

School Readiness newsletter

November 2020 - Issue 4

Oxfordshire School Readiness Strategy 2020

Oxfordshire's goal has been for all services working with young children and their families to play an important role in supporting school readiness.

The [school readiness strategy](#) reflects key principles that school readiness is achieved through families, ready communities, ready services and ready children. Through the School Readiness consultation 4 main priorities have been identified as being key for children to be ready for school and lifelong learning.

- Strong Home Learning Experience to support children's learning and development
- Early Engagement
- High Quality Provision
- Information-sharing and high-quality transitions through life



If you have resources and information you would like me to share in this newsletter, please email SchoolReadiness@Oxfordshire.gov.uk by the 27th of every month.

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

Child Accident Prevention Trust we've got your back.

[Download our Parents' Pack](#), it's full of quick wins that can help put you in charge of child safety, even when you're feeling under pressure. If you want to switch off or give your child something to engage them, there are some fun activity sheets at the back of the pack too.

Interviewing Grandma and Grandpa: 20 Questions Every Child Should Ask their Grandparent

Grandparents have a lifetime of experiences to share about their lives growing up, their struggles and their joys at every phase. Taking time to hear about those experiences is a gift for everyone involved. For further information click [here](#)

Street Tag

A fun, free, smartphone app that offers rewards for exercise. Street Tag turns physical activity into a game and converts walking, running and cycling into Street Tag points (tags). Turning streets and parks into a giant virtual playground. You can find further information [here](#)

Transitioning from home or nursery to the primary school

Early years specialist Helen Stroudley offers her advice to help you make the switch as smooth as possible for your child. Have a look at Helen's top tips [here](#)

Early Identification

Reporting a confirmed case of Covid-19 in your setting or school (for providers)

You must contact your Local Authority if you have a COVID-19 case within your school or setting. To do this you must email educationcovid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk You can find the reporting template in the downloads sections on this [page](#)

PACEY are working Together for Twos!

[Together for Two's](#) is a collection of ideas, inspiration and tools to help practitioners reflect on and extend their practice working with toddlers. Ideas include top tips, videos, case studies, downloadable tools and other essential ideas to help develop your 2-year-old provision

Online SEND Reviewer Training now available

Free to access, and open to all education professionals. In order to improve the skills and confidence of the schools' workforce in supporting the delivery of high-quality SEND provision to pupils, Real Training and Whole School SEND have developed an online version of SEND Reviewer Training. This will enable more people within the schools' workforce to conduct quality reviews of SEND provision and empowering settings to improve their practices. To register click [here](#)

How to apply for an EHC assessment

Why not visit Oxfordshire short sway [CPD session](#) to help you.

Healthy Smiles Online FREE Oral Health Training for Early Years settings

We are delighted to be able to offer all EYFS setting access to our free 90 minute training. This is delivered on a virtual platform (Zoom or Teams) and can be arranged at a time to suit your setting and allow as many staff as possible to take part. As I am sure you are aware that access to dentists for routine appointments is even harder at the moment. This will result in some young children missing out on vital check-ups and visits to their dental team. To combat any oral health issues, that the Covid-19 lockdown may have exacerbated, we all need to be thinking harder about prevention. Our training will empower you to safeguard the health of your children's mouths and at the same time deliver key oral health messages to your children and their families.

If your setting would be interested in having this FREE 90 minute virtual training please contact us on ohimp.oxfordshire@cds-cic.co.uk or 01869 238335.

Well-being in the Early Years

The Anna Freud Centre believes that by working in collaboration with communities and professionals, that together we can scale up our support for millions of infants, children and young people and their families. See what they do to support Early Years.

<https://www.annafreud.org/early-years/early-years-in-mind/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/coronavirus-support/support-for-early-years/>

High quality provision

COVID-19 resources hub

Foundation Years have launched a new hub to support all early years providers during the COVID-19 outbreak. It includes the latest policy updates, Government guidance, and free resources from across the early years sector all in [one place](#).

Resources designed to support your remote education planning and delivery.

Pupils can be absent for a range of reasons, including illnesses other than COVID-19, so remote education is a vital support to schoolwork. We have worked with sector leaders to publish a package of resources designed to support your remote education planning and delivery. You can access all of these resources from [this dedicated page on GOV.UK](#).

What is meant by the Pikler approach?

Visit Kathy Brodies [Early Years TV](#) to see some ideas and strategies for practitioners and educators who would like to start the Pikler approach.

