Bristol Early Years

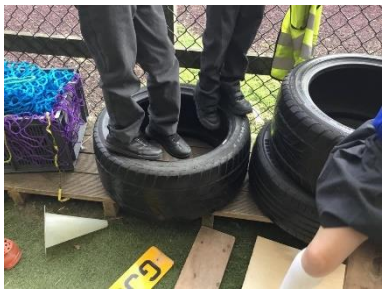
Bulletin for EYFS in Schools

December 2024

1. THANK YOU

As we come to the end of 2024 Bristol Early Years would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone across our sector, for the incredible work you do for our children and families. We hope you all manage to find time for some well-deserved relaxation over the winter holiday period.

2. EXPLORIGN ACHIEVEMENT CPD DAYS



Exploring Achievement in reception and the ELGs – free professional development day 2025.
Once again, we are pleased to offer a development opportunity for reception teachers at Engineers House, for a day of deep reflection, learning and sharing best practice on the development of curriculum and practice to support the inclusive assessment of the EYFS Profile and the ELGs. Hot lunch provided!

These events are suitable for all reception teachers, but ECTs and new to EYFS teachers are particularly encouraged to attend. Please book early to guarantee a place. Both events are the same, so please choose one date. (maximum two teachers per school). Click on the date you prefer to book.

12th February 8.45am – 4pm **or** **13th February 8.45am – 4pm**

3.

Don't let your school miss out on the free Multilingual Toolkit!
Sign up to a face to face session led by the Early Years Alliance to learn all about how to use the electronic toolkit and the templates, audits, articles that go alongside it - it really is a fantastic resource! **There are still a few places remining on the Multilingual Toolkit Training at Engineers House (with free hot lunch!) 10th or 11th December. 9am to 1pm.**
Book via the Celendar here

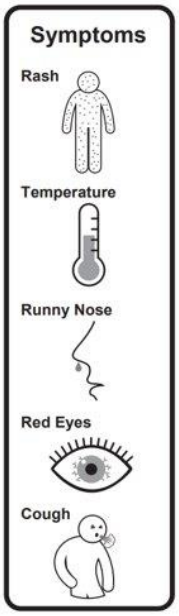
4. EYFS PROFILE HANDBOOK 2025

The Department for Education has published the updated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile handbook to support teachers and practitioners to complete EYFS Profile assessments in line with statutory requirements.

This update includes a change to allow a child's established or preferred mode of communication (including non-speaking communication, such as signing) to be used for all of the early learning goals (ELGs), including the Speaking ELG.

In order to be judged as expected, children must demonstrate the criteria of the ELG. The mode of communication is the way a child chooses to communicate, not the language a child communicates in. Therefore, when using any mode of communication, the ELGs for the communication and language and literacy areas of learning must still be assessed in relation to the child's competency in English, or competency in British Sign Language.

5. HEALTH UPDATES



Measles

There are a small number of measles cases in Bristol and the surrounding area. Please be aware of the signs, symptoms and protocols that are in place in relation to measles.Even though there are small numbers, it is important for everyone to be reminded of what to do if there is a suspected case of measles in your setting.

- Please display posters on relevant noticeboards where parents will see them.
- Please share the Measles information pack for education and childhood settings- with staff
- Please share the fact sheet and website with families What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk)

Please note that any suspected measles cases should be reported to UKHSA swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk who can also offer advice.

Support for parents

UKHSA has published a blog for families packed with tips and advice on how to keep their children healthy this winter. Please share with your parents and carers via your platforms.
A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year – UK Health Security Agency

