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Early Years Newsletter

22 March 2024





Welcome to the Provider Update 28 (2023/24)

We hope you are all well and are looking forward to the Easter break.

Don't forget the clocks change on Sunday 31 March so we can look forward to longer evenings

We will be taking a two week break from producing provider emails, the next one will be Update 29 on 5 April 2024.

The Early Education and Child Development Team

Update re Charging for Training

Please note that we will be **not** be implementing charges for all training courses until **1 June 2024** due to delays in setting up the new system.

If you wish to book any training for April – May, please do so now at no cost. This does not apply to the Childminders' Conference, SENCO Training or the Getting it Right for Boys events which will remain chargeable.

If you have any queries, please contact the EYS Advice Line (EYSadvice@gloucestershire.gov.uk) 01452 425959

Childminder Recruitment and Retention Consultation – closes 10 May 2024

As you may be aware, the DfE are seeking views on how to support the recruitment and retention of childminders. This is everybody's opportunity (whether you are a childminder, EY practitioner, SENCO or Manager/owner) to have your say and share your views. Please also share with parents/carers and invite them to complete as well. Further information is available on the hyperlink below:

[Childminder recruitment and retention consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Expanded Funding Entitlements

Further to our previous survey requests we would like to thank all those of you who responded to date with information to support Gloucestershire's supply and demand mapping regarding the Expanded Funding Entitlements. We really value your input.

In reviewing the returns received to date we feel that we did not have a good representation of whether settings feel able to meet the demand for places from April 2024. Therefore, we have opened a short survey and we would like to ask those of you who have not previously completed and submitted a return to complete. (This should take 1-2 minutes maximum to complete).

Please Do Not complete this survey if you have previously submitted a return AND answered the questions about demand, as this will compromise the data collection.

By increasing the number of survey returns we receive, we will be able to gather a better picture of the supply and demand at your setting and in your area and support you to meet that demand.

The survey is now open until Friday 29 March 2024.

Please click the link to complete the survey [Early Years Survey - March 2024 | Have Your Say Gloucestershire \(engagementhq.com\)](https://www.engagementhq.com/surveys/early-years-survey-march-2024)

Scrap Store Sessions

Gloucestershire Early Years Service has been working with the regional Early Years Stronger Practice Hub to provide some fun and inspiring face-to-face, hands-on, creative sessions: [The Children's Scrapstore: The Power of Loose Parts Play](#)

The Gloucestershire session will take place on:

13 May, 10:00am–12:00pm at Little Stars Nursery, Coleford House, Boxbush Road, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 8DN

These practical sessions are for early years practitioners and childminders, and places will be limited. Use the link above to book.

Poster can be viewed [here](#).

Holiday activities and food programme (HAF)

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is funded by the Department of Education for those in reception to year 11 who receive income-related free school meals.

[Holiday activities and food programme \(HAF\)](#)

EY Childminder Conference - Saturday 18 May 2024 - 09:15 - 15:45

BOOK NOW!

Priority bookings for childminders will close on Friday 19 April at 9.00 am and any remaining spaces will then be offered to other providers. If you wish to attend you should book now!

The conference will start with a fantastic keynote speaker, Neil Griffiths. Neil will share his passion for stories and their role in child development.

The Power of Reading for Pleasure - Developing a Love of Reading

This highly thought-provoking and practical course will explore the many ways that adults can play a crucial role in helping develop their children into life-long readers. the latest statistics on reading trends and the requirements of the New Curriculum

- the powerful ways adults can 'model' the pleasure of reading
- the development of a reading culture
- ways of auditing and choosing suitable reading material
- approaches to celebrating and promoting books in the home environment.
- Inspirational ideas for sharing books
- the importance of storytime
- 'Read aloud' techniques

We have a choice of workshops:

a.m. Thriving Language - Schema Play

Working With Children Who Have Sensory Processing Difficulties
- **Anthea Bailey**

p.m. Common Concerns in Early Language - Rebecca Skinner

Forest School - Badger Wood Adventures - Mindy Pickering
& **Becky Poulter-Jewson**

Lunch will be provided in the Hotel restaurant.

[Event booking link.](#)

SENCo cluster meetings

SENCo cluster meetings will be running in your area from 18 April.

We have decided to ask you to book through GCCPlus, and the full information will be available from 5pm on Monday 25 March 2024. The dates are as follows:

Thursday 18 April 2024 from 6.30pm-8pm in Cirencester

Wednesday 24 April 2024 from 4pm-5.30pm in Stow-On-The-Wold

Thursday 25 April 2024 from 4pm-5.30pm in Stonehouse

Monday 20 May 2024 from 4pm-5.30pm in Cheltenham

Tuesday 21 May 2024 from 4pm-5.30pm in Tewkesbury

Thursday May 2 2024 from 4pm-5.45pm in Gloucester

Thursday May 2 2024 from 4pm-6pm in Coleford

Reminder! Expanded Entitlement Information Sessions - BOOK NOW!

These events have been organised county-wide, with the first event taking place on 19 April 2024.

Friday 19 April 2024 9.30-12.30 - Stonehouse Court, Stroud, GL10 3RA - [Book here.](#)

Saturday 20 April 2024 9.30-12.30 - Cheltenham Chase, Shurdington Road, GL3 4BP - [Book here.](#)

Saturday 27 April 2024 9.30-12.30 - Leonardo Hotel (previously Jury's Inn) Cheltenham, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 0TS - [Book here.](#)

Tuesday 30 April 2024 16.30-19.30 - Gupshill Manor Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury GL20 5SG - [Book here.](#)

Wednesday 08 May 2024 16.30-19.30 - Leonardo Hotel (Previously Jury's Inn) Cheltenham, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 0TS - [Book here.](#)

Wednesday 15 May 2024 16.30-19.30 - Cheltenham Chase, Shurdington Road, GL3 4BP - [Book here.](#)

Friday 17 May 2024 9.30-12.30 - The Manor House Hotel, High Street, Moreton-In-Marsh GL56 0LJ - [Book here.](#)

Wednesday 22 May 2024 16.30-19.30 - The Speech House, Speech House Rd, Coleford GL16 7EL - [Book here.](#)

If you have any questions, please email the [EY Admin Team.](#)

DSL Support Hub - Wednesday 20 March 2024

Please click [here](#) to access notes from the meeting and see the link below to access the recording.

[Playback \(gccplustraining.org\)](https://gccplustraining.org)



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

 eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk 

Please do not reply to this email as it will go to a mailbox that is not monitored. If you wish to get in touch with Gloucestershire County Council, [please see our contact us page](#).