If you missed 'A special school - pushing boundaries and challenging misconceptions' you can watch the BBC programme [here](#)

50 Fantastic ideas for tuff tray mathematics

The book is filled with really simple and easily accessible ideas which will gently prompt the reader to recognise and be aware of all the mathematical possibilities to be gained during sensory tuff tray play. There is an emphasis on allowing the children to lead their own explorations meaning the examples can be adapted and differentiated to suit all early years children.

It's available to buy from Amazon PRIME [here](#):

Help EAL Parents Understand Lockdown Restrictions

Many EAL parents have difficulty understanding written English. Devonshire Road Primary School, Bolton, had national restrictions translated into many languages. Have a look [here](#)

Boogie Mites Arctic Adventure workshop pack

This is a great way for preschool and nurseries to enjoy a festive winter celebration using music. They have a 20% discount offer at the moment, which means settings can purchase for just £40 - full details can be found here: <https://bit.ly/334bF8l>

Information-sharing and high-quality transitions through life

Early years transitions and the impact on later life

This blog explains the importance of the transition in early years and how they set children up for the rest of their life, including tips on information, preparing children and giving them independence. For further information click [here](#)

Mental Health Aware Training

Take this opportunity to be part of this training from [Oxfordshire mind](#). Dates and times are:

Tuesday 01 December 2020 09:30 - 13:30	Friday 18 December 2020 09:30 - 13:30
Friday 04 December 2020 09:30 - 13:30	Monday 21 December 2020 09:30 - 13:30
Thursday 17 December 2020 09:30 - 13:30	Tuesday 22 December 2020 09:30 - 13:30

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD IS TRYING TO CONNECT WITH ME?

'Treasure Time' recently posted a video about reframing "attention seeking" behaviour to "connection seeking behaviour" and we got a few questions about what tell-tale signs are there that my child is trying to connect with me. Have a look at their [Bite sized tips](#), tricks and activities.

Children Heard and Seen

If you'd like to know more about how 'Children Heard and Seen' support children and families impacted by parental imprisonment, check out their [website](#)

Other useful information

Oxfordshire libraries to offer new click and collect service during lockdown

Although Oxfordshire County Council's library service is currently unable to open libraries for browsing, the government has made it clear that libraries may offer a collection service during this period. For further information click [here](#)

Local food services across Oxfordshire can be found [here](#)

Coronavirus: Childcare FAQs - House of Commons Library

This House of Commons [Library Briefing](#) provides information in response to some key questions relating to childcare during the coronavirus outbreak

Ofsted

Ofsted announces new early years inspection arrangements

A new approach to inspecting early years providers will give good and outstanding providers more consistency while prioritising providers rated less than good. For more information click [here](#)

COVID-19 series: briefing on early years, October 2020

Evidence from research interviews with 208 registered early years providers and maintained nursery schools between 5 and 16 October can be found [here](#)

Government updates

Updated [guidance](#) from the DfE for parents, childcare and early years settings during the second national lockdown in England, 5th November – 2nd December.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Social distancing](#)

Information on social distancing, with added translated versions of guidance in Welsh, Urdu, Turkish, Somali, Romanian, Punjabi, Polish, Gujarati, Chinese, Bengali and Arabic, as well as large format and easy read versions.

[New National Restrictions from 5 November](#)

Information on the new national restrictions, including what they mean for working from home and business closures, why they are being introduced and the financial support available.

With added translated versions of guidance in Welsh, Urdu, Turkish, Somali, Romanian, Punjabi, Polish, Gujarati, Chinese, Bengali and Arabic, as well as large format and easy read versions.

Safeguarding

LCSS Short survey

The [LCSS Short Survey](#) is part of a broader piece of work to improve the way we work together to support families at an early stage of need.

Articles/News/Reports/Research

Study by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

This study has highlighted the importance of Early Years settings for babies and toddlers from lower socio-economic backgrounds. While 90% of families reported enjoying increased activities with their young children during lockdown, parents from disadvantaged backgrounds reported spending less time with their children, in particular activities requiring outdoor space and access to books. Access this study [here](#)

The mental health of children and young people

This [BBC News report](#) has links to evidence about the impact of isolation on the young.

Reachwell - Researchers in Education and Adolescent Child Health and Wellbeing – A group of UK academics who work with children and adolescents; providing scientific evidence, [research and reports](#).

No child left behind – a public health informed approach to improving outcomes for vulnerable children

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, local government, health, education and other public services have sought to make sure that vulnerable children are protected. As we look ahead, these children and their families remain central to our public health plans and ambitions. You can find it [here](#)

For up to date information

[COVID-19 Gov guidance](#)

[E-newsletter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[OSCB](#)