

Spring Term No 1

Updates and news for Early Years setting SENDCOs, SEMH and SLC Leads in Torbay Early Years settings

First Steps – Drop ins

Just before the Christmas break, I went along to a **'First Steps'** virtual drop in, run by Dr Delmar alongside other health & Education professionals. It was really useful. The session was split into two parts. The first section was a 'Ten Minute Tool-kit' presentation by Louise Brown, Highly Specialist Music Therapist.

Louise described how she uses music to develop relationship and engagement with young children with SEND. She gave us lots of practical tips including

- Changing words in familiar songs to improve motivation (child's name or a favourite character etc.)
- Singing instructions to improve transitions and listening skills
- Singing repetitions of single words with a familiar rhyme
- Using rhythm to add markers e.g. a gentle pressure squeeze on the hands and arms
- Using visuals to accompany the song

The second part of the session was dedicated to anonymous case discussions, providing support ideas for the practitioner. Again this section was very useful aimed at giving some mutual learning, helping to help and joining up plans of support for the individual of concern.

First Steps runs every last Tuesday of the month 10.00-11.00am. Simply request a link by emailing natalie.aldridge@nhs.net

Judith

Updates and intervention ideas



If you missed it, our new Portage Service leaflet is available on the Torbay Council website here [Portage - Torbay Council](#)

Video Support

The Gina Davies Autism Centre has produced these training videos for parents/carers available on YouTube.

[Sleep - Let's get some - YouTube](#)

[Potty Training your young child with autism. Toilets - let's flush some! - YouTube](#)

They are easy to listen to and she gives some really good advice and ideas.

Small Step Assessment

The Derbyshire Early Years SEN service have introduced the **Celebratory Checkpoints** to be used at a targeted level alongside the new EYFS and development matters documents. They are free to access and download from Derbyshire's Local Offer:

[EYFS Celebratory Checkpoints \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Thank you to SEND staff at Holy Angels Preschool for this tip!



Speech, Language and Communication

As part of the EYSEND Partnership and following the popularity of sessions hosted earlier this year, I CAN will again offer free training to early years SENCOs, managers and early years practitioners.

If you would like an introduction to supporting speaking and understanding needs in early years settings, the introductory (core) training is for you. Start by [watching the module one and module two webcasts](#) on their website, then book a place on one of the follow-up coaching webinars.

If you have previously received training in supporting speaking and understanding needs in early years settings (whether from I CAN or another provider), the advanced (in-depth) training is for you. This training is provided in the form of a two-part webinar. Go to <https://ican.org.uk/eysend-partnership/> for more information and to book your place.



Nasen offers FREE membership at the moment, which means you are able to access a lot of good quality training online including 'Meeting the Needs of Every Child' a two-hour live session to support SENCOs. Dates: 18th Jan 10am-12pm and 16th Mar 6-8pm

Nasen's Early Years SEND Seminar 'The Constant Gardener' 1st March 2022 Free to attend.

This DfE funded seminar is FREE to attend and is aimed at Early Years and SEND Teams from Local Authorities across England.

[Early Years SEND Partnership events and resources | Nasen](#)

SEND Training to look out for!



Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Augmentative and Alternative Communication is a set of tools and strategies that an individual uses to aid communication. AAC can take many forms such as speech, a shared glance, text, gesture, facial expression, touch, sign language, symbols, pictures and speech generating devices. Everyone uses AAC to help them get their message across but for children, young people and adults with complex communication needs AAC provides a means to ensure they have a voice.

A group of professionals from across the whole of Devon have worked with parents and carers to create an interactive training programme that provides an introduction to AAC.

The training focuses on the following areas:

- What is AAC?
- AAC Themes and Myths
- Where can I find out more?

This **FREE** online training is suitable for parents/carers and professionals and can be accessed from:

[Course: Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\) – An introduction \(babcockldp.co.uk\)](#)

Social, Emotional and Mental Health update:



This episode on Kathie Brodie's EYTV may still be available for free. Although they are promoting their own product, the Phoenix Cups, there are some good points regarding regulation.

[Your EYTV Episodes - Early Years TV](#)

Self-regulation:

We are all aware of how children's PSED needs have spiked during the pandemic. Children often struggle with Christmas particularly those who rely on familiarity and sameness to regulate. In your settings, you may find children need more adult support following their return from Christmas to manage routines, boundaries, and social interaction.

Katie continues to offer support to settings who have a high level of social and emotional need which can involve:

- Virtual or face to face discussion regarding specific needs
- Training can be offered to your staff team to support their understanding of self-regulation
- A draft Self-regulation Policy is available which could link to your behaviour management policy. The Self-Regulation Policy can be adapted following the training to support your setting's individual approach.

As we are all aware, self-regulation features in the requirements regarding Personal, Social and Emotional Development under the EYFS reforms in the Educational Programmes and ELG's. Also, early identification and intervention may support a child in having their PSED/SEMH needs addressed while in the early years phase of their education.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Katie.mackle@torbay.gov.uk or on 01803 208214.

SENDCO Forum

The next SENDCO Forum will be on 9/3/22 at 10.30-11.30. Please book via ILearn.

We have invited some school SENCOS to join us to further our discussions regarding transition of children with SEND into school.

The Forums provide an opportunity to discuss current issues and for settings to seek advice from the group regarding supporting individual children with the understanding this is confidential and names are not used, thanks.

Judith and I look forward to seeing you there!