

Childcare Network Newsletter

April 2025

Would you like to become a Flying Start childcare provider?

Welsh Government have now confirmed their proposals to deliver a phased expansion of Flying Start Childcare for all two year olds; to ensure as many families as possible are being supported across Wales. We are encouraging new providers, including childminders and those who specialise in Welsh medium provision, to offer Flying Start childcare places.

To find out more, we would like to invite you to come and talk to our existing Flying Start childcare providers about being a Flying Start provider. Details are below

Are you a childcare provider?

Would you like to become a Flying Start childcare provider?

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We have four sessions, which you are welcome to attend:

Little Angels	14 May, 3:30 - 5pm
Poppies	14 May, 6 - 7pm
Little Seedlings	15 May, 3:30 - 5pm
Gofal Teg	15 May, 6 - 7pm

Please let us know if you will be attending and which setting and date you would like to attend by sending it to the Childcare Support inbox Childcaresupport@torfaen.gov.uk



National Childminding Week

10-16 May 2025

#ChildmindingWeek25 #UnsungChildcareHeroes

PACEY wants to use #ChildmindingWeek25 to raise awareness of childminders, celebrate the incredible work they do, build a sense of community and involve more sector stakeholders.

We will be holding a celebration event in collaboration with Torfaen Play to invite Childminders to attend - Details to follow



The Childcare Offer for Wales

As you may already know, the Childcare Offer for Wales Team have been working hard over recent months to develop the new GOV.UK One Login authentication element of the Childcare Offer for Wales.

This functionality for new service users went live earlier this month. From this point, service users new to the Childcare Offer will be guided to create new GOV.UK One Login accounts, or use existing GOV.UK One Login accounts if applicable, when signing up to the Childcare Offer.

Service users already using the Childcare Offer will be offered the option of migrating to GOV.UK One Login from 5 May.

Service users contacting the helpline for authentication support will be directed to the team in Wrexham who have received detailed training and guidance in this area.

Funding and training Opportunities:

Fully Funded Training from Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs

Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice- 14/05/2025-16/07/2025 (21797)

Hybrid Cardiff & Online

Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice- 16/05/2025-18/07/2025 (21801)

Hybrid Caerphilly & Online

Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice- 19/05/2025-14/07/2025 (21802)

Hybrid Carmarthen & Online

**Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (21763) 12/05/25-21/07/25- 2
spaces left**

Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (21764) 14/05/25-16/07/25

Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (21765) 06/05/25-08/07/25

State of the Childcare Sector Survey - We need your views

**As part of the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, we are
asking
all childcare providers
to take part in our survey.**

**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>



**Torfaen
Family Information Service
Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd**

Vacancies in Childcare Casual Childcare Worker (Early Years)

The Early Years Team is looking for a suitably qualified, experienced and enthusiastic Casual Childcare Worker to provide cover as and when required.

The Casual Childcare Worker would be required to cover in a variety of venues within the Early Years Childcare settings and Mobile Creche Team.

The post holder must have a relevant qualification in Early Years/Childcare such as NVQ Level 3 or equivalent.

https://ce0895li.webitrent.com/ce0895li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/etrec179gf.open?wvid=624083EpRF

Links and Resources

Toy Box Project

The Toy Box Project is based in Caerphilly and take unwanted new and used toys and gift them to families and organisations in need.

More information can be found <https://toyboxproject.co.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ToyBoxProjectUK>

What's the Time Mr Wolf?

Download CPCKC What's the Time Mr Wolf activity poster which also includes key Welsh vocabulary to support you to use Welsh whilst playing this classic game with the children in your setting.

[Download](#)

Update from CIW

Assessment and observation resources to support schools and settings

Assessment - Thinking about your initial assessments?

The Assessment arrangements for funded non-maintained nursery settings can help you plan and undertake initial and ongoing assessments.

Supporting learner progression: assessment guidance advises schools and settings on effective assessment arrangements and classroom practice.

Observation - Effective observation is key to successful assessment. These resources can help you deepen your understanding of observation and its role in improving the quality of teaching and learning:

Professional learning: Observation

Professional learning: infographic

Professional learning: Schematic development

Schematic development toolkit

Foundation learning video resources: Schematic development: Noticing and supporting the repeated patterns



Interesting Reads

Sustainability- Does anybody actually know what this word means?

'Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.' - Benjamin Franklin

While making sustainable choices like shopping locally, considering product lifecycles, growing veggies is important, educators have a unique opportunity to start a ripple effect that could create a movement for change.

Making your sustainable efforts visible, simple and actionable, allows families to easily engage and participate in sustainable practices.

Santa Svice, the Sustainability Lead at Acorn Early Years, took this approach by asking staff, children, and families to define sustainability and identify best practices. This article shares her findings and highlights how integrating natural resources into nursery settings is essential for fostering a sustainable future.

[The full article can be found here Sustainable play | Topics | Community Playthings](#)

Early years Alliance

"If your first encounter with a book comes when you're tucked up with someone who loves you, or is at least responsible for you, then you're being given a huge invisible privilege: a hug that will last the rest of your life' - Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Children's Laureate.

Good News

Recently our Childcare Engagement Officer, Charlotte, has been working closely with our colleagues at PACEY Cymru, Careers Wales and We care Wales to promote working in childcare.

Charlotte attended a Careers Carousel event at Cwmbran High where students spoke to several professionals within the Health and Social Sector. This forms one of many events we will be holding in the near future to aid recruitment within the childcare sector.

We need you!

Let us know what you would like to see included in the newsletters going forward. We would love to hear about your good news stories that we can share across the borough, as we know there is some amazing things going on.

Give us a call or email FIS@torfaen.gov.uk with your ideas, good news stories, updates etc. We look forward to hearing from you!