

If you have queries about any of the above, please email

✉ eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk ✉

Early Years Newsletter Childminder Edition

3 October 2024



Welcome to the October Childminder Newsletter!

Welcome to the October childminder newsletter, I hope all the new starters are settled and you have not had to put your heating on yet.

Please email [Caroline Vans](#) with any questions. Alternatively, if you need something more urgent, please email the [Early Years Quality Team](#).

Childminding Conference

SAVE THE DATE – **Saturday 8 February 2025**, Cheltenham Chase Hotel, full day with lunch £50.

The conference is a full-day event with refreshments and lunch included. It will be a great opportunity to network with other childminders, listen to experts in the field of childcare, and chat to stands about different services. The day will start with keynote speaker Neil Farmer, an expert in Early Years Education who will be offering a session 'Getting it right for Boys.' A choice of workshops from Neil Farmer, GCC Inclusion team and Anthea Bailey (Occupational therapist) will be available to attend throughout the day.

Stronger Practice Hub

[Stronger Practice Hub Events - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub \(beyth.co.uk\)](https://beyth.co.uk)

5 and 19 October 2024 - [Creativity in the Early Years with Pete Moorhouse For Childminders - Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub \(beyth.co.uk\)](https://beyth.co.uk)

Face to face training in Bristol - 9am-3pm

The session will be focused on creativity. Pete will look at the theory and importance of creativity. There will be practical sessions on block play, loose parts and clay and wood.

9 October 2024 - [Humour Development From Birth to 3 Years With Dr Elena Hoicka](https://beyth.co.uk)

Online Course - 6.30pm-8.30pm

In this session Dr Elena Hoicka will discuss research-based evidence about how to share humour with children from infancy through 3 years. She will discuss when infants first understand and produce humour and go through 21 types of humour that children appreciate in the first four years. She will also discuss how you can share humour with children and understand when they joke with you. Finally, she will discuss research about early humour's potential benefits.

10 October 2024 - [Literacy for Under 5s for Early Years Settings and Childminders with Dr Karen Boardman](https://beyth.co.uk)

7pm - 9pm

Karen Boardman invites us to think about our provision for early literacy and to reflect together on phonics, digital literacies, early reading and storytelling in early years education. This session will open up some further discussions and include some provocations and impact for our pedagogy.

16 October 2024 - [Teachable Moments – A Session for Childminders With Sarah Neville](#)

7pm - 8.30pm

There are so many moments in day-to-day practice with early years children when providers can pop in a little teaching and support their progress. In this session, we will discuss how to make the best use of teachable moments.

14 November 2024 - [Brain Development – A Session for Childminders with Sarah Neville](#)

7pm - 8.30pm

In this session, we will talk about typical brain development and how it impacts children's play and learning. We learn how to feed the brain through our positive interactions with children and reference relevant research and guidance to support our practice.

19 November 2024 - [Exploring and Growing Fresh Produce in a Childminding Setting \(for Childminders\)](#)

6.30pm - 8.30pm

This session is for Childminding settings who would like to improve their understanding of food, in particular vegetables, herbs, spices and fruits. The session is led by Jo Ingleby, the Director of The Children's Kitchen, a Feeding Bristol project focused on encouraging young children and families to explore, cook and grow fresh produce. The project focuses on the areas of Bristol with the highest levels of food insecurity. Settings working with The Children's Kitchen are encouraged to move away from traditional baking on cakes and towards child-led food sessions led by curiosity and creativity.

New Ofsted Video for Childminders new to inspection

Ofsted have released a new webinar recording for Childminders. Please see video [here](#).

Network meeting

Informal sessions to chat with other childminders. The next one is 22 October 2024 - 7pm to 8pm. Book [here](#).

Free maths training for adults

For more information click this [link](#).

Local Childminding groups

If you know of any other groups, please email the details and I will add them to the list.
Thank you.

Cheltenham and Churchdown Childminding Association

Dear Childminder,

We are the Cheltenham and Churchdown Childminding Association - we are a group of childminders, some of us are fairly new to the job, and others have a few years' experience. We run two groups for the children and minders to meet and play. There is plenty for the children to do, plus snacks and drinks for them as well as a cuppa for the adults - and we like to enjoy days out during the school holidays too.

Hatherley Group

Tuesdays

Term Time only

9.00am-11.30am

Church Centre

Saint Philip & Saint James

Parish Church

Cold Pool Lane

Cheltenham

GL51 6HY

£1.00 per adult

£1.00 per child

Warden Hill Group

Thursdays

Term time and Holidays

9.30am-11.30am

United Reformed Church

Salisbury Avenue

Warden Hill

GL51 3BY

£1.00 per adult

£1.00 per child

Hatherley group has a big indoor space and a great outdoor area. At Warden Hill there is lots of indoor space plus a big play area right next door - perfect for picnics after the group. We have crafts, playdough, small world play, role play, interactive toys, bikes and trikes, dressing up and fabulous song times that all children love to join in with. The children have the best of both worlds with small home based settings, and larger group settings to safely meet and make friends with other children.

Both groups enjoy Christmas parties, with visits from Father Christmas himself, party food for the children and we sometimes hire a bouncy castle/soft play and have traditional party games to play - there is a lovely lunch for the adults plus other seasonal celebrations, parties and activities - a great environment to enjoy a cuppa, share ideas about crafts & days out as well as find support and advice.

But!! we don't just do things for the children we also have lots of fun after hours - we arrange socials once a month where we enjoy meals out, quiz nights, play golf (Mr Mulligans), skittles nights, bingo, bowling and we have even had a meal cruising on the River Avon at Stratford - we hope to add darts and the Escape Rooms to our list soon and would love to hear any new ideas new members will bring. You can join just for the social events.

...Then there is Christmas celebrations where we have enjoyed a New York themed Christmas at the Town Hall, a Michael Buble tribute act and dinner and dance at Ellenborough Park - this year we are off to the Manor by The Lake.

Bishops Cleeve

Every Tuesday, 9.30am - 11.30am (term time only)

St Michael's Church Hall, School Road, Bishops Cleeve, GL52 8BA

[St Michael's Centre \(stmichaelscentrebc.co.uk\)](http://stmichaelscentrebc.co.uk)

Forest of Dean

Dymock Village Hall (near Newent), term time only,

Every other Wednesday, this may change to a Monday in September. TBC

Forest of Dean

Pludds and District Village Hall, GL17 9UQ

Every Wednesday 9.30am - 12.00noon (all year)

Autumn term funding payment dates

As we are now at that point in the term when the payment for you claims submitted on your Actual tasks have been completed, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you all that for this academic year, the funding payments will be paid in instalments during the term that they relate to. The decision to move to this arrangement was reached after a consultation with the sector earlier this year and the full details of these arrangements were shared with providers on 5 April 2024.

The dates for the Autumn term payments are as follows:

ACTUAL PAYMENT:

- 1 instalment = 20 September
- 2 instalment = 30 September
- 3 instalment = 30 October
- 4 instalment = 30 November

AMENDMENT PAYMENT:

- 13 December

Your funding statement will still show the number of funded hours you are receiving per child for the full term, it will not be broken down per instalment. This will support you when preparing your parent's invoices.

Please visit our web pages where you will find lots of information regarding the funded entitlements and business support:

[Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report | Early Years Service \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk)



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