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Welcome!

Well everyone 2023 has been and has almost gone!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas and new year. 2024 will bring challenges as more children become funded but in Telford and Wrekin I know that you will all work hard to meet them. Thankyou for all your hard work over 2023.

Lisa and Team

Early Milestones



We were super excited to read this months edition of the Under 5's magazine that is released by Early Years Alliance across the Country.

As you know, we took part in the National Week of Play 19th - 25th June and we sent in a photo which showed how we celebrated the

week. It was one of the photos chosen to be published in June's magazine!



The caption read:
For Play week, our setting did "Messy Play".

Our week included:

Making a train out of used boxes

Marble Painting

Rolling a ball through paint to see what patterns we could make

Shaving foam creations

Painting flowers

Madeley Nursery School



**Lilleshall Pre-School
(Good)**

**Chipmunks Brookside
(Good)**

**Smiley Faces
(Outstanding)**

**Castle House Nursery
School (Good)**

**Wooden Tops Day
Nursery (Good)**

**Sharon Phillips
(Outstanding)**

ABC Hoo (Outstanding)

Laura Takeda (Good)

**Kids Planet Lawley
(Good)**

**Puddleducks Under 5s
(Good)**

Madeley Nursery School received an outstanding judgement from Ofsted in September this year.

The inspectors remarked on their exciting, child centred and creative approach to learning for every child. Children's behaviour was noted to be exemplary. Children show high levels of respect and care for each other and they are very motivated to learn.

The inspectors were impressed with the focus on nature and traditional stories and books at the school. The school has a positive outward focus towards the community, building relationships with parents right from the start, and working with volunteers to support composting, gardening and nature studies.

The head teacher, Louise Lowings, said 'I am immensely proud of everyone here at Madeley Nursery School. There is a wonderfully supportive community of staff, volunteers, families and governors, who make this the best place for children.'

This is the school's 5th outstanding inspection in a row and they will keep on doing their very best to make Madeley Nursery School the best place for children and families that it can be.

If you want to find out more about the work at Madeley Nursery School, check out the school's Facebook page or website.

www.madeleynurseryschool.co.uk

ABC Day Nursery Hoo

ABC Day Nursery Hoo have been celebrating after achieving an Ofsted 'Outstanding' rating for the third time in a row at the fourth nursery in the group. The inspector who visited ABC Day Nursery at Preston-upon-the-Weald Moors in October found that leaders are 'passionate about providing stimulating learning opportunities', the curriculum is 'expertly designed', and children 'make rapid progress in their development'.



Are you checking if your children are attracting EYPP?

By collecting parents information:

- Parent Name
- Parent Date of Birth
- Parent National Insurance number

And ticking the EYPP box next to the 30 hour box for all children, you will be making sure these children and your setting are not missing out on funding to support them.

The screenshot shows the FIS Core software interface. The 'Parent/Carer and Partner' section is active. The 'Parent / Carer' section includes fields for Surname, Forename, DOB, Email, and Contact Number. The 'Partner' section includes fields for Surname, Forename, DOB, Email, and Contact Number. Below these are 'NI / NASS' and 'Consent for ECS Check' sections. The 'EYPP' checkbox in the 'Consent for ECS Check' section is highlighted with a red circle.

New data collection item in the portal

The provider portal can now hold parent information which includes email addresses and telephone numbers.

Moving forward please can you add this information to your children's records. This will help us send information to teams such as the Food Vouchers and Admissions and should reduce the need for us to request this information (providing it has been completed).

Early Years Census will be January 2024

Census date is 18 January 2024—This is the most important headcount of the year.

- Employees qualifications etc should match the total of employees working with the children and you only need to count the highest qualification for each employee so one record per person.
- All EYPP information is completed in the parent section along with consent box ticked.
- All code information completed. – **Any new codes which have start dates 1st January onwards for 30 hours cannot be used until April, also new codes cannot be used for the first time in grace period, again consent box must be ticked.**
- Present at CENSUS box **MUST** be ticked.
- Census Forms on portal are completed and you have also updated your provider form if data has changed at all.
- All children who have left are deleted from your portal.

THE TERM A CHILD WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR A FUNDED PLACE

Born 1st April - 31st August

Eligible start of Autumn term

Born 1st September - 31st December

Eligible start of Spring term

Born 1st January - 31st March

Eligible start of Summer term

Please remember that a child cannot access funding until their correct age. A code must be fully valid the first time it is used and cannot be in grace period.

