

## Your news round-up – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Congratulations to Jennifer Cozens and Claire Farrow who both achieved an Outstanding judgement in their most recent Ofsted inspection.** Congratulations to the respective teams from us all for gaining worthy recognition for inspiring practice

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### Improving outcomes for all children so they have the best start in life

In the last edition of Early Years Matters, I mentioned our meeting with the regional Ofsted team where we reflected on the very poor outcomes for disadvantaged children in Bath & North East Somerset and on our analysis of this. As you know this is our overwhelming priority and this ongoing attainment gap, which is initially identified from the end of the Reception Year data, persists all the way through school. We have seen the same outcome in this data over many years now and so it is time to use the knowledge we have to do things differently, earlier, and not wait to see the same results again. One area for focus, mentioned previously, is **accurate assessment for early identification**. This has resonated with you and there has been a very positive response to the session on November 6<sup>th</sup> so far: [“Strengthening assessment practice to ensure effective early identification of needs”](#)

High quality **Phase 1 Letters and Sounds** teaching is key to supporting children to be able to access the more structured phonics teaching in school. This impacts on a child’s ability to achieve the Reading and Writing ELGs and is clearly a factor in our wide attainment gap. Please encourage practitioners, particularly those in the pre-reception year to update and refresh their training through some of the options listed below. If you have children remaining in your setting this year, who will be entering Reception later in the year or into Y1 next year, ‘Phonics in action’ is essential training for your team.

We were pleased that there was interest from Ofsted colleagues in our ‘**Cohort Progress Overview**’ document which is widely used in B&NES as a tool to support identification of the risk and protective factors which may impact on children’s learning and development. Many of you have fed back to us that this is a useful document so we have reviewed and updated this in line with current research, making some slight changes to the ‘risk indicator’ groups.

The updated version is available, at no cost, as a [downloadable resource on the online Hub](#). If you are not already familiar with this please take a look.

The contextual information enables you to monitor the progress of children in one or more of the ‘risk indicator’ groups, who may be vulnerable to underachievement and benefit from more focused planning and additional support to make progress in their learning and development.

*‘The greater the number of risks experienced by the child, the greater the problems that the child will face during the lifecourse.’*

(Sabates & Dex, 2012, Multiple risk factors in young children’s development)

### Documents:

There are different variations of this document, please use the one most relevant and useful to your setting (all available using [this link](#)):

- Guidance notes for cohort progress overview
- Setting cohort progress overview (Word.doc)
- Setting cohort progress overview (Excel.doc)
- Setting cohort progress overview with early language monitoring (Word.doc)
- Setting cohort progress overview with early language monitoring (Excel.doc)
- School cohort progress overview (Word.doc)
- School cohort progress overview (Excel.doc)

We hope you find these resources useful.

Julie Eden  
Early Years Adviser

### Letters and Sounds: Phase 1 – Wednesday 17th October 2018 - 9.30am – 12.00pm at Keynsham Community Space

- Increase your knowledge about how to support pre-school children to develop their listening and attention skills and learn their sounds.
- Explore songs and activities that help children tune into different sounds in the world around them and in the words they hear
- Consider how to plan for the development of these skills.

**Book your place:** <http://thehub.bathnes.gov.uk/Event/74715>

### Phonics in Action in the EYFS - Tuesday 23rd October 2018 - 8.45am - 11.30am - St Andrews Primary School, Northampton Street, Bath

- Observe how an adult-led class phonics session supports children to practise familiar phonic skills and learn new ones.
- Observe how the children engage with their environment and the stimulating resources available to embed their developing phonic knowledge.
- Ask questions and share ideas in a small group facilitated by an experienced Lead Early Years Practitioner

**Book your place:** <http://thehub.bathnes.gov.uk/Event/75764>

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### Training

<http://thehub.bathnes.gov.uk>

### Documents

Safeguarding and Welfare Audits for [group-based settings](#) and [childminders](#)

### Resources

[Quest](#)

[Toddler Quality Toolkit](#)

[Baby Quality Toolkit](#)

### Ofsted Resources

[Unknown Children - Destined for disadvantage? 2016](#)

[Teaching and Play in the Early Years – a balancing act 2015](#)

[Are you ready? Good practice in school readiness 2014](#)

[Bold Beginnings: The reception Curriculum in a selection of Good and Outstanding primary schools 2017](#)

### Contact Us

[Early\\_years@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Early_years@bathnes.gov.uk)

Tel: 05 394042

**Last chance to attend: Wellbeing and Involvement in Action: Understanding and Using the Leuven Scales** – New date.  
October 24<sup>th</sup> - 4.45-6.30pm in Keynsham Civic Centre

- Have you ever wondered how to use the Leuven scales in your setting?
- Are you looking for a simple scale to help you assess childrens' well being and involvement levels?

If so, then this course is for you. This course is open to any early years providers (2 practitioners from each setting) and involves a training session, one visit using the Leuven scales with you in your setting and one cluster. Childminders will meet as a group in lieu of the individual setting visits. For more information and booking via the hub or contact

[Donna\\_Biddlecombe@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Donna_Biddlecombe@bathnes.gov.uk)

**Having offered this essential course for several years we will be moving our focus to other priorities over the next couple of years so please take up this last opportunity if you can.**

**Home Visiting Funding and Toolkit** - any early years setting can apply for the funding to support a home visit for a child in receipt of 2 year funding. Please [see flyer](#) for more details. All you need to do is apply for the funding and complete a short evaluation sheet and you will receive **£40**. If you would like advice and support to explore the benefits and challenges of implementing a home visiting programme, please contact Julie Adams Home visiting sector lead by email

[Julie\\_Adams@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Julie_Adams@bathnes.gov.uk)

A [guidance pack](#) has also been developed to support early years settings with planning home visits so that they will have maximum benefit to the setting, the children and families. It can be purchased for £25.

**Public Health Programmes for Schools and Early Years settings** - the Public Health Programme is the health and wellbeing programme for Early Years settings, schools and FE Colleges in Bath and North East Somerset. It is the next step forward in the promotion of healthier lives for children and young people from 0 - 19. The programme supports educational settings to deliver health and wellbeing outcomes. It enables them to identify and tackle health issues, inequalities and 'close the gap' in their own communities. For further information [see here](#).

**The 2018 Autumn Summit: Leading Practitioners, Leading Practice** 22nd October to 28th October 2018 – free to join  
<https://www.earlyyearssummit.com/>

**What's On in Children Centres** – the latest timetables are available on our [website](#)

**Don't forget to make use of our two in-house resources:** [1BD Bathnes](#) and [Rainbow Resource](#). Both contain a wealth of useful information for children, young people, families, carers and professionals; Rainbow Resource is specifically for families with a child/young person with SEND. Both sites have packed events calendars with activities, baby/toddler groups and much more. Parents/carers of a child or young person with a special educational need and/or disability can apply for a free card which then entitles them to discounted admission or concession and the card can be used at many attractions and venues across the South West. More information can be found at <https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/home/rainbow-resource-scheme>

**Your new Rainbow Resource is here** *The redesigned site is now live!*

Rainbow Resource has been a popular and well-used resource for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their families for several years. Following consultation with parent carers and other stakeholders, a decision was made to redesign the site to make it even better. For full information please [see flyer](#)

There is also a popular Family Information online [Facebook](#) page