

Early Years Childminder Newsletter - March 2025



Dear Childminders,
Welcome to your March Newsletter.

New DFE changes to funding

I am aware there is much concern for childminders following the latest guidance for funded childcare. The Early Years service is working through the document to understand the changes and we will share the bullet points with providers as soon as we can. Please email concerns to Caroline.vans@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Early Education and Childcare - GOV.UK

I wanted to share some of the wonderful examples of good practice I have seen out on visits recently.

One childminder has created a beautiful family picture wall with pictures of extended family at various events such as holidays and festivals. This

had created a rich opportunity for the children to talk about their experiences. Another good idea was pictures displayed in frames which lifted up to provide storage for previous works of art ready to be sent home.

I am collecting examples of written curriculums in Childminder settings if anyone has one they would like to share please let me know.

In this newsletter there is information about future Childminding Network sessions, the dates of some evening SENCO cluster meetings, and a new useful Early Years Alliance website to share with parents. There is also information about subitising, Beep Beep! day and some lovely Stronger Practice Hub CPD opportunities.

Childminder Network Meeting (Teams)

Book below!

March 20th - Topic to be confirmed

April 23rd – Topic to be confirmed

May 19th - **Guest Speaker** – Zelfher Ferguson discussing Behaviour

[Book Childminder Network Meeting \(Teams\)](#)

Evening SENCO Cluster Meetings

Early Years SENCO Cluster Meeting - 6 March 6.30pm - 8.00pm - Chesterton Primary School, (Aspley Road, Cirencester, GL7 1SS) [Book here.](#)

Early Years SENCO Cluster Meeting - 11 March 6.00pm - 8.00pm Slimbridge Primary School, St John's Road, Slimbridge, GL2 7DD [Book here](#)

Family Corner - Features and tips about your child's development

Family Corner features expert articles, activity ideas and online learning sessions on key areas of child development and is specifically for parents of Early Years children.

[Family Corner](#)

Subitising - What it is and why it is important to early mathematics

Dr Helen Williams breaks down what subitising means and explains

how important it is for children to learn how to recognise small quantities without counting.

Subitising

Sign up for Beep Beep! Day 2025 / Brake

Take part in a Beep Beep! Day to teach young children important road safety basics and help parents, carers and the wider community understand how to protect children on roads. Beep Beep! Day 2025 will take place on Wednesday 19 March.

Sign Up for Beep Beep! Day / Brake

The Bristol and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub offer free training for Gloucestershire Childminders (Please do not worry if you have to arrive late due to working until 6pm).

Stronger Practice Hub

Supporting Two-Year-Olds Speech and Language (Online course)

March 5 @ 6.00pm - 7.30 pm

Supporting Two-Year Olds Speech and Language

It Starts With Us: EDI Taster for Childminders (Online course)

March 18 @ 6.30pm - 7.30pm

It Starts With Us: EDI Taster for Childminders

Birth-3s Regional Reflection (Online course)

March 20 @ 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Birth-3s Regional Reflection

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs Extended Until March 2026

We're pleased to announce that the DFE's Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs programme has been extended until March 2026.

This means Hubs will continue to provide free support and advice to improve quality in early years settings, by sharing evidence-informed practice through their local networks. The Bristol & Beyond SPH is reviewing it's provision and will be scheduling more professional

development soon.

Aluna Behaviour Consultancy



A "Coffee Evening" for Childminders

Monday 19th May 2025, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm



What more would you like to know about children's behaviour?

This free 1-hour session is an informal space in which childminders can learn a little more about children's behaviour - and potentially about your own!

The session aims to:

- Share some general information about children's behaviour
- Explore some of the behaviour you might find challenges you
- Help understand the motivation behind children's behaviours
- Give suggestions of how common behaviours can be addressed
- Assist you in helping to foster children's behaviour for learning

You'll gain a greater insight into the influences behind your own style.

To book a place, email Zelfher Ferguson: zelfher@aluna-abc.co.uk

Thank you for reading and I hope you find the Childminder Newsletters informative and useful. Please email [Caroline Vans](#) with any questions. Alternatively, if you need something more urgent, please email the [Early Years Quality Team](#).



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL



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