

Early
Childhood
Service

Summer Term 2022

Newsletter

Early Childhood Quality Improvement
and Business Support Team

Welcome...

to the Early Childhood Service Newsletter for the Summer term. We hope you are enjoying lovely hot sunny days. Thank you to those who have sent content for this newsletter, as ever your contributions are greatly appreciated.

MESSAGE FROM SARAH HARPER:

EARLY YEARS BUSINESS PERFORMANCE, QUALITY AND TRAINING MANAGER

WE HOPE you have enjoyed some jubilee celebrations this term and are managing to keep cool and drink plenty of water in this unusual heat for England.

If you haven't heard yet Wirral has been given some funding from the Department for Education to support the development of family hubs, work has already started on this transformation and will

continue over the next 18 months so look out for ways to be involved.

Whether you are open throughout August or closing down we wish you all a happy and restful break at some point.

Looking forward to a more normal start to Autumn term after two years of lockdowns, onwards and upwards.

Early Childhood Business Support and Quality Improvement Team updates

Wirral Invitation to Play update

IN APRIL this year we expanded the WITP project into New Ferry, including Grove Street Primary School and New Ferry Park.

The boards and floor art are the initial phase, keep your eyes peeled we have more to be installed this Summer. We have added play prompts that encourage conversation, movement, and fun! If you get the opportunity pop down to New Ferry and introduce your children to the boards and floor art, don't forget to post any pics using #WirralPlaypack.

Following on from New Ferry we will be taking the project into the Woodchurch and Birkenhead area, if you have any ideas or feedback about the project we would welcome your thoughts, contact Jo Gelling or Ellie McMillan.



Effective Practice Quality Mark (EPQM)

THERE has been very positive feedback from those that have attended training sessions associated with the Effective Practice Quality Mark (EPQM).

A few sessions will be repeated before the end of the year, and so look out for those, we want to enable as many settings as possible to achieve the highest award.

Introducing a New Role to Wirral

Michelle Sprott - Speech, Language and Communication Practitioner



Practitioner. This post is a new role, created using Covid Recovery Fund monies and it is planned that I will be working Wirral wide.

I have worked for over 17 years in education, in specialist provisions, as 1:1 support, as an early years SENDCo and as a School Readiness worker. It was through

Hi, my name is Michelle, and I have been recently employed into the Wirral 0-19 service as a Speech, Language and Communication

working in these roles that I developed a keen interest in supporting children's speech, language and communication development.

I am currently based in Wallasey where I am piloting the Early Language Identification Measure (ELIM) which is to become part of the statutory two-year developmental review offer. I am also gathering information from early years settings in Wallasey to gain an understanding of current speech and language interventions and support provided to children and their families. I will be communicating my findings to relevant working groups.

My Happy Minds Project



DON'T MISS OUT on the opportunity to join the myHappyMind Programme.

Health have previously commissioned a 12 month pilot in 10 Early Years settings which was fully funded and has demonstrated some very exciting early benefits and feedback from staff, teachers, parents and importantly, our children. The programme is a readymade offer of ready to implement lessons and activities, with physical resource packs including characters and tools, a teacher programme with specific resources and also a parent app. The programme aims to:

- The programme teaches preventative habits that support positive emotional health, resilience and self esteem
- All concepts taught are based in science and research. The programme makes the neuroscience of why we feel the way we feel accessible and understandable
- Aims to give children the skills to navigate emotions and regulate
- Ground the entire programme in positive psychology and how to look after their own wellbeing
- Aims to educate parents, teachers and organisations how to develop their

language with a whole organisation approach to emotional wellbeing After the success of the initial pilot, we are pleased to offer out places on Phase 2 of the programme on a first come first served basis. Those joining the programme in September 2022 will be signing up to the following terms:

- A new 2+1 year contract for all existing and new sites to continue implementing the myHappyMind Programme
- Year 1 will continue to be fully funded for each setting, this will be done jointly by both Health and Early Years
- Year 2 will then move to a tri-partite funding model, in which Health, Early Years and the setting will contribute a third each to the annual cost of the programme. This will equate to a total annual investment of £213 +VAT from the settings themselves. This cost to you will not be due until September 2023
- Year 3 will continue under the same conditions as Year 2 if the sites agree to extend.

