



Early Years and Childcare Training Newsletter



February 2021

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us with the online virtual training offer since June 2020 and for the feedback we have received:

"I appreciate the effort you have gone through to still provide training for us under the current life situation."

"Great relief to know training is still available for us all during this time."

Despite the very challenging times you have found yourselves in as early years practitioners, you continue to have a thirst for training, and this is a reflection of your dedication as a workforce.

Since 10 June 2020, when we delivered our very first virtual webinar event, our programme has expanded, we now have 28 virtual training events for you to choose from. These include webinars, virtual classroom events, virtual in setting events and forums. Between 10 June 2020 and 30 January 2021, we have:

- Delivered 136 virtual events.
- Had a total attendance of 1187 practitioners at these events.
- Delivered the NASEN L3 SENCo qualification to 24 practitioners.

Many of you have embraced the new virtual training and find it easier to access as it avoids travel to venues and uses less of your valuable time. Typically, we are seeing this reflected in your evaluation comments:

"I feel this is a positive way of moving forward using Microsoft teams when we can't do face to face. I prefer being able to sit in the work environment and take part."

"I am really enjoying the ability to attend more training courses through virtual portals. It is much more cost-effective and allows staff to be able to complete the training at times that suit them."

"I liked it because I could access the training from my home and not have to drive to a venue."

"It was my first experience of a virtual course and I was really pleasantly surprised. I thought it worked really well and would definitely consider another one."

You have also expressed your views on the administration and the use of Teams for our virtual events. So, for those of you who have not experienced a virtual training event before, please be reassured by other practitioners' experiences.

"Clear, simple and easy - perfect!!"

"All good - found the information on how to use "TEAMS" comprehensive and user friendly."

"The guidance on how to access the webinar was helpful for a complete novice like myself."

We have also received comments from you requesting that training be continued virtually in the future. Therefore, we are planning to use a blended approach of both virtual and face-to-face events when the current restrictions are lifted.

"I quite like doing the virtual meetings. Maybe it could be the way forward, post virus?"



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“Am finding these teams training sessions really helpful. It's not always easy to take time to attend a face-to-face training session but having these training sessions whilst I am working is very beneficial. Please can we continue to have some of the training delivered in this way, post COVID?”

Using Microsoft Teams

As we have become better at using the Microsoft Teams software, we have identified some ways in which you may improve your training experience and limit some of the technical issues:

- Ensure that you upload updates on your laptop regularly so that you have the most up to date versions of software available.
- If possible, plug your laptop directly into your broadband source, using an ethernet cable, rather than relying on the wi-fi signal.
- Close any other 'apps' that may be running on your laptop, such as Facebook or Instagram, which use a considerable amount of data and may prevent MS Teams running effectively.

CPD Payment for List of Providers (LoP) members

We have been looking at the budget and the activities we planned for this year. We made changes because of the pandemic and have not spent all the money we had planned to use for hiring venues or external trainers. We will be passing this money to you in the form of a one-off payment. All childminders who are members of the LoP will receive a payment of £25 and all group settings who are members of the LoP will receive a payment of £100. The payments will be made before the end of the financial year (end of March 2021) and will be appear as an 'additional special grant' on your remittance.

You know what the CPD needs of your setting are and it is for you to decide how to use the money. It could be, for example, that you decide to put it towards books, an on-line magazine subscription or purchasing some training. You will also be thinking about your CPD needs in light of the revised EYFS.

Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/2019/10/eyfsreforms/>

This will come into place for every setting from September 2021. The government has said they will provide some resources for Local Authorities to use to help providers prepare. We think these will be available to us in March and anticipate that they will be in the form of Power Point presentations and video clips. Once we have these, we will plan some CPD sessions for you. The most important thing to remember is that a good understanding of child development is essential so that you can plan an exciting and stimulating curriculum for your children. The non-statutory revised Development Matters may help you with this. Find out about that here <http://development-matters.org.uk/>. There is also a vodcast with the author Dr Julian Grenier which we found interesting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMKNvRaVCuE>

All our courses will help you to build on your knowledge of child development. Also remember, the revised EYFS gives you an opportunity to build on what you already do well. Take your time to get to know the document and make any changes you need to gradually from September.



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Useful links:

Suffolk CPDonline: www.suffolkcpdonline.co.uk

Training & qualifications:

<https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/training-and-qualifications>

EYC WFD Course poster and costs:

<https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/training-and-qualifications>

EYC WFD mailbox: EYC.WFD@suffolk.gov.uk