

# CHILDMINDER NEWSLETTER

together for  
**children**  
SUNDERLAND

June 2021



## Lets Catch Up! Please come along!

It has been fantastic to have regular catchups with all our lovely childminders. It would be great to meet more of you giving us all the opportunity to share our ideas as well as staying up to date with important information. Our catchups have also given childminders the chance to meet with each other (virtually of course!) and see some friendly adult faces!

Our last catch up was 25th May – It was great to meet with some of you and introduce Nicola Wardropper our new Childcare Team Leader! We were able to share some brilliant ideas for how we can support childminders going forward. We are hoping to make a few changes and would really like your input. (Check your inbox to take our quick survey).

Our next catch up will be 15th June 18:30 to book your place please contact [julie.harrison@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:julie.harrison@togetherforchildren.org.uk)



## Happy Thoughts

If you read just one book a day to a child they would have had 1825 books read to them by their 5th birthday!

### Upcoming Training

#### Preparing for your Ofsted Inspection

Wed 10th June, 18:30 - 20:30

#### EYFS Principles into practice - Self Regulation and Executive Function

Thu 10th June, 18:30 - 20:00

#### An Introduction to keeping children Safe (basic safeguarding/ Child protection)

Tues 15th June, 16:00 - 18:00

#### EYFS Principles into practice – Characteristics of effective teaching and learning

Wed 23rd June, 18:30 - 20:00

#### New EYFS Framework educational programmes- Unpicking the areas of learning - Prime Areas

Thu 24th June, 18:30 - 20:00

**To book your places visit:**

[Training & Events |  
Sunderland Traded Services](#)

If you don't already have an account just click the sign up button on the website. For booking queries please contact Julie Harrison on **07557 039214**



# Safeguarding information

**Just a reminder that if you have concerns about a child, referrals need to be made to The Integrated Contact and Referral Team.**

Contact - **0191 561 7007**  
Out of Hours - **0191 520 5552**

Calls should then be followed up with a written referral. The referral form and all the contact numbers can be accessed via Together For Children's Webpage.  
[togetherforchildren.org.uk/professionals/integrated-contact-referral-team](https://togetherforchildren.org.uk/professionals/integrated-contact-referral-team)

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**Please let the Early Years team know if you need any support when it comes to meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements. We are here to offer support and are always happy to help!**

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If you have any queries please contact:  
**Nicola Wardropper, Childcare Team Leader**  
[nicola.wardropper@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:nicola.wardropper@togetherforchildren.org.uk) / 07435 753524 or  
**Kaye Welsh Childcare Development Officer**  
[kaye.welsh@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:kaye.welsh@togetherforchildren.org.uk) / 07867 160236

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# Meet our Early Years Team

## Nicola Wardropper Childcare Team Leader

I have over 16 years' experience working in the early years and childcare sector. My previous roles have included Area Manager for a large childcare organisation; early years advisor for the NDNA; early years inspector and day care manager on a school site.

I also worked for the childcare team in Sunderland a few years ago so some of you may remember me! Sunderland has always held a special place on my heart, and I am really excited to be back as Childcare Team Leader for Together for Children.

My aspirations are for the early years provision in our city to be of excellent quality, providing our children with the best opportunities in high quality, safe and nurturing environments so they have a great start to school life and develop a thirst for learning.

Email:  
[nicola.wardropper@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:nicola.wardropper@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

Mobile:  
**07435 753524**

## Kaye Welsh Childcare Development Officer

I recently joined Together For Children in March 2021. I have over ten years' experience working within early years. I started my career as a student in a private day care and progressed through the various roles up to nursery manager.

I have experience of Ofsted inspections from differing perspectives. I learned a lot by having an inspection as a manager and feel I could share my advice with childminders to help you all feel at ease and prepared when inspector calls.

I also have lots of experience as a SENCo and Designated Safeguarding Lead these areas are something I am very passionate about and will do my best to support you to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Email  
[kaye.welsh@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:kaye.welsh@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

Mobile  
**07867 160236**

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## Louise Stephenson

### Early Years Advisory Teacher Teaching and Learning Support

I have worked for Sunderland council in this role for 12 years starting off based at the Rainbow Family Centre at Washington. Before this I worked in an Early Years school as a Nursery and Reception class teacher. I am now based at Bunny Hill Customer Care Centre where our team deliver training sessions, although during the lockdown, I have been working from home.