If you would like an expression of interest form, please send an email to kellysleight@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Early Years Conference 2022

Presents...

A series of online workshops for your Continued Professional Development.

10th - 14th October 2022

Timetable of Events:

Mon 10th Oct: **Kerry Murphy** (10am)
Tues 11th Oct: **Anna Ephgrave** (10am)
Tues 11th Oct: **Penny Greenland** (6.30pm)
Weds 12th Oct: **Ben Kingston-Hughes** (2pm)
Fri 14th Oct: **Shaddai Tembo** (10am)

Sessions are priced individually or available as a money saving bundle
Tickets: www.wirralequality.co.uk

*All information correct at time of publication - (time-up and/or timetable changes may occur)



WE ARE EXCITED to be holding our virtual conference again later in the year. Look out for information on speakers on the Wirral providers Facebook page and on the weekly email. Book sessions at wirralequality.co.uk

Wirral Libraries

The Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge is coming to a library near you this summer!

WIRRAL LIBRARIES have teamed up with the Reading Agency and the Science Museum Group for a very special STEM themed challenge that will inspire you to look for science, technology, engineering and maths in the world around you.

Our six fictional characters, the Gadgeteers, love creating new inventions and working together to solve problems. They spend their days using curiosity, creativity and innovation to come up with lots of awesome inventions.

The challenge runs from Saturday 9th July to Saturday 10th September and is aimed at children from 4 to 11 years old. There is also a mini-challenge for pre-school children.

Once children have registered for the challenge, they will receive a collector's poster. They will then visit the library three more times to return their books, collecting two sets of stickers each time, their stickers will transform the poster.

Children will join the Gadgeteers in understanding the science behind a whole range of interests, including fashion, technology cooking and music.



In doing so, they'll learn about inventions such as holograms, kinetic tiles, and non-Newtonian fluid.

Taking part in the challenge is totally FREE. All children taking part will receive a certificate. If they complete the challenge, and collect all six sets of stickers, they will also receive a medal.

Summer activities at Wirral Libraries

Why not join in some of the fun summer activities at Wirral Libraries this summer?

For details of events and how to book: follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, or visit wirral.gov.uk/libraries

Safeguarding

NEW - SAFER WORKING PRACTICES SESSION AVAILABLE

A joint session named, Safer Working Practices has been designed to incorporate the once separate Safer Recruitment and Managing Allegations sessions, to support organisations to appreciate the safer workforce cycle.

Outcomes include - Having a clear understanding of the updated guidance for safer working practice, the background and context of safer recruitment and Managing Allegations. Guidance on how to deal with an allegation, the process after an allegation has been made and responding to and recording Low-level concerns.

Organisations who work with or on behalf of children and young people need to be vigilant. Robust processes are essential if organisations who work with or on behalf of children are to attract the best staff and deter, reject or detect those who may pose a risk to children or who are unsuited to work with them. Book at wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/training - you will need to register for an account.

THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTRE

The Lighthouse Centre is based within the Community Village, @ Involve Northwest 330 -334 New Chester Road, Rock Ferry CH42 1LE.

It is a safe, warm, and friendly space you are able to signpost women and children who have or are experiencing domestic abuse. There is a drop-in service Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm where independent advocacy, risk assessment and safety planning is offered. There are also specialist workshops and programmes running throughout the week to support women and children to help them navigate towards a safe and positive future.

It is a child friendly service; women can bring their children to the centre although we cannot at this stage provide a creche facility.

