidents - Guidance for Senior Leaders in Early Years Settings Wednesday 22nd May: 1.00pm – 4.30pm

This free training is for senior leaders in EY Settings. Bristol Early Years respectfully requests that all settings consider completing this training in line with duties under Working Together to Safeguard Children and adherence to Local Safeguarding Partnership procedures. Bristol EY also invites settings to ask an additional staff member of staff who would have a key role in responding to a critical incident (e.g., DSL, DDSL, SENDCo) to attend with the manager/leader as this will enable you to reflect together on your setting's context.

This training will support senior leaders in reflecting upon and/or developing their setting's contingency plan. Drawing upon research and evidence, we will outline core components of a critical incident response plan.

Please use the link to book a place on the session:

[Event: Responding-to-Critical-Incidents---guidance-for-senior-leaders-in-Early-Years-settings - 25017 \(event-booking.org.uk\)](https://www.event-booking.org.uk/Event-Booking/Event/Responding-to-Critical-Incidents---guidance-for-senior-leaders-in-Early-Years-settings-25017)

4. FAMILY HUBS & SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Please do share the new [Family Hubs virtual offer](#) with its package of online learning that's available for **free, for every parent and carer in Bristol.**



Parents and carers can access a range of online courses to help them understand their children's feelings better and how they can best support their children through the years as they develop and grow. The courses cover a range of topics to support parents and carers through all stages of a child's development.

The courses have been developed by the Solihull Approach, alongside the NHS, health experts and parents too! The Family Hub's mission in Bristol is for every parent in Bristol to complete these courses – the learning is for everyone, not only for when you are struggling! So do please make sure that your families know about this free resource. Parents and carers can access the courses through this link [Family Hubs virtual offer](#) or by taking these 5 simple steps:

Step one: Go to [the Solihull Approach](#) Step two: Go to inourplace tab on front page
Step three: Click on "Apply Access Code" tab Step four: Enter code: GROWING
Step five: Answer the monitoring questions and add your Bristol post code.

Dads Rock

Please do share the relevant flyers for the FREE 7-week course for under 2's and their dads or male caregivers with your families. Participants will learn how child-led musical play helps with developing baby and toddler's emotional regulation, communication, language, numeracy and creativity. There are courses across the city, and participants will need to be a Bristol City Council resident to be eligible.

Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire
Parent & Infant Emotional Wellbeing Services



A wide range of support is available for anyone who is considering a pregnancy, pregnant, has a child up to the age of 24 months, or is going through the loss of a baby.

Please do share the Parent and Infant Wellbeing posters and flyers (attached to the Bulletin email) with your families. It can feel hard to reach out for support or make sense of all the support that is available, so please do direct them speak to their Midwife, Health Visitor or local Children's Centre. Mental health issues affect up to 27% of mums / birthing people, dads / co-parents/partners during pregnancy and postnatally and getting support early can reduce the longterm effects of mental illness. Please help us ensure new parents know that they are not alone – IT'S OK TO ASK FOR SUPPORT



Support is available at all stages of pre-pregnancy, antenatal and post birth to two years. Scan the QR code or follow [this link](#) to services.

5. TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

Sharing Information

It is the time of year when children are transferring to school and we need to ensure our systems information is up to date and be aware of where children are engaging in education, in relation to safeguarding. Please look out for the email that is coming outlining how to inform the local authority of those children in your setting that are currently claiming their Free Early Education Entitlement who are:

- transferring to schools out of Bristol (either moving or have moved out already)
or
- will be attending a school in another Local Authority.



This is to ensure that in September we are able to identify any children who may be missing education (CME). If you have any questions or queries, please contact: Fiona Townsend fiona.townsend@bristol.gov.uk

Universal Transition Record (UTR) 2024

All early years providers are requested to complete a Universal Transfer Record (UTR) for each child moving on to school, and to share this by password protected email or by hand, with the receiving teachers. **UTR Forms should be shared by 14th June**, or at your area Network transition meeting (which might be slightly later).