Applying for a code too early and not updating it will prevent access to funding.

Parents who apply for their codes too early need to ensure that they keep their codes fully valid.

New Entitlements

September 2023

- Increase in 23/24 funding rates.
- Change in staff-to-child ratios for 2-year-olds, moving from 1:4 to 1:5
- Launch of start-up grants for new childminders

April 2024

- 15hrs childcare for working parents of 2-year-olds

Parents will be able to apply for their code from the 2 January 2024 ready to start claiming in April 2024. This funding will start the term **after** their 2nd birthday.

Working families will claim via [Childcare Choices](#) in the same way working families apply for 30 hours.

Eligibility criteria for these 2 year olds is the same as 30 hours funding.

Disadvantages 2 year old families will still be able to claim funding via the [current process](#)

September 2024

- New or expanded wraparound provision commences nationally
- 15hrs childcare for working parents of 9 months to primary school age

We will inform you when parents will be able to apply for their code from 9 month old children.

September 2025

- 30hrs childcare for working parents of 9 months to primary school age

This will automatically roll out

September 2026

- All schools able to offer 8am-6pm wraparound

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The [Childcare Choices](#) website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it.

And from next year even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as 'wraparound care'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the [Childcare Choices](#) website to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

Family Hubs—Home Learning Bags Launched



Councillor Paul Watling hands over the first Home Learning Bags to children attending William Reynolds Primary School and Wooden Tops Day nursery in the South of Telford.

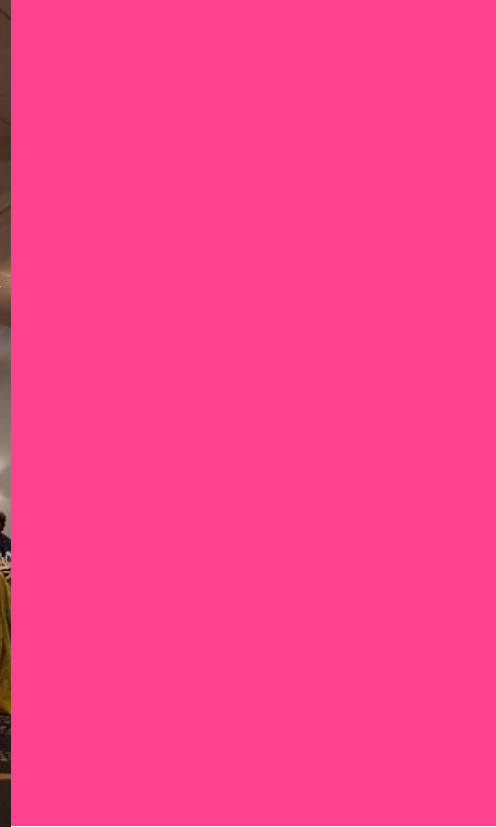
Home learning Bags are part of the Family Hub programme to support children's learning at home.

These resources will complement the Early Years Talk Boost programme, which is being implemented across Telford and Wrekin to support children's communication and language development. Evidence consistently shows the importance of parents/carers as children's first educators. The bags will be rolled out to 4 year olds across the local authority over the next eighteen months.



The packs contain:

- 2 games
- 2 story books carefully selected by our library service
- a pack of activity cards to provide parent/carers with fun ideas
- a book with games to support early talk



EYFS Conference, November 2023

The EYFS conference was held over 10th and 11th November 2023, attended by Early Years settings and practitioners.

On Friday morning, Jan Dubiel explored "Pedagogy and the Contexts for Teaching and Learning".

The "Music for EYFS: Practical Ideas for Teachers and Practitioners" was run by



Soundpots, part of our local music hub. Delegates took part in group activities



that could be replicated in their settings.

Jan's second session on Saturday morning was "PVI Provision—Ensuring Curriculum Progression and Depth". This looked at the principles and practicalities for developing an appropriate curriculum that ensure progression

and depth for all children.

The final key note speaker was Shonette Bason-Wood, "Squiggle Me Into A Writer, including Dough Disco". This workshop covered the movement and messy play based Wiggle Me Into A Squiggle, which uses specific movement to assist gross motor development.





