

# EYC News Round-up - January 2019

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## Early years and childcare news round-up



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Issue 44 - January 2019

### National News

#### DfE Childcare Survey 2018

The Department for Education has also published the results of its [childcare survey](#) undertaken in January- August 2018.

The introduction of tax-free childcare has made minimal difference to parental perceptions of affordability. The percentage of parents who do **NOT** see childcare as “very” or “fairly” affordable has reduced from 61% to 59%, with the percentage saying it is easy to meet their costs static at 52%. This is in the context of a 4% reduction in the usage of formal childcare, largely in the out of school sector.

#### Children 'exceed recommended sugar limit by age 10'

According to Public Health England (PHE), children in the UK exceed the maximum recommended sugar intake for an 18-year-old by the time they are 10. This information is based on their total sugar consumption from the age of two. Children consume much more than they should, around eight excess sugar cubes a day or 2,800 excess cubes per year. PHE said 'a pudding tax' could be considered if companies fail to reduce the amount of sugar in their products. Excess sugar consumption leads to various health issues such as obesity, tooth decay and other illnesses.

More information on BBC website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-46720303>.

#### Education inspection framework 2019

Ofsted seeks your on proposals for changes to the education inspection framework from September 2019. The consultation is open until 11.45pm on 5 April 2019. [Read more on the gov.uk website](#).

#### The health impacts of screen time

**A guide for clinicians and parents.** Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has produced a guide, providing a summary of existing research on the health effects of screen time on children and young people. It outlines recommendations for health professionals and families on screen time use.

The guidance can be found on RCPCH website: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/health-impacts-screen-time-guide-clinicians-parents>.

#### Button batteries - accidents can be prevented

**Guidance from Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT).** Button batteries, especially big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, can badly injure or kill a child if they are swallowed and get stuck in the

throat or gullet. CAPT has produced useful guidance for practitioners regarding small batteries. [The guidance can be found on CAPT website.](#) CAPT also signposts to [European Portable Battery Association website](#) for more information.

## Home Learning Environment

The Department for Education (DFE) and the National Literacy Trust have recently published an important document as part of their 10-year approach to halve the percentage of children who do not achieve expected levels in communication, language and literacy at the end of their Reception year.

***Improving the home learning environment – A behaviour change approach*** outlines the importance of this area for children's outcomes, and explains how a range of people, including early years settings, can influence change to benefit children.

## Mixing with older people can boost a child's skills

A report by think-tank United for All Ages says twinning nurseries with care homes for the elderly would boost children's literacy skills. It is calling for every childcare provider and school to build links with older people.

United for All Ages, [Mixing Matters](#)

## Local News

### Termly 'Playwork – Beyond Quality Framework' Meeting

**Please note: This session is aimed at Cambridge City and South Cambs area settings only.**

This session is for playleaders, playworkers, committee members and owners. The evening will focus on the unique support needs of out of school clubs and holiday schemes and encourage networking with other local settings.

### Date and venue

Cambridge Kids Club, Meridian Primary School, Harbour Avenue, Comberton, Cambridge CB23 7DD

Tuesday 5 March 2019

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Parking is available on site. Please go through the school

**Places are limited - book your place via <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years-workforce-development-and-training-1/>.**

## Fees and wage survey 2018 results

Thank you for everyone that responded to the fees and wages survey in the autumn term. We have now collated the responses and will publicise the responses on Learn Together website during spring 2019. In the Summer 2019 Jigsaw there will also be an article on the results. Watch this space for more information.

## Promotion of 'funded 2s'

Over the course of the year we have all been working hard to promote the free 15 hours early learning and childcare for two-year-olds, encouraging families who are potentially eligible to apply at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s) This is currently done through various social media campaigns and writing directly to families who may be eligible.

We are looking for the support of settings / providers to help us advertise the 'funded 2s' entitlement on your websites / facebook pages. It would be great to encourage families, to check if they are entitled to free 15 hours early learning and childcare.

- If your child has just turned two, you may be entitled to free early learning and childcare for the next school term. For more information on the scheme and eligibility criteria click here:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s)

- Have you just celebrated your child's 2nd birthday? You could be entitled to 570 hours a year of free early learning and childcare - available until they reach compulsory school age. For information about the scheme and eligibility criteria visit our website: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s)

## **CASEY – current assessments**

Thanks to all those who are using the system this year. You can still enter assessments for the Autumn term – don't forget to put in the actual assessment date, as this affects the colour coding on the screen.

## **CASEY – new functionality**

For CASEY users wanting to extract data into a spreadsheet, there is a new tool which creates the colour coding as shown within the system.

We are also seeking volunteers to trial the **brand new skills and workforce screens** within CASEY, starting later this term. Please contact us to access the tool or trial the new screens at [CASEY.earlyyears@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:CASEY.earlyyears@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## **Safeguarding Board Training Programme 2019**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults and Children Board training brochure for 2019, which is now available online. You can access it via: <http://www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

## **New Partnership Mark coming soon**

Providers in selected "hot spot" areas where childcare places are limited will be invited to join in a new initiative, to improve options for parents through better local information, and partnership working between providers.

Providers who share information with the local authority and engage with other local providers through a special workshop can be among the first recipients of the Council's Partnership Mark for Meeting Childcare Need. This will include a logo to add to marketing materials, and a certificate to display. The first activity is scheduled to be in Cambourne, St Neots and Ely later this term. Providers' details will also be published in a local childcare supplement to be issued to local families.