Updated guidance to help practitioners complete the UTRs and completed examples for reference are available to download on the [Bristol EY website](#) together with associated documents, the instructions for password protecting UTRs, a letter for Parent/Carers and a GDPR Privacy Notice, and the additional documents for transition of children with SEND and other vulnerable children. Settings and schools are encouraged to read the [Positive Transitions in the Early Years guidance](#) to support all transition activities.

6. FUNDED PEEP TRAINING FOR SETTINGS

Funded Peep Learning Together Training

After the success of the first 2 lots of Peep training, Bristol has secured an additional session on the **26/27th June 9.30am – 4.30pm at Engineers House**. Lunch and refreshments will be included.

We are mindful that it is not always possible to release staff to attend training and will therefore provide **£500 to your setting to enable you to release a practitioner for the 2 consecutive days**. After completion of the training, your setting will also receive £500 towards the costs of purchasing Peep resources.

Peep groups can be delivered flexibly and can be incorporated into your day care session, delivered indoors, outdoors, online, through drop in/stay and play sessions or on a 1:1 basis - see flyer attached.

Please book your **FREE** Peep Learning Together training course here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/866119967137?aff=oddtcreator>

7. WHOOPING COUGH



UK Health
Security
Agency

New data from UKHSA shows that cases of whooping cough continue to increase with 1,319 cases confirmed in March. This follows 556 cases in January and 918 in February, bringing the total number of cases in 2024 to 2,793. Sadly, in the first quarter of 2024 (January - March), there have been five infant deaths. Young infants are at highest risk of severe complications and death from whooping cough. Updated estimates of vaccine effectiveness in pregnancy shows high levels of protection (92%) against infant death.

Whooping cough, clinically known as pertussis, is a bacterial infection which affects the lungs. The first signs of infection are similar to a cold, such as a runny nose and sore throat, but after about a week, the infection can develop into coughing bouts that last for a few minutes and are typically worse at night. Young babies may also make a distinctive 'whoop' or have difficulty breathing after a bout of coughing, though not all babies make this noise which means whooping cough can be hard to recognise.

We are asking settings to be vigilant for children with symptoms described above and ask families of any affected child to see their GP. If anyone in your setting or family is diagnosed with whooping cough, it's important they stay at home and do not go into work, school or nursery until 48 hours after starting antibiotics, or 3 weeks after symptoms start if they have not had antibiotics. This helps to prevent the spread of infection, especially to vulnerable groups, including infants. However, vaccination remains the best protection for babies and children.

8. EARLY YEARS & CHILDCARE EXPANSION UPDATES

The Department for Education has released a useful **Frequently Asked Questions FAQ** flyer for parents regarding their new entitlements. Please share the FAQ flyer attached to the Bulletin email with families.



The Dfe recently published a blog for parents on accessing the expanded hours offer and applying for codes.

Settings can also direct families to the Childcare Choices website for further information and eligibility queries

Childcare
Choices

9. OFSTED SURVEY



The Big Listen is Ofsted's wide-reaching effort to hear from the full range of professionals and providers Ofsted works with, as well as the parents, carers, children and learners.

Please take part in the Big Listen by visiting: www.gov.uk/ofstedbiglisten
The consultation closes 31 May 2024.

10. DfE CONSULTATIONS

The Department for Education has recently launched a number of consultations for the EYFS sector. Bristol Early Years encourages practitioners across the sector to respond.



EYFS Safeguarding Consultation. The Department is looking to formalise existing best practice with these proposals, ensuring that all practitioners have the knowledge and support they need to deliver the safest, highest quality early education and childcare provision possible.

You can access the Safeguarding consultation here, and have your voice heard. Responses are required by 17 June 2024: [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) safeguarding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safeguarding)

Experience-based Level 3 route for early years practitioners

A 4-week consultation on the experience-based route for early years practitioners, following positive sector feedback to this proposal in the 2023 EYFS consultation. The experience-based route aims to recognise the valuable experience and skills of the sector and give early years providers more flexibility to use their staff effectively by counting additional staff in level 3 ratios. The consultation asks questions about how we think the experience-based route could work.

