EARLY YEARS BULLETIN
AUTUMN 2017

'WE WANT EVERY OXFORDSHIRE CHILD TO ATTEND A SCHOOL OR SETTING IN OXFORDSHIRE THAT IS AT LEAST GOOD (OXFORDSHIRE EDUCATION STRATEGY 2015-18)'

Early Education Funding Agreement and Early Years Guarantee

The Early Education Funding Terms and Conditions Sept 2017 – March 2018 are now available on the website. Information on the Early Years Guarantee, Toolkit, Buy Back services and training can be found at   www.oxfordshireearlyyears.co.uk. Over the Summer the Early Years Toolkit has had many new items added to it and old favourites have been updated. These will help you to reflect on and review your practice. Essential statutory Documents can still be found at https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/early-education-toolkit

It's not too late to join the 30 hour funding scheme (for 3 and 4 year olds)

As you are already aware the 30 hour entitlement was introduced in September 2017. Thank you to all those providers already delivering places. As a local authority Oxfordshire is currently targeting parents with information about how to apply for the 30 hours. This will result in an increased demand for 30 hour places. You may already be experiencing additional enquiries about the scheme. Providers in Oxfordshire have found lots of innovative and sustainable ways to deliver the 30 hours. Please contact 30hours@oxfordshire.gov.uk if you would like to find out more.

We want to increase school attendance leading to improved attainment

It is important that all staff understand why good attendance by children is important. If children are 'school ready' there are less attendance issues when they start school leading to the best possible outcomes**.** For children to achieve a Good Level of Development (GLD) they need to attend school daily to ensure they don't miss out on essential learning and development. This year the proportion of children reaching a good level of development in Oxfordshire continues to increase and is moving further ahead of the national figure (Oxfordshire 73% and National 70%).

You can find resources to support you with attendance and assessment on the toolkit at www.oxfordshireearlyyears.co.uk.

The DFE have just published their response to the Primary Assessment Consultation It contains important information on the future of assessment in Reception Classes. You can Read it here

What are you doing this Autumn to create inspiring and enabling environments?

School Readiness

As the new (school) year gets into full swing it is a good time to reflect on your policies and procedures for transition. Ask yourself what has worked well this year for those children who may have moved onto a different provider or just between rooms in your setting? How were they and their families supported in helping children to make smooth transitions? What do you need to do to make it even better next time?

It is worth revisiting the Unicef Document on School Readiness which defines the characteristic features of school readiness as 'transitions and gaining competencies' and the dimensions of this as children's readiness for school, schools readiness for children and families and communities readiness for school.

A report from NAHT has also produced a School Ready Report

The main findings of the report highlighted by school leaders for children not being school ready were:

- Failure to identify and support additional needs early enough (67%)
- Parents having less available resources / pressure on parents and family life (66%)
- Reduction in local services to support families (63%)
- Reduction in local health services to support families (57%)

Health visitor's 2 year olds development review - NEW Electronic Postcard

If working in a setting or as a childminder you should have recently received a letter from Health visitors informing you that the health visiting teams in Oxfordshire are changing the way the outcome of the 2-2 ½ year old development review, which is carried out as part of the healthy Child Programme, will be communicated to you.

When the health review has been carried out, the Health Visitor will complete and send a postcard of the review outcomes to an identified setting if the child attends one with the parent's consent. This will soon be changing to an email postcard and you will need to register an account to receive this. Details can be found in the original letter sent to you by the Health Visiting Team.

The postcard will identify the contact details of the Health Visitor that has seen the child and provide a brief outline of any concerns. This information can be used to give support for the child, and to help prepare for the EYFS progress check at 2 ½ -3 years of age.

This communication pathway following a child's health review at 2 – 2 ½ sets out a process of communication and partnership working between Oxford Health NHS and Early Years providers in Oxfordshire.

For further information FAQs visit the 2 year old review webpage at https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/2-year-old-reviews

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) analysis: October 2016 to March 2017

This collaborative report between NHS Digital and Ofsted investigates how sources of early years data can be used together to enrich analysis and insight into child development.

From around the web

The Communication Trust – ['What Works' Website]

The Communication Trust has worked with the Better Communication Research Programme to develop the *What Works* database of evidenced interventions to support children's speech, language and communication. *What Works* is endorsed by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. *What Works* is a moderated online library of evidenced interventions that aim to support children's speech, language and communication.

What Works helps early years practitioners, teachers, school leaders, and speech and language therapists (SLTs) find the most appropriate interventions for children and young people by providing a free and easily accessible overview of the evidence base for each intervention.

We want to Safely reduce the number of Looked After Children- to work effectively with families

Safeguarding Information

Launch of Neglect Practitioner Portal

In Oxfordshire, neglect is the most common reason for children becoming subject to a child protection plan. It is a common feature in the county's recent serious case reviews. Recognising that neglect can be difficult to quantify, work with and improve, Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board have created this Neglect Practitioner Portal to help you address this potentially fatal and developmentally disastrous form of abuse.

http://www.oscb.org.uk/themes-tools/neglect/neglect-toolkit-home-page/

There is an offline version if practitioners do not have access to the internet at any time.

Safeguarding audits

By signing the EEF (formerly NEF) agreement you agree to complete the Early Years Safeguarding Audit annually. This year it has been renamed the Early Years Safeguarding Self-Assessment. You do not have to return the audit to the Early Years team unless requested to do so. You will be able to download the audit from the Early Education Toolkit and complete it either electronically or as a paper copy. We recommend that you print your completed copy and keep in your safeguarding folder.

The audit helps you to ensure that you are up to date with current legislation, identify safeguarding training needs and provides good evidence for Ofsted to show that you are meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) April 2017.

LADO team contact information

If an allegation is made against a staff member you must contact LADO within 24 hours. You can find the LADO team contacts at http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-details-lado

Message from the Chief Medical Officer on the Childhood influenza immunisation programme here

New Prevent e-learning course This offers an introduction to the Prevent duty, and explains how it aims to safeguard vulnerable people from being radicalised to supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists themselves. Find it at www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk

We want to Improve the confidence and capability of the workforce

The Early Years team uses its Facebook page, web pages and newsletter to signpost early education and childcare providers to information and training opportunities that will help them to support parents and carers to access support services. The team delivers safeguarding training to Early Years practitioners across the county and works closely with LCSS to provide early help assessment workshops for settings and childminders.

Important Training information from 'Step into Training'

Please note all bookings made on Oxfordshirecpdonline (Step into Training) must be made in the name of the person attending the training using the attendees own account details.

This ensures they receive a record and certificate in their name.

If you are the person that usually makes the training bookings for your school/setting your account can be amended to allow you to do this on their behalf. You will receive an email to authorise any bookings made from your school/setting.

Please email stepintotraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk if you would like your account amended.

Autumn Term SENCO training NOW FULL – BOOKINGs now being taken for January 2018

Hurry…. last few places available…

Early Help Assessment Training   Code: EY4503

'New to EYFS for NQT's, teachers who are working in the EYFS for first time and teachers who would benefit from refreshing their Early Years knowledge Code: EY398

Cyber bullying - updated Acas guidance

Employers need to deal with cyber bullying, as it can be as damaging as any other kind of bullying. View their Cyber bullying guide. All employers should consider having guidelines in place and being clear on acceptable online behaviour

Watch their video on dealing with cyber bullying

View further Acas support designed to help employers address workplace bullying

From Around the web

Business Smart is a free online resource from the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) to support the sustainability of new and established childminding settings in England.

How to find us

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