

Early Years Cluster Meeting

Spring Term 2024



Slough Safeguarding Partnership Updates 2024

Working together to safeguard Children 2023

Document updates published December 2023

Section 1: Early help - Identifying children and families who would benefit from help

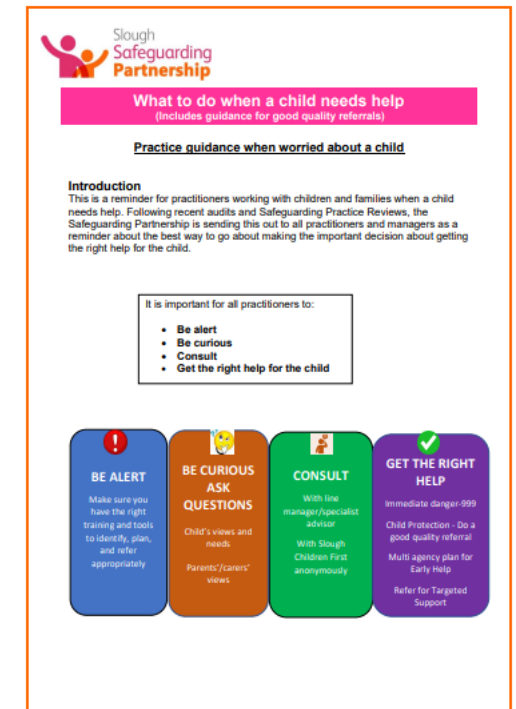
- The role of education and childcare settings
- Effective assessment of the need for early help
- Provision of effective services to help families

What to do when a child need help

Practice guidance when worried about a child

This is a reminder for practitioners working with children and families when a child needs help. Following recent audits and Safeguarding Practice Reviews, the Safeguarding Partnership is sending this out to all practitioners and managers as a reminder about the best way to go about making the important decision about getting the right help for the child.

[Slough Safeguarding Children Partnership - When a child needs help](https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk)
([sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk](https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk))



Family Information Service (FIS) - Provider Information

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Slough Information and Services Guide. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'SPEAK' button, the title 'Slough Information and Services Guide', and links for 'Accessibility', 'Select Language', 'Register', and 'Add/update listing'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Parents & carers', 'Children & young people', 'Professionals', 'SEND Local Offer', 'Communities', 'What's on', and 'Feedback'. A search bar is located below the navigation, with fields for 'Keywords' and 'Location', and a 'My shortlist' button. The main content area features six large, colorful icons representing different user groups: 'Parents & carers' (purple), 'Children & young people' (green), 'Professionals' (pink), 'SEND Local Offer' (blue), 'Communities' (light purple), and 'What's on' (yellow). To the right of these icons is a large photograph of a diverse family smiling. A vertical feedback bar is positioned to the right of the photo, containing three colored circles: green (happy), yellow (neutral), and red (sad). At the bottom left, a URL is visible: <https://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk/kb5/sloughcst/directory/youth.page?youthchannel=0>.

Please keep your setting details and vacancies information up-to-date

Each setting has an account which can be easily accessed by clicking the Add/update listing

FIS will be using a number of different methods to prompt you, including

- Text message for mobile phones
- Email
- Automated Message for Landlines

New Entitlements – April 2024

During Spring Budget on 15 March 2023, it was announced that there would be an expansion of ‘free childcare’ for **working parents** in England, extending the existing scheme.

Graduated Approach

- From April 2024, 2 year olds will receive 15 hours of free childcare
- From September 2024, this will be extended to children from 9 months
- From September 2025, the 15 hours will increase to 30 hours

Wraparound Care

The government is investing £289m over two academic years, from September 2024, to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision. This is the first step in the government’s ambition for all parents of primary school children who need it to access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm.

Danielle Mercer - Senior Early Years and Childcare Market Management Officer

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Mobile: 077709 36674

National Updates

Changes to the **EYFS Statutory Framework**
[Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-foundational-stage-eyfs-statutory-framework)

Changes to **Ofsted Inspection Handbook**
[updated EY inspection handbook](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/school-inspection-handbook)
[School inspection handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/school-inspection-handbook)

EYFS Profile – updates November 2023 & January 2024
[The most recent update](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/eyfs-profile-2024)
[EYFS Profile 2024 handbook](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/eyfs-profile-2024)

Start for Life - new campaign

[Little Moments Together](#)

Early learning and development

90% of your child's brain growth happens before the age of 5. Right from the start, all those little moments you spend together with your child are building their brain.

