

School Readiness newsletter
July 2021 - Issue 12



Thank you for all of your valuable resources again this month. We will be back in September with the next newsletter, we wish everyone a lovely summer.

Don't forget to email SchoolReadiness@Oxfordshire.gov.uk by the 27th August with your news for the September issue.

Strong Home Learning Experience to support children's learning and development

Bringing Learning to Life – 50 things to do before you're five



A free app is being launched just in time for the summer. Parents and carers of under-fives in Oxfordshire can now access a list of low and no-cost (local) activities to help promote early language development.

With information, guidance and supporting resources, they can build a memory bank of their child's special moments – from playing in the rain (#29 Pitter Patter), building dens (#33 Home from Home) to making potions (#17 Hocus Pocus Potions). Click [here](#) for more information.

School Readiness webpage for parents

Information and ideas to help your child be ready for their first day at school. Have a look at the top tips on parenting during COVID-19, being school ready and transitions. For further information click [here](#)

Rainbow village – Celebrating diversity and being kind to each other

Illustrated book helping children celebrate diversity and understand the importance of being kind to others. Includes a guide for parents with questions highlighting key themes such as: acceptance; celebrating difference; working together; kindness; and multicultural society. Aimed at children aged 3-years-old and older. Click [here](#) to order your book

Working with parents to support children's learning

"Parents can support their children by encouraging them to set goals, plan, and manage their time, effort, and emotions."

Click [here](#) to see four recommendations on working with parents to support their child's learning

Early Identification

School Readiness and Early Years

Babies' welfare cannot afford to be overlooked. With one million connections forming in a baby's brain every minute in the first 18 months of life, this is a critical window in which to intervene and bring about lasting change - change that would improve a child's chances of healthy social and emotional development, resilience, *readiness* for school, the likelihood for academic success in adolescence, and the capacity to be responsible adults in the future - Oxford Parent-Infant Project (OXPIP) <https://www.oxpip.org.uk/>

Special Educational Needs and Mainstream– Guidance report

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) have the greatest need for excellent teaching and are entitled to provision that supports achievement at, and enjoyment of, school. The attainment gap between pupils with SEND and their peers is twice as big as the gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers. This report offers five evidence-based recommendations to support pupils with SEND, providing a starting point for schools to review their current approach and practical ideas they can implement. To develop the recommendations in this report, the best available international research has been reviewed along with consultations with teachers and other experts. Read more [here](#)

Locality Community Support Service (LCSS)

Please note that the OSCB webpages have been updated. Please ensure your staff know about these pages and ensure new starters visit these to read about what Early Help is and how LCSS can support practitioners with Early Help, offering advice and support when there are emerging concerns for children.

[Early Help and the Locality Community Support Service \(LCSS\) - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board \(oscb.org.uk\)](#)

LCSS have attended recent EYs managers meetings and spoken about the importance of Early Help and identifying need early. Data is showing that over the past 3 months Early Help Assessments from the pre-school settings have increased from 0 to 13! We have also noticed more calls being received from the Early Years sector which is great news. There is strong evidence that helping families early and providing support at the right time at the right place can reduce the likelihood of problems escalating and improve long term outcomes for children, young people and their families so do keep in contact and call for support if you need to complete an EHA and don't feel confident in how to broach this with families.

Reminder that the **Early help Networks** can be accessed by the Early Years Sector and information on these can be found [here](#)

Early Years in Mind

Do you work with children aged 0-5? Over 14000 early years practitioners have joined the free [EarlyYearsinMind](#) network!

It gives guidance on supporting the mental health of babies, young children & families. To join & access resources, training & research click [here](#)

High quality provision

Free event about the revised [EYFS](#) and [Development Matters](#).

Julian Grenier invites you to hear from Professor Kathy Sylva from Oxford University, preview a free video briefing for early years practitioners and be part of a Q&A session. Early Years Early Adopter Schools 2020 - Tuesday 29th June from 7pm. Click [here](#) to book a place.

CPD Booster – Birth to 5 Matters with Dr Kathryn Peckham

In this CPD Booster course Kathryn will introduce you to the comprehensive range of free materials that are available through Birth to 5 and will help you to understand their purpose and the ways in which they were intended to be used. Kathryn will look at the range of support that is offered to enhance your practice and help you as you consider the experiences you offer children, nurturing their foundations and supporting their development as lifelong learners. The cost of this session is £20.00, for further information click [here](#)

BLOG: Using outdoor provision to support learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The outdoors can enhance every aspect of learning in the early years foundation stage. When planning an outdoor space, think about how the children will explore, experiment, imagine and engage. As Helen Tovey explains in her book 'Playing Outdoors': the outdoor environment should be a "dynamic living place constantly changing as children and adults transform it. Read more [here](#)

Updated Early Years Inspection Handbook

Ofsted have published its updated [Early Years Inspection Handbook](#) for inspections taking place from 1 September 2021 in England. Early years and childcare providers can refer to the inspection handbook to learn more about how Ofsted inspectors will carry out their inspections and judgements from September under the education inspection framework (EIF).