6. BREAKFAST CLUBS

Breakfast Clubs Early Adopter Scheme – apply by 20th December 2024

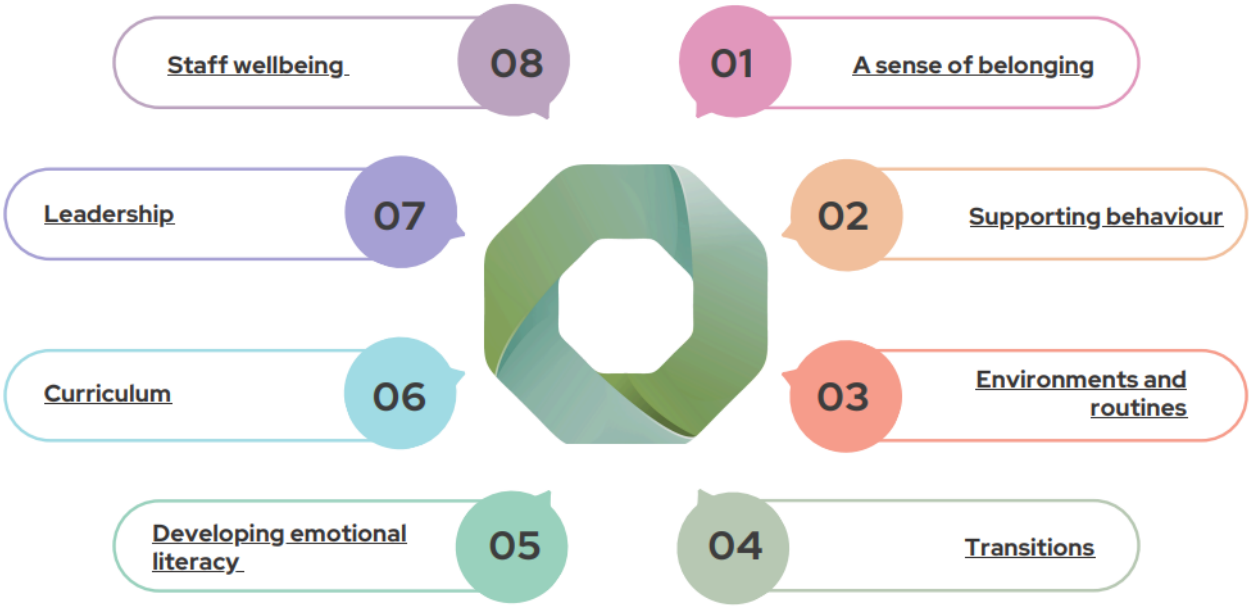
Schools are encouraged to take part in the government's introduction of the free breakfast clubs in up to 750 early adopter schools from April 2025 programme as part of a test and learn phase in advance of national roll out.

Early adopters will offer all primary-aged children on roll at their school, no matter their circumstances, access to a free, universal breakfast club lasting at least 30 minutes that involves food, providing children with a supportive start to the day and helping families to have more choice about work.

7. ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We know that the barriers to accessing education are complex, but it is important for early years to play our part in supporting all families to develop positive habits and expectations around attending nursery and school. The DfE is currently asking all schools to work with families to improve attendance following the new guidance Attendance toolkit for schools.pdf

Good attendance begins with nursery and reception being somewhere children want to be and are excited about. The foundation of good attendance is a setting that fosters belonging and warm and trusting relationships with children and families. Bristol settings are encouraged to use the free Eight to Relate guidance and audit tool to reflect on support this practice. Each stand has an audit section with practical ideas and strategies to help teams create actions and develop practice



Bristol Early Years Teaching Hub

Eight to Relate

8. FREE POTTY TRAINING CPD FOR PRACTITONERS

Online Potty Training

To accompany our free online potty training we have added to our website resources to support families with potty training Resources for families to support potty training - Bristol Early Years. We hope you find this useful.

Practitioners who support children with potty training at all Bristol nurseries or other early years settings can now benefit from a new eLearning course co designed by the experts at ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity and Bristol Early Years. The training is in the form of four 15 minute videos. You can do these at a time that is convenient to your teams. At the end of the course each participant will receive a certificate.

- Part One - Step 1 – Preparation
- Part Two - Step 2 – Practice
- Part Three - Step 3 – Stopping using nappies
- Part Four - Children with additional needs

Book your free places here E-learning block booking form - ERIC. Your lead teacher will be able to give you the access code.

9. BIG BRUSH CLUB

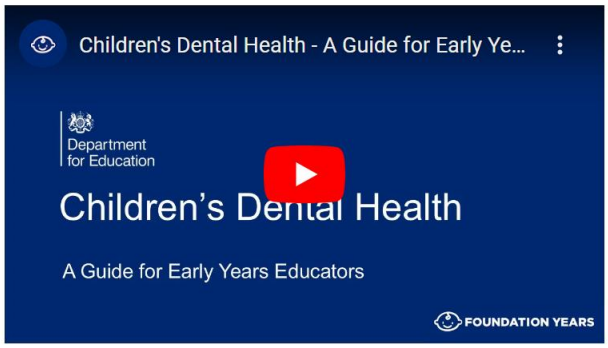
The Big Brush Club are hosting live oral health improvement webinars throughout November, December and January for early years providers and parents/guardians. These sessions will provide valuable information on how to support children aged 0-11 years to have the best oral health start.

Thursday 5th December at 6pm – EY Providers
Thursday 12th December at 6pm – Parents
Tuesday 14th January at 6pm – Parents
Wednesday 22nd January at 6pm – EY Providers

During each session there will be two dental care professionals presenting and on hand to answer any questions you might have throughout the webinar. Cameras or microphones are not required to be used, however there will be a chat box to ask any questions you might have throughout. Please share this information on any platforms you have to communicate with parents/guardians and any other staff members in your settings.