Responses are required by 20 May 2024. You can respond to the Experience-based L3 Route consultation here: [Experience-based route for early years practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/experience-based-route-for-early-years-practitioners)

Childminder consultation. The childminder consultation is part of the DfE's cross-sector efforts to do more to recruit and retain more childminders, recognising the important role they play in the childcare sector providing high quality, flexible, entitlements and wraparound childcare. The DfE wants to hear from all early year providers in this consultation which also seeks to gather evidence on a range of other issues that impact childminder recruitment and retention. **The Childminder consultation will be open for 8-weeks running from 9am on 15 March until 11.59pm on 10 May.** [Childminder recruitment and retention consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childminder-recruitment-and-retention-consultation)

11. SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



The latest **KBSP Newsletter** is available on the [Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website. \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](https://www.bristolsafeguarding.org)



Please also see dates and Teams links for the **Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads Network Meetings**

EY DSL Network Tuesday 11th June – 9.30am – 11.30am

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 387 168 216 034

Passcode: v4xsjd

EY DSL Thursday 13th June – 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 321 105 639 620

Passcode: rTay67

12. FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH SEND



Parents and carers of children with SEND are invited by Bristol Parent Carers and Bibic charity for an [in-person event to discuss understanding and supporting their child's sensory and communication needs.](#)

Please share the flyer and information with relevant families.

*A free creche run by Bristol Early years will be available for this event- If you would like to use the creche for your child please purchase your ticket(s) for the creche when you purchase your event tickets.

13. BRISTOL NETWORKS CPD



Network CPD

Check out the huge range of Network CPD that is available to support the early years sector on the [Bristol EY Calendar](#). This summer there is an amazing offer with something for everyone whatever your role.



8 to Relate

Come along and learn more about Eight to Relate and how it can help you to support children's emotional wellbeing and make your school or setting a place that respects all children and families, actively promoting connection and relationships, leading to higher levels of wellbeing for everyone in your community.

Join us online on one of the following dates: To book follow the link to the Early Years Calendar

<https://calendar.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/> 19th June 8-8.45am/ 20th June 4.30-5.15pm/ 24th June 10.30-11.15am



Bristol Network for 2-Year-Old Practice

8th July 6-8pm Millies Garden <https://calendar.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/>
Bristol Baby Practitioner Network.

Tues 23rd April at Easton Community Children's Centre 5.15 – 6.45pm.
Book via the [EY Calendar](#).



The Stronger Practice Hub also has an incredible array of free CPD, advice and practice networks. Details are on the flyer attached to the Bulletin email or scan the QR code.



14. DfE CHILD DEVELOPMENT MODULE UPDATED



New content launched on [Early years child development training](#) and Help for Early Years Providers.

This module is available now along with 6 other modules covering child and brain development, personal, social and emotional development, communication and language, physical development and mathematics. Users can complete the modules in any order, at any time and can access this new module their My Modules page.

15. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES



Please do take a look at the Bristol Standard newsletter attached to the Bulletin email.

If you haven't already got a hard copy of The Bristol Standard, please let your Lead Teacher know or your mentor and they will make sure you receive one. Each dimension of the Standard can be used stand-alone for informal reflection and practice support as well as together for submission. Your lead teacher can help you navigate it and suggest practical ways to use it as well as supporting you if and when you are ready for submission.

All settings are invited to the **online Reflective Forums and Network Meetings**. To book your place on the Reflective Forums and Network meetings please go to the Events Calendar on the Early Years website. <https://calendar.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/>

16. USEFUL CONTACTS

All settings can contact their link EY Lead Teacher for further support and advice. If you are unsure of who your lead teacher is, please contact your area consultant.

North Bristol – Anna.morgan@bristol.gov.uk

East & Central – Ali.carrington@bristol.gov.uk

South - Kate.irvine@bristol.gov.uk

Free Entitlement Development Officer deborah.brown@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol Standard – Bristol.standard@bristol.gov.uk

Birth to Threes – beth.osborne@bristol.gov.uk