What has changed? The four major changes to the handbook include:

- Changes to the EYFS disapplication's in relation to Covid-19
- A new section on [revisions to the EYFS from 1 September 2021](#)
- A new section to dispel myths about inspection that can result in unnecessary workload for providers
- Updated grade descriptors

Ofsted has shared a one-page document detailing all of the changes, [which you can read here](#).

Information sharing and high-quality transitions through life

On my mind

onmymind.info is a free website created with young people to help other young people with their mental health. It includes info on self-care strategies, tips on how to speak to a friend you're worried about and organisations that are available to help you 24/7.

Rebecca Maddix on Supporting parents, children and practitioners during the pandemic

In this interview, Rebecca discusses with Kathy Brodie some of the types of behaviours or reactions we may be seeing with the children as we come out of lockdown and how parents and Early Years practitioners and educators could support children in those different circumstances. To see the interview click [here](#)

OCF webinar: Celebrating the heroes of Oxfordshire

The next OCF webinar is all about our Oxfordshire heroes. It will be celebrating and thanking those who have helped us get through the pandemic. Please register now for Wednesday 21 July, 2pm to 3pm. For more information click [here](#)

Youngsters receive special permission to play John Lennon song to reflect on lockdown

Young musicians in Oxfordshire have been given special permission to share a unique virtual performance of John Lennon's famous 1970s song "Imagine" that they put together during lockdown.

Oxfordshire County Council's Music Service approached the ex-Beatle's estate with the project and were thrilled to be given permission for their performance which will be shared on social media on July 3 and will be allowed to remain live until October 3. For more information and to see the performance click [here](#)

New food safety resource

Tragically, a child dies in the UK every month from choking and hundreds more require hospital treatment. The EYFS framework requires providers to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. Early years practitioners must be confident that those responsible for preparing and handling food in their setting are competent to do so.

To support this, DfE have developed a [new food safety resource](#) on the 'Help for Early Years Providers' service with advice on safe weaning, foods to avoid, how to prepare food safely to avoid choking and preparing food hygienically.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) is to collect data on children's language and socio-emotional development as well as comparing statutory assessment data for three years before, and three years following, the onset of Covid-19. Parents and teachers will also be consulted as the study aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the impact of Covid-19 on the early years of schooling, to inform future policy development. More information can be found [here](#)

Help them discover their future – Two-year-old funding



Do you have a two-year-old who's ready to start their next adventure? You could be eligible for 15 hours of free childcare.

Find out how [here](#)

Letter from Minister Ford and Minister Churchill

Vicky Ford, Minister for Children and Families and Jo Churchill, Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care have written an [open letter](#) to all early years providers which pulls together some important advice and guidance on support for children's health and wellbeing.

July edition of our Short Breaks Update newsletter

Do share it with anyone else you think might find it helpful including the families that you are working with.



SB Update - July 21
Final.pdf

COVID-19 updates

COVID-19

ARE YOU 18-29?

Waiting for your jobs?

You're more likely to be spreading COVID-19 without knowing it.

GET TESTED TODAY

at one of our static or mobile PCR sites.

Find out more - oxfordshire.gov.uk/covidtest



We are encouraging everyone aged 18 to 29 years old in Oxford to get a PCR test with COVID cases in that age group among the highest in England. Click below to find out more.



Get%20a%20PCR%20test%20aged%2018

[COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021 \(Roadmap\)](#)

The government has published the 'COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021'. This document sets out the details of the final roadmap step (Step 4) as we transition out of lockdown.

Change made:

Updated guidance on coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread guidance. Added information on self-isolation exemptions for people who are fully vaccinated or under 18, which comes into effect on 16 August.

For all updated Early Years and Schools guidance click [here](#)

Articles/News/Reports/Research

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 9 July 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 30 June to 4 July to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. Click [here](#) for more information.

EEF publishes findings from 'Big Lockdown-Learning Parent Survey

Fixed daily routines for work submissions, specific and frequent feedback from teachers, and the use of 'live' lessons were associated with more positive perceptions of home learning for parents, according to findings from the '[Big Lockdown-Learning Parent Survey](#)', published by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) today.

Home or out alone: a guide to help you decide if your child is ready to stay home or go out alone.

NSPCC guide for parents and carers to help decide whether their child is ready to stay at home or go out alone. Includes practical tips and advice and covers risks parents should consider before deciding, such as how their child feels about the idea and who they should contact in an emergency. Provides a checklist for parents and children to work through together helping them prepare for different types of scenarios. Contains questions about what to do if there is an accident at home or if they are approached by a stranger outside. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Food Foundation's Broken Plate



Launch Event Recording can be found [here](#), and a 1 page 'at a glance' summary [here](#) and attached.

Please do explore the report, you can share your thoughts on social media using #BrokenPlate and make use of the statistics in your work.

For up to date information

[COVID-19 Gov guidance](#)

[E-newsletter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[OSCB](#)