The Department for Education has also produced a video which provides background to why improving children's oral health is important for Early Years Educators, with practical advice on ways that Early Years educators can promote children's oral health.

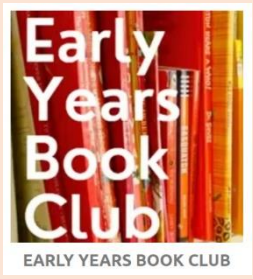
Children's Dental Health – A Guide for Early Years Educators - Foundation Years



10. PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE APPLICATIONS OPEN

The deadline for primary school places is fast approaching.
Early Years Providers with children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 should please ensure that all their parents are aware that they must make an application for Reception in September 2025 **by midnight on 15th January 2025.**
A pdf flyer is attached to the Bulletin email which we would ask you to bring to parents/carers attention via your usual channels

11. BRISTOL EARLY YEARS NETWORKS



Early Years Book Club is for all early years educators working in Bristol. It provides content and opportunity to share and develop practice building on our knowledge of great children's books to support all children to share in the joy of reading.
Early Years Book Club - Bristol Early Years December's theme is 'Sound Play', supporting children to tune into sounds and develop phonological awareness.
Follow Early Years Book Club on Instagram @bristol_ey @bristolandbeyondsph for bitesize tips & a monthly giveaway!

Hold the date! - Friday 4th April
Bristol Early Years Conference 9am – 2pm at Engineers House

There will be lots more details and a booking link to follow, but we are excited to be able to confirm early years development and policy expert Dr. Dan Wuori, as keynote speaker for this very special morning. Many of you will know Dan for his innovative use of social media to share the delights of early childhood development. We promise a brilliant day of discussion, sharing and learning, so please do hold the date if you can.

Check out Bristol Early Years on Instagram
Do give Bristol Early Years (@bristol_ey) a follow on Instagram to stayed connected with everything early years in Bristol. Bristol Early Years (@bristol_ey) • Instagram photos and videos

The Free downloadable staff meetings from Bristol Early Years Network Training are now live! These staff meeting presentations are all **FREE for Bristol Early Years Providers** – settings will need the password from their lead teacher to be able to download the session required. Your lead teacher can also come to your setting to deliver a staff meeting by request. So, do get in contact and take a look and **Watch the introductory Video here**

STRONGER PRACTICE HUB

There are lots of amazing CPD and networking opportunities coming up soon at the Stronger Practice Hub. **Check out the flyer attached to the Bulletin email** or browse the courses online here.

Relationship Mapping With Jacqui Lewis
December 10th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Literacy For Under 5s For Reception Teachers In Schools With Dr Karen Boardman
December 12th, 4:00 – 6:00pm

Sensory Processing in the Early Years: What It is and Why It's Important with Christina Welsh
December 17th, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

NEW RECORDED SPH WEBINARS

Webinar: Musical Creativity in the Baby Room with Mona Sakr

We have 11 recorded webinars so far. Find all recorded webinars here:
https://beyth.co.uk/sph/webinars/

12. BRISTOL STANDARD UPDATES

Bristol Standard is always evolving, and it can now be used in a variety of ways to support your setting's development whether informally in staff meetings, or using the new Bitesize pathway, as well as the established pathways.

How can The Bristol Standard help you?

- It supports Quality Improvement conversations and can be used effectively as a framework for action planning
- It can be used to support conversations with Ofsted and other stakeholders.
- It brings teams together with a shared vision
- It supports ongoing staff professional development

To find out more please email lizleesonbs@outlook.com

For anyone in need mentor support please come along to the Reflective Networks on Tuesday 21st January 2025. We offer two repeated sessions.
To book on for 4pm please use this link:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-the-depth-of-your-reflections-4pm-tickets-938673225887?aff=oddtdtcreator

To book on for 7pm please use this link:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-the-depth-of-your-reflections-7pm-tickets-938681139557?aff=oddtdtcreator

13. USEFUL CONTACTS

All settings can contact their link EY Lead Teacher for further support and advice. If you are unsure of who your lead teacher is, please contact your area consultant.
North Bristol – Anna.morgan@bristol.gov.uk
East & Central – Ali.carrington@bristol.gov.uk
South - Kate.irvine@bristol.gov.uk
Free Entitlement Development Officer deborah.brown@bristol.gov.uk
Bristol Standard – Bristol.standard@bristol.gov.uk
Birth to Threes – beth.osborne@bristol.gov.uk