Every smile, cuddle, chat and game makes a huge difference, helping them learn to communicate, develop confidence and make friends.

Find lots of ideas, easy tips and activities you can do together with your child.

Learning to talk



Advice & activity ideas for families to use at home – focus on early communication and language development

[HOME | Supervised Toothbrushing Toolkit](#)

Local Updates – website refresh

Google Translated into: Polish Show original Options

MÓWIĆ Przewodnik po informacjach i usługach w Slough Dostępność Polish Rejestr Dodaj/zaktualizuj wpis

Dom Rodzice / opiekunowie Dzieci i młodzież Profesjonaliści WYŚLIJ ofertę lokalną Społeczności Co się dzieje Informacja zwrotna

Słowa kluczowe Lokalizacja Pomoc w wyszukiwaniu Moja krótka lista 0

Dom / Oferta lokalna dla osób ze specjalnymi potrzebami edukacyjnymi i niepełnosprawnością w Slough (WYŚLIJ).

Oferta lokalna dla osób ze specjalnymi potrzebami edukacyjnymi i niepełnosprawnością w Slough (WYŚLIJ).

- Rodzice i opiekunowie
- Dzieci i młodzież
- Dla profesjonalistów

Listy usług

Slough SEND Local Offer with Special Voices

Watch on YouTube

If it is hard to get on the web there are other ways to get the information, you can connect at the library, or speak to people at nursery, school or college. If you are a young person you can speak to a youth advisor.

[WYŚLIJ ofertę lokalną z głosami specjalnymi](#)

Witamy w Slough WYŚLIJ ofertę lokalną

[Slough Information and Services Guide | Slough Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Local Offer \(sloughfamilyservices.org.uk\)](#)

Introducing the new **Early Years Speech and Language Enquiries line!**

We're really excited to announce that there will be some changes to the Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service. Please do pass this information on to anyone you think would need to know this.

Let's talk! The Early Years Speech and Language Therapy service in Berkshire is changing. We are adapting the way we work so that, if a family has a Berkshire GP, they can call us and speak to a Speech and Language Therapist to discuss any concerns about their preschooler's communication. This phone line is also for practitioners who would like to discuss communication concerns. Our phone lines will be open from 9:00-15:30 on a Tuesday and Thursday, starting Tuesday 9th January 2024. Many issues can be helped by talking, so let's talk!

In preparation for this change, as of 22nd December 2023 the online referral form will no longer be needed to access Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service. Please do not complete a referral form. Instead we encourage you to contact our enquiries line to discuss your concerns with a Speech and Language Therapist when the lines open from the 9th January 2024.

NB: The referral method for eating and drinking concerns for children with complex needs remains the same.

As ever, if families/others are concerned about a child's communication, there are resources which are consistently available and should be used as a first port of call:

The Early Years online language development workshops. Three workshops are currently available with more to be added. These are run live, online by Speech and Language Therapists to provide families/ practitioners with everyday strategies they can use. There is also an interactive question and answer session. More information about these can be found under the "Early Language Development Online Workshops" Tab here:

[Speech and Language Therapy | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)

berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

Online Advice Pages. Here you will find all sorts of advice on many different issues that might affect your child's communication.

[Health and Development | Children Young People and Families Online Resource \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](#)

Concerned about a child's communication skills?

How can I help my child learn more words?

How can I help them listen to me?

How can I help them play with me?

Am I doing this right?



Call our Enquiries Line to get advice from a Speech and Language Therapist:

0118 904 3700

Lines are open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 3.30pm.

Available for parents/carers of children aged 0-5 years with a Berkshire GP.

Please see link to the updated **Early Years Information Pack** from the Speech and Language Team

This pack contains advice and strategies on a range of topics, and is specifically for early years setting staff, including childminders, to use and refer to in order to support them and the young people attending their settings. Due to its content level, it is not intended to be shared directly with parents. Instead, our next project will be looking into converting these into parent friendly handouts that will be added to our website. More to come on this in due course!