Pumpkin and veg patch



Exploring leaves



Turn taking

Fruit and vegetable shop



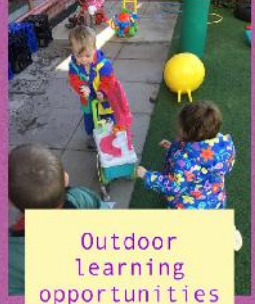
Harvest time



1 pound or 2?



How much for the carrots please?



Outdoor learning opportunities

PIC•COLLAGE

Newdale Primary School and Nursery

Here are some pictures of what we've been doing in the 2 year old Ladybugs room this Autumn term!



Harvest time



Cauliflower

Sensory tuff spot linked to harvest



Exploring vegetables



Book of the week

Oliver's vegetables



5 little apples song



Broccoli



Cabbage



Potato

Literacy time

PIC•COLLAGE

Careers Support



The Early Years team have been out and about, holding information stands at various events and locations to promote careers in the Early Years sector.

During the half term, we set up at Telford Town Centre, talking to families about available childcare funding and how to apply. We also spoke to parents looking to return to work, about how

working in childcare or starting their own childminding business.

We spoke to Years 9 to 11 at the Hadley Learning Community Careers Fair. Young people interested in working with early years children were given advice about needed qualifications, work experience, apprenticeships and helpful interview tips.



For anyone interested in starting out or working in early years and childcare, information about needed qualifications and available support can be found [here](#).

Newport Nursery Forest School Collaboration



Playdays Nursery recently joined Tiggy's Montessori Nursery at one of their weekly Forest School sessions at Chetwynd Deer Park (home of the Newport Show).

Transport was arranged by Playdays so both groups could walk together from Tiggy's and spend the afternoon exploring the site and having fun in the woods.

Tiggy's have been offering Forest

School since 2013, thanks to T&W Early Years who offered fully funded Level 3 Forest School training, way back in 2012. To future proof being able to deliver Forest School, the setting then paid for an additional member of staff to gain the Level 3 qualification 5 years ago and both staff members are still involved in the twice weekly visits and hundreds of Tiggy's children have benefitted from the visits in the last 10 years.



Halesfield Day Nursery

Children from Halesfield Day Nursery recently enjoyed a big adventure. To complement their weekly Forest school sessions they have at nursery, they took a trip to out Wrekin Forest School for the day.

Staff and children had the best time exploring the site and trying out some fun activities. They started off with



archery and pizza making which was great fun and kept us warm and busy. The children were confident and very keen to get involved. It was lovely to see them supporting and encouraging each other thus making it such a positive learning experience for them all.

Becky and Collette, the Wrekin Forest School teachers were brilliant at making everything fun and exciting and linked all the provocations into the theme of winter birds- which was so lovely for the children to learn and explore.

The whole trip was planned around extending and developing our own outdoor provision at nursery. We have confident learners who love to be outdoors, so this experience allowed us to offer a different kind of learning experience to the children. It also helped with staff CPD, and gave



us all ideas on how we could develop outside play further in our setting.

Feedback from the children has been fantastic and they have become more confident at trying new experiences and being outdoors. Staff have also started to develop our outdoor provision; so that we have more on offer and a greater amount of risk taking opportunities too.

Launch of start-up grants for childminders

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-childminder-start-up-grant>

The Childminder Start-up Grant Scheme is now open for applications at the above link. The Scheme will support new childminders by providing them with grant funding, worth £7.2m over the next two financial years, helping childminders with the cost of setting up their own businesses.

The Childminder Start-up Grants Scheme will be available to all new childminders who have completed their registration on or after 15th March 2023. Individuals who have previously been registered as childminders and wish to re-register into the sector may also apply for the scheme. There must be at least a 12-month gap between the date of their previous registration being cancelled and their new registration being finalised.

As previously announced, the DfE will offer £600 to new childminders registering with Ofsted, and £1200 to new childminders registering with a childminder agency. £1200 grants will be paid in two instalments, with a 6-month limit on claiming the second instalment. Childminders must apply for the grant within two months of registering as a childminder, or within two months of the Scheme launching.

Upcoming Childminder Briefing Sessions on Microsoft Teams:

- 18th January
- 6th February
- 12th March
- 16th April

To book on to a free session, contact

talkingchildcare@telford.gov.uk

CHOOSING CHILDCARE

Don't know where or how to start looking?
Confused, unsure, worried about some or all things to do with childcare ??
nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, nursery funding, 15 hours, 30 hours, childcare choices online, tax free childcare, school applications ??

