

# Early NEWS

Developing Lifelong Learners from Birth and Beyond

March 2024

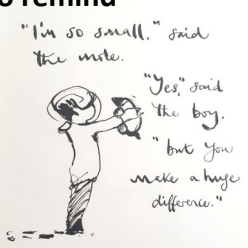
Welcome to our March newsletter.

We hope you all had a wonderful time at the Early Years Conference, we were thrilled to have you there.

Last week many of us celebrated World Book day and it has been wonderful to hear of your many creative approaches to really nurture a love of reading! This is also a good opportunity to remind ourselves how a good book can offer us the opportunity to relax and unwind.

I'm currently enjoying 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse'.

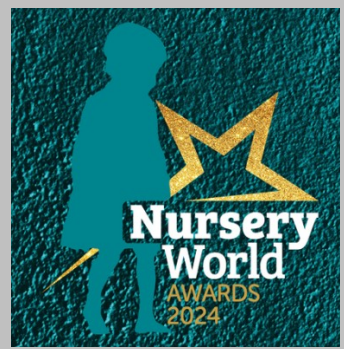
Jen Teasdale: Service Manager



## The Nursery World Awards for 2024 are now live!

There are 26 categories to provide the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the amazing work that goes on across our sector. The awards are open to everyone involved in childcare and education. Each award has a story to tell that will inspire and motivate others.

[Nursery World Awards 2024 - Home Page](#)



### Quote of the Month...

*Early childhood environments belong to the children, not to the adults. They are not entering our world, we are entering theirs.*

Kerry Payne

Learning and Exploring Through Play

### Enrolment for projects 2024-2025.

**"The most impactful project I have taken part in. I highly recommend to all schools and settings".**

A attendee from 23-24 cohort

We are thrilled to be able to roll out the Sustained Shared Thinking & Emotional Wellbeing Project and the Attachment and Trauma informed practice award across the academic year 24-25. If you are interested in joining either of these popular projects, please email

**SEND UPDATES**

We would like to welcome new SEND team member to the service. Jo Jeffries, Lisa O-Hare who are both SEND Early Intervention Officers who will be working closely with PVI settings supporting the holistic inclusion processors and procedures. We have also welcomed Gill Francis who is a Early Years Inclusion Consultant, Gill will be supporting School settings along with Emma Huddart who will be joining us on the 1st of April. I know you will all join us making Lisa, Jo, Gill and Emma feel welcomed into the LA.

**Training news:**

We have had amazing feedback from schools, setting and childminders following the development and delivery of the EY Graduated Approach tool kit and the Small Steps Journal. If you have not had a chance to attend the Early Years Graduated Approach training or Small Steps Training please book on through the portal the next sessions are on the 15th of March. Have you signed up for a free Nasen membership! You will find amazing free resources & training such as these below.

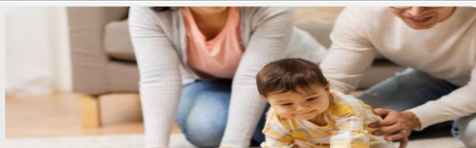


**Resilience Development Pack: Top Tips for Parents**

General | 23 Nov 2023 Free

early years RDP

In the Resilience Development Pack, you will find that each day of the week has a theme, which supports the development of resilience.



**Resilience Development Pack Parent Resource: Daily Activity Sheet**

General | 23 Nov 2023 Free

early years RDP template

This activity sheet suggests a way of noting down the things you choose to do with your child from the Resilience Development Pack.



**Resilience Development Pack Parent Resource: Weekly Diary and Weekly Diary Example**

General | 23 Nov 2023 Free

early years RDP template

Use this diary to plan activities or targets for your child to practise each week. This resource includes an example of a completed diary with activities selected, comments added and notes about 'next steps' included.



**A Safer World for all our children**

Many settings have been using water beads for sensory play, however careful consideration needs to be taken to ensure the safety of this sensory product. It is very difficult for sensory beads to pass through a child's digestive system once expanded. If swallowed, it is likely that the child will need an operation to remove them. As the beads don't show up via x-ray, finding them can be extremely complicated. Depending where they end up, the child may require major surgery. We advise that water beads are kept away from young children. Please visit [Keep water beads away from young children \(capt.org.uk\)](http://www.capt.org.uk) for more information, including a poster to display for parents.



**Recruitment and Retention News:**

Sefton has been chosen as one of the Local Authorities who will be able to offer £1000 tax free incentive to new employees in the sector PVI, Early Years Sector. Please note that this is not a universal offer and settings and new employees will have to meet a criteria which we will set out in a letter to all settings. This is part of the DfE recruitment campaign-more information, including how to advertise posts in your settings can be found here:

[Childcare recruitment campaign launched - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

**New 'Working with Children' taster Course:**

For anyone currently unemployed looking to work with children but not sure of their options. Includes accredited Paediatric first aid, Safeguarding and Food safety training.

Contact Sefton @ Work 0151 934 2610.

Please share with parents/carers and anyone who may be interested.

## Supporting Quality: Marvelous Mud Kitchens.



MUD KITCHENS HAVE HUGE POTENTIAL FOR LEARNING WHEN THEY ARE PLANNED FOR CAREFULLY.

Thank you to the Early Years team at Lydiate Primary School for sharing this photograph of their mud kitchen. So what are the **benefits** of this type of play space in your outdoor classroom?

Mud kitchens....

- Support good mental health, freedom to be children, exploring outdoors and PLAYING freely!
- Support good physical health- recent studies have shown we absolutely NEED to have dirt in our systems in order to develop a healthy immune system. Indeed the lack of interaction with mud is causing deficiencies and weaker immune systems in kids worldwide.
- Allow curiosity, exploration and experimentation in an open-ended way
- Offer mathematical opportunities for measuring, filling and emptying and exploring capacity
- Provide endless imaginative and role play possibilities starting with a blank play space structure which isn't too prescribed in its usage and allows children to create in any way that suits their play
- Support language development through descriptive words, scientific questioning and exploration, and storytelling through imaginative role play
- Offer rich and genuine messy, sensory experiences through combination of natural materials
- Encourage scientific investigation as materials are combined, mixed, transferred and changed
- Encourage fine motor skills development through use of real tools in play situations

Mud kitchens can be enhanced by adding lots of natural resources. Read this blog for more ideas to keep this area fresh and exciting for both the children and adults alike.

[Early Years Mud Kitchen Ideas - Connect Childcare](#)

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### Spring Term CPD Opportunities

Baby Room Programme (3 week course)	22nd February 2024
Language Champion (2 day course)	26th February 2024
Early Years in Schools Network Meeting	28th February 2024
Subject Lead Training for EYFS:	Various dates 5-8th March 2024
Designated Safeguarding Forum	15th March 2024
Baby Room Forum	18th March 2024
Language Champion Forum	25th March 2024
SEND in the Early Years, Sharing & Developing Best Practice	26th March 2024