[early-years-information-pack-edition-2.pdf](http://berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/early-years-information-pack-edition-2.pdf)
berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

Contents

- Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Developmental Norms.....
- Building Communication
- Bilingualism.....
- Communication Friendly Environments.....
- Creating Opportunities to Communicate.....
- Screen Time
- Attention and Listening.....
- Receptive Language
- Blank's Levels of Questioning
- Expressive Language.....
- Building Vocabulary
- Colourful Semantics.....
- Word Finding Difficulties
- Echolalia
- Unclear Speech
- Social Communication
- Play.....
- Books and Reading.....
- Stammering
- Special Time
- Speech Anxiety
- Voice.....
- Glue Ear.....
- Dump the Dummy
- Managing Dribbling
- Feeding.....
- Using Visuals to Support Communication
- Key Word Signing
- Intensive Interaction.....
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS).....
- Communication Boards.....
- Appendices

The cover features the NHS Berkshire Healthcare logo at the top right. The title is centered: 'Child and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT)' in green, followed by 'Early Years Speech and Language Therapy' in large blue font. Below the title is a blue circle with a white lowercase 'i' and a green shadow. At the bottom, it says 'Information Pack for Early Years Settings' in blue and '2nd Edition' in green.

Updates & developments

Project has:

- 32 LAs
- 10677 learners
- 7888 completed courses



• First 5 Courses currently available

- Introduction to Inclusive Practice
 - Early Years SEND Transition
 - Behaviours that Challenge
 - Having Difficult Conversations with Families
 - The Voice of the Child
- 2 more coming this year including

Free to all Slough EY practitioners. Sign up from link below

Remember each course would usually cost £50pp

• Scores on the doors for Slough!!!!

Courses	Numbers signed up	Numbers completed
Introduction to Inclusive practice	324	105
Supporting transitions	324	90
Behaviours that challenge	324	80
Having difficult conversations	324	45
Voice of the child	324	10

Dingley's Promise

Congratulations

*Darul Madinah Nursery
Monksfield Way Children's Centre
Yew Tree Road Children's Centre*

Mark of Achievement

33 MoA awarded across the 32 LAs taking part.

Successful settings get:

- *Certificate*
- *Window sticker to display at your setting*
- *Notepads & pens*

Please check your setting name is the same for all your practitioners that sign up!! We can send you information on how to make changes



DINGLEY'S PROMISE
MARK OF ACHIEVEMENT



Settings can now achieve their very own **Mark of Achievement** to reflect their passion and commitment to inclusive practice in the early years. Our training has been specifically designed to provide practical skills and knowledge to help practitioners support the growing numbers of children with SEND. With the Mark of Achievement, your setting is recognised for embracing the training within your teams and as such the dedication to transforming the lives of children with SEND through inclusive practice.



"The training is great and packed with knowledge and straight forward practical skills to use immediately."

Dingley's Promise Training learner

Sign up to our Mark of Achievement and see first hand the impact a setting wide commitment to inclusive practice can have on you and the children in your care.

For more info visit
dingley.org.uk/dingleys-promise-training

To qualify for the Dingley's Promise Training Mark of Achievement you must meet the following criteria:

- Settings with 4 practitioners or more: 75% will have undertaken the inclusive practice course along with 2 additional courses of their choice
- Settings with less than 4 practitioners (eg childminders): The lead practitioner will have completed the inclusive practice course and 2 additional courses of their choice

When your setting has achieved the above, please notify our training team via email on training@dingley.org.uk

Once the course completions are verified you will receive a certificate, a window sticker to display in your setting and Dingley's Promise notepads and pens to celebrate your achievement

Training & CPD

- I Talk Network - Tuesday 27th February 1 - 2:30pm (online)
- Five to Thrive; Attachment & trauma informed practice & resilience - delivered over 3 sessions
Thursday 29th February, 7th & 14th March and 3:30 – 5:00pm (online)
- PVI SEND Network – Wednesday 28th February 6:30-8:30pm. (Face to Face)
- Promoting Good Oral Health in Children – Monday 4th March 6:30 – 8:00pm (online)
- First Aid Training: 12 hours Paediatric - various blended & face to face options March 2024
- Stories and storytelling 6th March 1:00 - 2:30pm or 6:30pm – 8:00pm (online)
- Supporting EAL in the early years 7th February 1:00pm - 2:30pm or 6:30pm – 8:00pm (online)
- AET EY Making Sense of Autism - 13th March 6:30-8pm (online)
- AET Making Sense of Autism – send booking request form to AETbooking@slough.gov.uk