## ***Cambridgeshire Priority: Developing Communication, Language and Literacy***

## **Talking Together in Cambridgeshire - Childminding Champions!**

We are delighted to share the news that we have recently recruited our first two Childminder Champions. Tracy Loughlin and Michaela Wilson have very kindly volunteered to support our project work in Wisbech and Huntingdon respectively.

Tracy and Michaela will be sharing Talking Together in Cambridgeshire project messages with other childminders from each of the towns and with parents of the children they care for. We are really excited about this new piece of project work and look forward to working with Tracy and Michaela in the months ahead.

If you are a childminder in the Talking Together in Cambridgeshire project reach area and you're interested in becoming a Childminder Champion then please do email us at [community.literacy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:community.literacy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## **Reminder: Free Speech and Language Training awareness sessions**

We would like to inform you about further Speech and Language Therapy Training (SALT) available

in various locations in Cambridgeshire in 2019. As advertised in the November 2018 EYC News Round-up, these 2.5-hour sessions are **free** to attend, and there are several dates and times available.

You can find flyers with more information and booking instructions via the following link, under heading 'Further information': <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/send/send/>. The training session will be open to all SENCOs as the session contains vital information about significant changes in the way settings make referrals the SALT Team.

## ***Cambridgeshire Priority: Accelerating Achievement***

### **Cambridgeshire EYFS outcomes 2018**

The Early Years Service has produced a document summarising children's assessed levels of development across the county. This shows results for

- children who reached the end of Reception last summer (end of Early Years Foundation Stage), and
- children in the first term of Reception this year

Look out for a separate email with the outcomes information – we hope this will prove useful in discussions with your staff teams about children's development.

## **Excellence in Induction – have you got it?**

The Early Years Service will shortly be seeking provider nominations for a special award to celebrate excellence in induction. If you think your process is "the bee's knees", you will be able to put yourself forward to win a year's free membership or a membership "bundle" in 2019-2020. More details coming soon!

## ***Cambridgeshire Priority: Workforce recruitment and retention***

### **Early Years Conference 2019 - our biggest conversation!**

### **Let's Talk... Narrowing the word gap in the early years**

Our 2019 conference will focus on enriching children's communication language and literacy to enhance approaches for teachers and practitioners to underpin their future success across the Early Learning Goals.

### **Listen to national speakers in your local area!**

Our keynote speakers Di Chilvers and Kathy Sylva will deliver their keynotes focusing on their expertise and interest in the field of children's communication, language and literacy.

More information and to book your place, visit our conference page <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/conferences-and-events/early-years-conference/>.

## **Vacancy survey**

Thanks to the hundreds of providers who responded to our staff vacancy survey before Christmas. There will be more information to come, but in summary:

- 210 childcare providers responded (119 childminders and 91 settings)
- Of those, 72 had vacancies (71% of settings and 6% of childminders)
- 38% of settings with vacancies had more than one job role available at the time of the survey
- The most common vacancy was for a Practitioner (level 3), with 40 out of 72 (56% of settings with vacancies, Assistant (16 out of 72) and Room Leader (11 out of 72)
- 28% of providers with vacancies have been trying to recruit to at least one role for more than 6 months.

This information will feed into our work on tackling the recruitment challenges for the sector. Thanks again for contributing.

## **Masterclasses – Book onto our ever popular Spring Masterclasses NOW!**

Coming up this term ...

### **Supporting gifting and talented children**

This course will be of interest to practitioners working with children who are capable of high achievement in one or more areas of the EYFS. It explores the elements and themes involved when working with this cohort of children.

### **Supporting children’s development of self-regulation - Dr David Whitebread**

Friday 8 February 2019

**The aims of the session**

- understand the concept of self-regulation
- be aware of its importance of self-regulation in children's development, and some of the evidence supporting this
- be aware of the role of play and language development in supporting self-regulation in young children
- develop insights into the implications of research into self-regulation for practice in early childhood education

### **How not to hit your thumb with a hammer**

Friday 15 March 2019

**Meynell Walter, international playwork trainer and lecturer - Playwork masterclass**

From hammering nails to two storey pallet construction this masterclass will introduce and take you through the joy of offering children the opportunity to engage in their play with real tools. We will look at the issues of risk and challenge and study the benefits of hammers, saws, drills and the correct use of nails and bolts.

For more information on our Masterclasses, please visit <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/conferences-and-events/early-years-masterclasses/>.

## ***Cambridgeshire Priority: Partnership Working***

### **ChatHealth Cambridgeshire**

**ChatHealth is live and available for all young people aged 13-19 in Cambridgeshire**

The Cambridgeshire school nursing team has successfully implemented ChatHealth, a confidential text messaging service for young people aged 13-19. The new platform provides an alternative way for young people to engage with school nurses on topics including relationship advice, healthy eating, smoking cessation, bullying and exam stress.

From 9.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday, ChatHealth has experienced clinicians online waiting to answer and deal with any messages from young people. To access the service, all users need to do is **TEXT 07480 635 443** to start a conversation. This injection of digital technology will help the service be more responsive to the needs of young people living in Cambridgeshire.

To help explain ChatHealth in more detail a short animation is available on YouTube – search for: “**chathealth cambs**” or you can use this link: [bit.ly/chathealth-cambs](http://bit.ly/chathealth-cambs)

If parents would like to know more about ChatHealth or have any questions, please contact the school nursing duty desk on: 0300 029 50 50.