What does it all mean? What do I do?
Then fear not! as help is at hand!
Lots of advice & guidance available to help.

Come & have a chat with a local nursery owner/Early Years Professional who has 21+ years experience and an Early Years Consultant from Telford & Wrekin, who also has many years experience working in education & childcare.

No question is a stupid question
Information to take away

Where: Trinity Toddlers
When: Monday 13th November from 9 - 11

Members of the Early Years Team have been visiting libraries, play groups and others in the local community to promote childminders and to answer families' questions about childcare and funding.

For example, Early Years Consultants visited Trinity Tots, a popular parent and toddler group in Newport, for a drop in chat about all things childcare.

Please contact the team if you would like us to visit!

Safeguarding

Do you have the latest copies of these documents?



[Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#)

PDF, 614 KB, 67 pages



[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)

PDF, 603 KB, 53 pages

Keeping children safe in education 2023

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

Children's Safeguarding and Family Support (CSFS) Director's update 2 March 2023

Telford and Wrekin threshold guidance 2023

[Download Now](#)



[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

PDF, 1.23 MB, 168 pages



[Working together to safeguard children 2023: summary of changes](#)

PDF, 132 KB, 4 pages



[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory framework](#)

PDF, 268 KB, 15 pages



Top safety tips for families this Christmas

6 simple safety tips to keep children safe this Christmas

Love it or loathe it the run-up to Christmas for parents means having a lot on your plate (and we're not talking Christmas dinner). Let's keep it merry with six simple safety tips you can do that won't add to the to-do list.

[Take a look](#)

Elf and Safety

Plus, throughout December we'll be sharing key dangers around the home and simple things you can do to keep children safe. Follow along and share with your friends and family to help everyone have a merry and safe celebration.

Be battery aware

This Christmas, homes will be filled with light-up decorations, festive tea lights, singing Santas and flashing Christmas wands. But these – and many cheap toys – are powered by button batteries that can badly hurt or kill a child if swallowed.

[Keep children safe from button batteries](#)



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Find out about
careers in EY - help
make a difference!

ROUTES INTO EARLY YEARS ROADSHOW

Igniting passion, pride & professionalism in a wide
range of Early Years' Careers.

Find out how to
progress your career
within EY workforce

HOSTED BY



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON

6th February 2024 - 9:30-2:30pm

**Location: Wolverhampton University,
Walsall Campus, Gorway Rd, WS1 3BD**

Come and join us...

Meet EY professionals & employers,
Hear inspirational journeys,
Gain insights on aspects of practice,
Find out about university courses and CPD
opportunities for **childminders, setting practitioners
and teachers**

Register to Attend

to find out about all of the rewarding opportunities
available in a career like no other!

<https://tinyurl.com/nsfa2w53>

Music Sessions

For Early Years Settings in Telford and Wrekin



Through a mixture of adult and child-led activities, our skilled Early Years Music Practitioners nurture children's musical skills and understanding of rhythm, pulse, pitch, listening and playing together. These musical sessions provide many opportunities for interaction, creative play, listening and focusing attention, awareness of rhythm and rhyme and developing self-confidence – all vital in supporting communication and language development.

Settings can access a set of 5 music sessions free of charge.
Contact telford.music@telford.gov.uk to book your sessions.



Making it REAL – Early Literacy Training

Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) is an evidence based and award winning training that develops children's early literacy by supporting parents to create a positive early home learning environment.

The training:

- Has a strong evidence base* and supports early literacy and communication skills through play and every day activities, in the home, and out and about.
- Provides practical strategies and resources to share with parents for low cost and no cost activities to enjoy with their children.
- Prepares practitioners to deliver early literacy sessions including home visits to the allocated families they support.



* NCB has worked in partnership with Oldham Local Authority since January 2018 to support delivery of the Raising Early Achievement in Literacy (REAL) project in targeted wards. The EYFS Profile results 2019 confirmed a 4% increase in the number of children with a good level of development in Oldham. You can find more detailed information about the evaluation of Making it REAL projects by following these links:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1039005/6.7666_DfE_OA_Teacher_Insight_Guide_Early_Years.pdf

https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Making_it_REAL_-1.pdf

Both parents and practitioners were very positive about the project, and the project children developed a real love for reading, rhyme and writing. Feedback from early years practitioners who recently attended this training:

"An incredibly valuable training course. The training has both enabled me to reflect on my practice and provided a foundation of ideas to support children and families going forward."