I support Early Years practitioners and childminders with the teaching and learning requirements section of the EYFS. This support is sometimes based in a setting or school. Recently, I have been completing teaching and learning audits with providers, as well as delivering online training regarding the EYFS changes which will come into place in September 2021.

Email:  
[louise.stephenson@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:louise.stephenson@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

Mobile:  
**07780 338986**

## Sharon Preece

### Early Years Advisory Teacher SEN Support

You can contact me for any support to do with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability. You can also contact for anything else to do with Early Years. If I can't help you, I will find someone who can.

Things I am most often asked about are:

- What do I need to do if I have a child with SEND?
- Support for specific conditions – What to do? / Who can help? / Are there any toys or equipment that would help?
- Completing paperwork if going forward for additional funding or an Education, Health and Care Plan
- What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?
- What other services are available and how you get in touch with them
- Support with your Local Offer entry as a setting

Email  
[sharon.preece@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:sharon.preece@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

Mobile  
**07780 338979**

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# Good News!

## Newly Registered!

We would like to welcome Amy Falcus to our Childminding community! She is finally registered and ready to start enrolling children – Well done Amy!

## Bloomin' Brilliant!

Bev Metcalf has been running a sunflower competition with her families for several years now. This has proven popular. The competition has enabled parents to become involved in their children's learning - Great work Bev!

## Lock Down Success!

Michelle Ross worked hard during lockdown to ensure continued partnerships with parents. She used her Facebook page and a new online system to share activities and to communicate with families when they were unable to attend her setting – Well done Michelle!

## We Need You!

We are looking for 'Childminding Champions' those of you with lots of experience and a willingness to support your fellow childminders. Our champions will lend a helping hand to our newer childminders to offer support and advice to get them through those early stages.

If you would like to become a Childminding Champion please get in touch with the Early Years team for more information.

## We would love to hear from you!

You all have some brilliant ideas whether that be engaging activities or stimulating environments. It is always a good idea to share your practice if you have anything you would like to share please get in touch with Kaye Welsh to be included in next month's newsletter.

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## Useful stuff!

Here is a link to a video with Julian Grenier discussing the new Development Matters and answering key questions:

[Exclusive Video Discussion \(part 2\) with Dr Julian Grenier - Lead Writer of Development Matters - Our members' questions answered... - Childcare.co.uk](#)

The updated Statutory guidance will apply from 1st September 2021, here is a copy:

[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

The updated Development Matters can be implemented from 1st September 2021, here is a copy:

[Development Matters - non-statutory curriculum guidance for EYFS \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)



## Let's keep our children healthy

A healthy balanced diet for children aged from one to four years is based on the four food groups listed below, which provide a range of essential nutrients that children need to grow and develop:

- **potatoes, bread, rice, pasta and other starchy carbohydrates**
- **fruit and vegetables**
- **beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins**
- **dairy and alternatives**

Useful Link:

[Example menus for early years settings in England - GOV.UK](#)

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**Useful Links**

[nhs.uk/conditions/baby/caring-for-a-newborn/reduce-the-risk-of-sudden-infant-death-syndrome/](https://nhs.uk/conditions/baby/caring-for-a-newborn/reduce-the-risk-of-sudden-infant-death-syndrome/)

[nhs.uk/conditions/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids/](https://nhs.uk/conditions/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids/)

[gov.uk/government/publications/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-health/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-health](https://gov.uk/government/publications/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-health/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-health)

**Free Training (Oral Health)**

[portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/587510](https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/587510)

**Sleeping Children**

‘Children must be frequently checked to ensure that they are safe. Being safe includes ensuring that cots/bedding are in good condition and suited to the age of the child, and that infants are placed down to sleep safely in line with latest government safety guidance’

(EYFS statutory Framework 2020)



**Oral Health**

‘The provider must promote the good health, including the oral health, of children attending the setting’

(EYFS statutory Framework 2020)

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## Using Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

It is good practice when observing children to look for the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning and note these on your observations. Adults should consider the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning within the observation, assessment, and planning cycle. Why not use Development Matters as a tool to help you during your observations, as it gives guidance on what adults could do and what they can provide. Remember that The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning are based upon how children learn, not what they are learning.

## The characteristics of effective teaching and learning

In planning and guiding what children learn, practitioners must reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice appropriately. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things (Development Matters 2020)



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