

Childcare Network Newsletter May 2025

Flying Start Expansion

This year an additional 125 children will be invited to take up their Flying Start Childcare offer of 2.5 hour sessions, Mon – Fri, for 39 weeks of the year. Welsh Government aim to roll this out to all 2 year old children across Wales. We will shortly be writing out to families living in the new areas to invite them to apply. Torfaen are also hosting events this week at existing Flying Start childcare settings for settings to visit and discuss Flying Start openly with settings already benefiting from offering Flying Start. If you miss these days and would like to know more about providing Flying Start, please do get in touch.



You are living in a Flying Start area. If you have a 2 year old child, check your eligibility and apply now for funded childcare.



01495 742943
torfaenfis.org.uk/fs-childcare



Torfaen
Family Information Service
Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth I Deuluoedd

TorfaenEarlyYears 
EarlyYearsTorfaen 

Childminding Week Event

Earlier this month and in celebration of childminding week, we held a successful event with Torfaen Play at Cwmbran Stadium. Lots of families attended and we were able to speak with prospective childminders.

It was great to see some of our registered childminders and the children they care for too.

We hope you had a nice time.



The Childcare Offer for Wales

Messages to parents and providers have been sent from the Childcare Offer team this month during the transition from Government Gateway to GOV.UK One Login.

We have received an increase in enquiries from parents starting their childcare place before their eligibility has been accepted and their agreement with their childcare provider has been completed.

Please can you continue to advise parents about the application process to ensure there are no additional costs to families attending.

As Whitsun half term is coming, please make sure the Agreements you have with parents cover holiday hours if they are using the Offer in the holidays.

More information available here:

[Providers manage agreements for the Childcare Offer for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

[Providers claim a payment from the Childcare Offer for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

For help and advice contact our national helpline on 03000 628 628



Funding and training Opportunities:

Creating an inspiring baby room.

Community Play Things are offering a free online course with Dr Mona Sakr: Creating an Inspiring Baby Room Environment.

The course explores how the environment can support babies' development, drawing on Reggio Emilia principles. It includes practical steps to help you make simple improvements to your baby room.

It's CPD accredited, and you'll receive a downloadable certificate when you complete it.

[Start the course here](#)

Third Sector Grants from TVA

TVA, in partnership with GAVO & Gwent Regional Partnership are proud to announce that the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) is open for applications in Torfaen!

If you want to get your hands on an application form or would like further details, get in touch now!

Deadline - has been extended to 2nd June 2025! Download the flyer [here](#).

Prevent Duty Training

Prevent training can be accessed online via <https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/>

State of the Childcare Sector Survey - Deadline 2nd June 2025



We will be closing our survey on 2nd June in preparation for the Annual CSA Progress Report. The information you provide us will help us shape an overview on the main issues childcare practitioners might be facing in the next 12 months.

Please submit your answers through our short survey here.

<https://forms.office.com/e/sWApn70JAZ>

Many thanks to those who have already completed the survey.

Vacancies in Childcare

Please let us know of your vacancies so we can share on social media and add to our website. Tag us or email directly to fis@torfaen.gov.uk

Links and Resources

The Lullaby Trust

The Lullaby Trust exists to keep babies safe and to keep grieving families supported. We do this by funding life-saving research, empowering families with expert baby safety advice and supporting grieving families through their darkest days. Lots of information can be found on their website <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/>

Top Tips for Potty Training

<https://www.gov.wales/parenting-give-it-time/guidance-and-advice/tricky-moments-and-behaviours/toilet-or-potty-training>

Good News Story

Thank you to Little Chums for sharing this feedback following their Maths training with the Early Years team .



Court Farm, Usk Road, Llanvihangel Pontymoile, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 0JB • Tel: 01495 767878 • Email: enquiries@littlechums.co.uk

A solid foundation in mathematics is not just about numbers and shapes; it's a cornerstone of critical thinking, problem-solving and innovation. Starting by counting to five as a child to understanding complex concepts as an adult, mathematical skills saturate every aspect of our lives. Having a strong mathematical base starts in early life enables all to have enhanced problem solving abilities and improved critical thinking.

At Little Chums we believe in mathematics being embedded everywhere and in all activities, both directly and discretely. From counting blocks to understanding patterns, early maths experiences lay the groundwork for lifelong learning and success.

After a good experience at Little Chums when Torfaen provided for us, on-site, in-depth and effective ALN training, when then given the opportunity to attend new maths training also provided by Torfaen and their Flying Start Advisory Teacher, we leapt at the chance to improve our knowledge and understanding further.

The maths training thus far has been informative and concise and delivered in friendly, relaxed manner – you are made to feel any question, however mundane, is valid and important. The individuals delivering the training have been flexible with dates and times, a key consideration when undertaking additional training alongside working in fulltime day care. The free resources provided have been of a high quality and will prove to be effective within the setting, particularly since suggestions and examples as to their use have also been provided.

The training has definitely reinforced to us our belief that nurturing a love of learning mathematics and numeracy from an early age, can empower children to become confident and successful mathematicians.

Our positive experience of the Torfaen training events have given us the confidence to attend future events; we have already recommended it to other members of staff and have booked additional sessions.