"I really enjoyed both sessions and I learned a lot about REAL that I will use at my setting and to encourage parents as well."



Making it REAL Training will be taking place in: Telford starting in Spring, settings/school nurseries can request up to 2 places.

At: Venue to be confirmed

Please direct any queries and interest in joining the programme to lisa.seymour@teford.gov.uk

This programme is being funded via Family Hub funding to support the Home Learning Environment, Ofsted have recently recommended in several reports that this is an area of development. There will be funding to provide back fill for the 2 days training and to purchase resources necessary to the programme.

Talk & Play



In The Bell Tent

Therapeutic support for parents,
babies and toddlers.

Charity Number: 1181866



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Co-operative Council

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to create a better borough



Telford and Wrekin
FAMILY HUBS

Who is the drop in for?

Parents and babies aged 0 to 2.

What does the drop in offer?

A warm welcome in our heated bell tent. This is a space for babies to play and for parents to chat to other parents and our parent infant specialists in a calm and supportive environment.

When does the drop in run?

During term time on Tuesdays 10am - 2pm, whatever the weather!

Where does the drop in take place?

Telford Town Park, near the Visitors' Centre and Play park.

How much does the drop in cost?

Nothing, the sessions are free.

More details on our website

www.theseachangetrust.co.uk.

Follow us on our Facebook page or Instagram:

www.facebook.com/theseachangetrust

Instagram: [@theseachangetrust](https://www.instagram.com/theseachangetrust)

If you have any queries, please contact us:

becky@scpsychotherapy.co.uk.



SEND Support & Play For Early Years Families

Our group is a joint provision by Telford SENDIASS and Telford Childrens Autism Hub and supports parents and carers within Telford & Wrekin, whose child has special educational needs and/or a disability, including parents whose children have a diagnosis of Autism

Come and join us for our fortnightly group!

1st Monday of the month, 9:15am to 10:45am @ our Family Zone, Hazledine House.

3rd Monday of the month, 9:15am to 10:15am @Dobbies Soft Play, Donnington

*** (Term time only & excluding Bank Holidays) ***

Telford SENDIASS and Telford Childrens Autism Hub 4EYF offers you:

- A safe play area for children where parents can relax and have a chat.
- Guest speakers form relevant organisations to talk the support they can provide.
- A non-judgmental environment for the children to play, socialise and be themselves.
- An understanding environment filled with support, friendship & advice.



To register for our Early Years SEND Support group please call 01952 260062 or email childrensautism@tandwcv.org.uk

A project of Telford & Wrekin CVS
Suite 12 to 15 Hazledine House, Central Square
Telford Centre, Telford, TF3 4JL





Telford Children's
Action Hub



SEND Support & Play For Early Years Families

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 4th September

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 18th September

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 2nd October

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 16th October

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 6th November

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House
Guest advisor - Practitioner from the Healthy Child
Programme 0-19

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 20th November

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 4th December

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House
Guest advisor - Anna Lewis Early Years
SENCO @ Short Wood primary school

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 15th January

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 5th February

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House



9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 19th February

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 4th March

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 18th March

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 15th April

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 20th May

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 3rd June

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 17th June

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

9:15am to
10:45am

Monday 1st July

SEND Support & Play @ Hazledine House

9:15am to
10:15am

Monday 15th July

Soft Play @Dobbies Garden Centre , Donnington

If you would like to attend any of these sessions please contact us on 01952 262062 or email us on childrensautism@tandwcvs.org.uk



TELFORD CRISIS SUPPORT

Multibank



www.telfordcrisissupport.org.uk
admin@telfordcrisissupport.org.uk

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07592 041666

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information, advice
& guidance

Community projects

Household
wellbeing
support

Link Worker & Signposting

School
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Baby-toddler Bank

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COMMUNITY
FUND

Newport Toy Library

Cottage Care Centre TF10 7EH



Friday mornings

9:45 till 11:30

www.newporttoylibrary.co.uk

Toys from 10p per week

£2 per year membership

Jigsaws, outdoor toys, stair gates, books and much more.