Reminder to sign up to The Link to access information updates and book training

- [Homepage | The Link \(slough.gov.uk\)](https://www.slough.gov.uk)
- [Early Years | The Link \(slough.gov.uk\)](https://www.slough.gov.uk)
- [Events & Training | The Link \(slough.gov.uk\)](https://www.slough.gov.uk)

- NPQ EYL [National Professional Qualification for Early Years | Best Practice Network](https://www.slough.gov.uk)
- L3 SENDCO - [Early Years SENCO - Level 3 | Best Practice Network](https://www.slough.gov.uk)

PDP3: How will this benefit our setting/team/children and families?

Funded by
Department
for Education

Education
Development
Trust



COHORT 3 STARTING JANUARY 2024

- A comprehensive package of professional development that is based on current early years pedagogy. An opportunity to build upon your skills and knowledge with peers and expert trainers.
- Support to engage with parents and carers to support the home learning environment.
- The skills to identify children at risk of speech, language and communication needs.
- An understanding of the theory of child development in Early Mathematics, developed by subject experts.
- The skills to support children's self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviours, and making relationships through expertly developed PSED training.
- An OCN London-endorsed CPD certificate on completion of the programme.

The training is funded by the DfE and in addition settings that have practitioners that complete the PDP3 receive back fill payment equivalent to £80 per day for a maximum of 10 days per practitioner, up to a total £800

[Early Years Professional Development Programme – Currently registering interest for January 2024 starts \(earlyyearsdpdp.com\)](http://earlyyearsdpdp.com)

Last chance to sign up Cohort 4 summer 2024 start

PDP3: What is the eligibility criteria?



Funded by

Department
for Education

Early Years
Professional Development Programme

**Government funded
CPD for Early Years
Practitioners**

- Communication & Language
- Early Mathematics
- Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Early Years
Professional Development Programme

Delivered by
 Education
Development
Trust

In partnership with
 **Speech and
Language UK**
Changing young lives.

 **Anna Freud**
building the mental
wellbeing of the
next generation

Eligible settings offer childcare to children between 2 and 4 years of age and meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Provide to at least one child with an EHC Plan or Disability Access Fund indicator
- Provide to at least one child in receipt of EYPP
- Provide to at least one disadvantaged two-year-old
- Local intelligence suggests disadvantaged children would benefit from their practitioners receiving additional CPD support

Additionally, participating practitioners must:

- Be qualified to at least level 3
- Be currently working with 2-4 year olds (e.g. a manager who does not spend any time with the children is not eligible)
- Not have completed a previous version of the early years professional development programme delivered by Education Development Trust

[Early Years Professional Development Programme – Currently registering interest for January 2024 starts \(earlyyearsdpdp.com\)](http://earlyyearsdpdp.com)

PDP3: want to find out more?

Next week we'll be joined by programme trainers from Speech and Language UK to deliver 2x Discovery Webinars. If you're interested in learning more about Cohort 4 of the Early Years Professional Development Programme then join us!

Register here:

<https://earlyyearsdpd.com/join-our-webinars/>

[#EYPDP](#) [#EarlyYears](#) [#EarlyYearsPractitioner](#)
[#EarlyYearsEducation](#) [#EarlyYearsCPD](#) [#CPD](#)
[#EarlyYearsTraining](#)

DISCOVERY WEBINARS



Tuesday 6th February
1.30pm



Wednesday 7th February
6pm

Join us to find out about
the government-funded
Early Years Professional
Development
Programme

Everyone welcome!



DfE expert and mentor programme



Applying for support from the Early Years Experts and Mentors programme

Last chance to sign up Cohort 4 summer 2024 start

AOB & questions

Dates for the diary:

Summer EY Cluster Meeting Monday 20th 2024: Face to face – venue to be confirmed

Contacting the EY team

- General enquiries, training – requests, bookings, issues earlyyears@slough.gov.uk
- EY SEND, EYIG, EYIF applications – eyinclusion@slough.gov.uk

Please sign up to thelink@slough.gov.uk for weekly updates, bookings, shared resources