No appointment is necessary, we do not base our support on the levels of risk being experienced. We will support women who are still in a relationship with the perpetrator. We work closely with other agencies that support female domestic abuse survivors and their children. We are part of Wirral's 'Domestic Abuse No Excuse' strategy and the local MARAC. Professionals are encouraged to use the centre with their clients and meeting rooms can be made available subject to availability. To find out more visit: involenorthwest.org.uk/what-we-do/domestic-abuse-team/the-lighthouse-centre

Local Offer Update

Sally Tittle - SEND Participation Manager



HI EVERYONE, Hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. We continue to be kept busy supporting our SEND families, schools and nurseries. Engagement via the website and social media is increasing month on month.

For those of you unaware of the SEND Local Offer, here are three ways you can be signposted to help, resources and a great deal more to support you navigate your way on the start of your SEND journey and beyond. The Local Offer pulls together information across Health, Education and Social Care to help you access the support you need and to enable you to feedback any gaps in provision.

We are excited to let you know that work has already started on commissioning a brand new and improved Local Offer website. A working group of SEND Practitioners, young people and parent/carers are tasked with co-producing a website that is easy to access, has great search functionality, is current and able to offer our SEND families the support they need via

signposting to services and information.

If you have any suggestions/comments or would simply like to get in touch please drop Poppy an email to:

localofferwirral@wirral.gov.uk



We are continuing to support our Head of SEND, Katy Bird with a series of Parent/Carer Meet & Greet sessions. Look out for the dates on the website of the next session.

Poppy is working hard to research inclusive activities on offer in Wirral during the summer holidays. Keep your eye out for her findings which we will share with you in the 'What's New' & 'What's On' sections of the Local Offer website and associated social media.

If you would like to join our mailing list, please email us: localofferwirral@wirral.gov.uk and we will keep you updated.

Happy Summer everyone!
Sally & Poppy

Website:
localofferwirral.org

Facebook:
[The Local Offer Wirral](https://www.facebook.com/TheLocalOfferWirral)

Twitter:
[@lowirral](https://twitter.com/lowirral)

The Foundation Years Trust

Anne Parker - Local Director



NEW GUIDANCE for the Progress Check at Age 2 was published in May and there is a strong emphasis on partnerships with parents, as one of its three aims. It acknowledges the important role practitioners have in supporting parents to continue children's learning at home.

Foundation Years Trust exist to improve home learning environments, so if you're looking for some ideas or support on this valuable area of work, please do give us a call.

FYT recently carried out research with parents across Wirral for the Early Years Strategy. Many felt that settings could improve their partnerships with parents.

We have a team of skilled staff and we can design training and support to meet your needs on a range of topics, including Partnerships With Parents; and Improving the Home Learning Environment.

Our training has been developed by

practitioners and parents to help you think differently about engaging parents. It can be delivered as a half day course for your whole team, or ask us about places on the next course, either in person or online. We can also help you think a little deeper to improve your partnerships with parents.

Do you struggle to find suitable resources to send home to help children's learning? Are you still relying on worksheets that no one benefits from? Drop us a line at info@foundationyearstrust.org.uk and we can send you some printable resources for your families. And they're FREE.

All you have to do is print them. We use tried and tested activities using everyday items. There's also some hints and tips to help parents understand more about how to promote their child's learning and development. Go on, give us a try!

FYT has developed a network of voluntary and community early years organisations, called the First Five Collaboration and we recently held a weeklong festival in various venues across the Liverpool City Region. With a focus on communication, language and mental health, there was lots for families to enjoy at the events. To find out more about what the Festival was about, check out www.foundationyearstrust.org.uk (Foundation Years Trust is a small charity, operating only in Wirral. Our aim is to empower and upskill parents to support their child's learning and development.)

Follow us: [@foundationyearstrust](https://www.instagram.com/foundationyearstrust)

Like us on Facebook:
Foundation Years Trust



Early Years SEND Team - Summer 2022

Penny Bishop, Early Years SEND manger

PORTAGE HAS CONTINUED to teach parents/carers new skills to teach their children as well as helping them to interpret their child's sounds and actions as communication.

