

### Spring Term No 2

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



### Things to help you

The **First Steps** health forum runs every last Tuesday of the month 10.00-11.00am. Simply request a link by emailing [natalie.aldridge@nhs.net](mailto:natalie.aldridge@nhs.net) or [carolyn.brend@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.brend@torbay.gov.uk). Join the session for a therapist's 'top tips' followed by a problem solving session brought to the group from participants.

**Speech and Language Therapy Advice Line** If you would like to speak to a speech and language therapist about a child's communication, speech and language or feeding difficulty, please ring the advice line on 03333 321 9448 between 2.00-4.30 pm each day of the week Monday to Friday. Keep things anonymous & confidential.

**Understanding sensory integration and processing in children - for parents and carers**  
A free online course (for 40 minutes with free downloadable notes and slides) [Understanding Sensory Processing and Integration in Children \(sensoryintegrationeducation.com\)](https://www.sensoryintegrationeducation.com). This is really helpful when explaining to colleagues how to better understand some of our children with sensory sensitivities.

**The Cerebra Be-Well Checklist** for children with complex and severe learning needs with little or no verbal language [The Be Well Checklist - Cerebra](#). It is a checklist to enable you to look at a number of triggers that may need to be considered when looking at a child's emotional regulation and well-being. There is a good video giving explanation with links to further downloadable resources.

### The latest FREE training & resources available

- **Meeting the Needs of Every Child** on 16<sup>th</sup> March – free training covering inclusive practice
- **The SEND Code of Practice & EYFS Framework – what they say.** A poster comparing and contrasting the two guidance 'At a Glance', it is really clear and covers 10 areas – Key Principles, SENCO, Parents/Carers, Assessment, EAL, EYFS, Records, Key Person, Areas of Need/Learning, Progress Check Age 2.
- **A series of webcasts and information cards to build the jigsaw of the 7 Cs of resilience.** All free to download/watch in your own time. These are useful to support your understanding of resilience when referring to the Derbyshire Celebratory Checkpoints.



## Torbay Sensibilities

If you have not already, have a look at this website for some great ideas for sensory play resources.

[New Sensory Play Service in Torbay for Families & Organisations \(senseabilities.org.uk\)](https://www.senseabilities.org.uk)

A sensory hub is being developed to enable children and their parents/carers to try out different sensory equipment and to simply come and enjoy the space. Check out the facebook page for the latest news.

On the website there are play ideas including sensory play bags ideas free to download. There are some lovely play cards giving parents/carers ideas for activities at home including marble painting, ice blocks, hair gel, squashy paint bags and string pictures to name a few.



The shop is very comprehensive with items at competitive prices. This is worthwhile local resource to support.



## Government Guidance and Information

In January 2022 the Department for Education published two documents for Setting SENCOs

1. The role description of the early years special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO)
2. Early years level 3 SENCO qualification specification

Both are important documents that acknowledge the importance of the role as an Early Years Setting SENCO. The role of SENCO is also cited in the updated Practice Guidance for Setting SENCOs in Torbay found at [SEND Inclusion in Early Years - Torbay Council](#). Throughout the remainder of this term, the site will be updated in line with the revised Torbay Council logo. As part of this process the contents of documents may also be updated to reflect changes of practice. Please keep an eye on the website and check in regularly.

We have recently updated the Torbay Portage Home Visiting website [Portage - Torbay Council](#)

## Area SENCO Visits

This term, I have given you the opportunity to have an Area SENCO visit. The take-up has been very positive (100%), and it has been good to see those of you that have had a visit so far. I look forward to seeing you at the **SEND Forum** on **9<sup>th</sup> March**, please book on using ilearn.

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