

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 April 2021 09:11
Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 9 April 2021

Dear All

I hope you and your staff have all been able to enjoy some time off over this Easter period.

The following items are covered in this email for your information: -

- Winter Warmth / Outdoor Clothing fund – ***please note the actions needed and the deadline to claim vouchers for eligible children by 16 April 2021***
- Early Years Business Sustainability – Support, Information, Advice and Guidance
- DfE Attendance data survey – ***please note the new link to be used for the Summer 2021 term***
- PACEY website
- DfE Updates on the following
 - Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak
 - Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests
 - Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak
 - Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak
 - What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19
- Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

Winter Warmth /Outdoor Clothing fund – Deadline – Friday 16th April 2021 - Essex Early Years has been awarded funding from Central Government to provide warm or outdoor clothing for our FEEE2 and EYPP children and we are seeking your help to distribute vouchers to the eligible families registered to attend your setting.

Every child registered to attend your setting, that is in receipt of 2 year old Free Early Education Entitlement or Early Years Pupil Premium funding, is entitled to a voucher for £25 that can be spent in a range of local retailers. You may already have heard of this scheme as it has recently been rolled out through schools for children in receipt of free school meals.

Essex County Council has commissioned a company called Wonde to issue these vouchers. To access vouchers childcare providers, including childminders, with eligible children need to register on Wonde's a web-based portal, submit the number of eligible children you have registered at your setting. You will then be allocated a number of vouchers and validation codes that can be downloaded and passed directly to parents. The vouchers **MUST BE ALLOCATED by Friday 16th April** so time really is of the essence! Please note, parents are not required to have spent the voucher by this date.

We recognise that this is an additional administrative task for you all. We were hoping to be able to contact all eligible families ourselves and not pass this onto to you as the childcare providers, however, we have been advised that to do so would mean that we are in breach of Data Protection guidelines, as the permissions we have from parents to use their data would not cover this type of contact. We also recognise what a huge help £25 to spend on a new coat or a pair of wellies and a warm jumper will be for many parents and we know that you will want to support if you are able.

Although this funding is primarily targeted at FEEE2 and EYPP children, you may well have children in your setting that do not meet this criteria, however you know that the family are experiencing financial hardship and they would also really benefit from this additional support. If you do have children whose family are experiencing financial hardship, please include them in your submission and you will be allocated a voucher that you can pass straight on to their parents.

You should have received an email with the process your setting will need to undertake, however if you are yet to receive any correspondence please contact your relevant Children's Community Development Lead (CCDL) who will forward this information on to you via the following email addresses: -

- Mid Essex - Vickie Thomas Victoria.Thomas@essex.gov.uk
- North East Essex - Diane Macefield Diane.Macefield@essex.gov.uk
- South Essex - Candice McPherson Candice.Mcpherson@essex.gov.uk
- West Essex - Gill Holland Gill.Holland@essex.gov.uk

Early Years Business Sustainability – Support, Information, Advice and Guidance - many of you will have been feeling the effects of the economy and may have concerns regarding the sustainability of your business, but what does unsustainable mean?

Unsustainable means that your business cannot go on at this rate. There will be financial implications most likely linked to either your income or expenditure, and your expenditure may look like it far exceeds your income.

If you feel your business is at risk of becoming unsustainable, it is vital you contact us at the earliest opportunity. Please email our Business Management Consultants in confidence at workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk.

We are here to work in partnership, to help and support you run your business, your way!

When you make contact with us with your concerns, you will be offered a tailored package of advice and support and you will have access to a number of resources and tools designed to help you achieve your goal of long-term sustainability.

DfE Attendance data survey - thank you to all of the settings who have continued to complete the attendance survey each week, we do appreciate how busy you all are, but the information supports the local authority's sufficiency and sustainability duty. There is a **new link for week commencing 12th April 2021**, so please ensure you use this one from that date as the previous link will not work after this week.

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforce-development-1/227ab23f>

PACEY website - Coronavirus Spotlight, added a section to provide practitioners with recommendations and ideas for supporting the children in their care. With quick links to free training, videos, book lists, and specialist

organisations, there are a variety of tools all designed to help ease children through the difficulties of the pandemic, no matter their age or stage. [New: Supporting children through a pandemic](#)

DfE Updates: -

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Updated 29th March - guidance on shielding for staff and children, asymptomatic testing, Test and Trace payments for parents, parent and child groups: singing, educational visits and resuming Ofsted visits.

Updated 31st March - Converted the 'Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' from PDF to HTML. This version has been updated to reflect the DHSC announcement that a confirmatory PCR test is required following a positive LFD test result in England

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests](#)

Updated 31st March - Added that you can collect tests from local pharmacies. Updated collection site opening hours to 2.30pm to 8pm.

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Updated 7th April - Updated advice on the use of face coverings, Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and self-isolation. Removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 Response – spring 2021.

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

Updated 7th April - updated advice on the use of face coverings in education and updated information to reflect commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.

[Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)

Updated 31st March - Added a new statutory framework for the early years foundation stage which applies from 1 September 2021. Until then, the current framework applies. A **summary of amendments to the safety and welfare requirements in the EYFS can be found [here](#)**.

Two new vodcasts have been produced giving the latest information on the revised EYFS in one place.

- The [first vodcast](#) is aimed at headteachers, senior leadership and governors, and includes presentations and a Q&A from DfE and Ofsted as well as an interview with Clare Lishman, Director of Early Years at the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust, about her experiences as a senior leader during the early adopter year.

- The [second vodcast](#) is aimed at Private, Voluntary and Independent settings (PVI) and childminders and includes presentations from DfE, Dr Julian Grenier and Ofsted as well as an interview with Vicky Dewar, Nursery Teacher at the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust, about her experiences of the early adopter year.

Please also let us know if there is any support you would find helpful that we aren't currently offering to you.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

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