They have reported some wonderful successes for the children and their parents/carers and this gives the whole service great pleasure. Parental mental health has been increased during Covid and the Portage team work hard to support and empower parents to move forward by doing small achievable steps. Throughout the year the Portage staff support transitions to settings/childminders and schools. The Summer Term is especially busy trying to arrange these meetings so that the parents have a positive experience and feel well supported by the receiving school and setting.

Covid has impacted not only on children and families but also on settings. We acknowledge the hard work carried out in settings during lockdown and now there is the national issue of getting and maintaining staff whilst at the same time working hard to help children develop skills they have missed. We know that many more children are being referred into our service with nearly double the numbers of pre-pandemic requests. The Early Years SEND Officers have carried out many observations with reports following and they still have more to do. Thank you to all the settings that have followed the Graduated Approach and continue to work hard to support the children with SEND.

We continue to run the accredited level 3 Early Years SENCO Award and recently had a celebration event (see below). Whilst this

is still not a must have award it may become a necessary award and Wirral are pleased to keep offering this training. We are very excited to be able to offer a SEND Level 2 award from the Autumn Term - please keep your eyes open for dates etc.

The Early Years Autism Trust Hub have run the 3 consecutive courses Making Sense of Autism, Good Autism Practice and finally Autism and Anxiety. The courses are interactive with lots of positive feedback of how the setting and school staff are going to alter their practice in light of what they now understand about autistic children. Next courses in the Autumn Term.

Happy Summer break for those who are going to be on holiday.

The Early Years SEND Team

Level 3 Early Years SENCO Award Celebration Event

CONGRATULATIONS go to the 10 Senco's who have achieved their Level 3 Early Years SENCO Award.

A celebration event was held at Ganneys Meadow nursery school on 22nd June where learners were presented with their certificates by Penny Bishop, EY SEND Team leader. Graduates gave presentations reflecting on their 12 day course and how this had impacted on their Senco practice, support of their team, children with SEND and their families. Setting managers and past graduates also commented about the benefits of the course. Senco's now agree they are more competent, confident, committed, capable and agents of change in

their schools and settings. Carol Fenlon, Head of Early Childhood Services closed the event, which was followed by networking.

WELL DONE TO:

Kerry Maddock, *Little Rainbows Day Nursery*
Zoe Humphreys, *Little Learners Day Nursery*
Claire Corey-Jones, *Ladymount Preschool*
Abbie Crosby, *Birkenhead High School Academy*
Caitlin Price, *Bluebells Day Nursery*
Katie Walker, *St Joseph's Primary School*
Laura Kelly, *Winston's Place Day Nursery*
Emily Roberts, *Eversley Nursery School*
Rachael Bennett, *Wirral Montessori Nursery*
Emma Buckle, *St Peter's Primary School*



Wirral Childminder Association

The Wirral Childminding Association welcomes all childminders from the Wirral, well established or just starting off, all are welcome to our monthly meetings to discuss topics related to Childminding and to support each other.

The next meeting will be in September and the date and venue will be confirmed, if any childminders would like support from the Association, they can contact:

Nikki Griffiths on 07925 685360.



Zoe and Kerry's group presentation

Good News & Celebrations

Little Learners

Little Learners in Prenton welcomed Tina to our nursery. We learned lots about bees and found it confusing that the queen bee didn't have a crown!

We looked at wax, honey, and even some bees. We then practiced our bee waggle. We matched pollen to the different flowers and even learned how to draw a bee. Tina gifted us some plant pots and seeds to make our own bee garden, which we will be doing this afternoon!



Kate & Melissa's Day Out

Kate and Melissa took their childminded children to Liverpool to see Little Amal, the giant puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee, in Liverpool as part of World Refugee Week. Along the way the children enjoyed meeting some Police Officers.

Daisy Chain Nursery

Daisy Chain Nursery, Bebington has been recognised as one of the top 20 nurseries across the north west by daynurseries.co.uk
WHAT AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT!!



Useful links

- [Help for Early Years Providers](#)
- [Check early years qualifications](#)
- [Foundation Years website](#)