



WSOA Early Years: Priority 1 newsletter



Welcome to the second edition of the 'priority 1' newsletter. When we started talking to the DfE about improving the social mobility of children and young people in West Somerset, many of us acknowledged the vital importance of the early years of a child's life, to ensure they were happy, healthy and could achieve their full potential. This is why the DfE agreed that one of our local priorities would be about ensuring 'every child in West Somerset has the best start in life.'

It has been a busy summer, with a co-ordinated plan of activities for parents and children, we hope everyone could attend at least one of these events, please contact WSOA@Somerset.gov.uk with any feedback on these events.

In this edition we talk about some of the work that is being sponsored by DfE and share key future dates for professionals and for parents.

We now have a WSOA website <https://westsomersestopportunityarea.co.uk/>, please get involved in the discussions, as we need to hear from parents and partners about how things are going, challenges they are facing and where more help is needed. Additionally there is the parent's forum <https://somerseparentcarerforum.org.uk/> to see how you can get involved

-Alison Bell

Consultant in Public Health

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter then please email your article/photograph to: WSOA@Somerset.gov.uk



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The West Somerset Opportunity Area delivery plan

The Opportunity Area programme is a flagship policy at the heart of the Government's ambition to drive up social mobility and improve outcomes for young people.

The West Somerset Opportunity Area delivery plan was part of the first six wave of Opportunity Areas published in October 2017.

Click [here](#) for a link to the published plan.





Maths resources were presented to Early Years Providers and Reception Classes in West Somerset.

West Somerset Opportunity Area has established 4 areas of four initial priorities for the West.

Priority 1: Every child has a great start in life Children in West Somerset will begin school with a strong start, with the proportion achieving a good level of development rising to above the current national average.

To support this priority Early Years Providers and Reception Classes in West Somerset, were invited to Boolean Maths training in July with Sue Rayner, and maths resources were given to support the settings in September, to support all Early Year's children in West Somerset.

The Early Years Providers were overwhelmed with the resources they were given, and could not wait to introduce to the children.

All providers who have received these resources, will need to attend one of the 'Maths Fixed Apparatus' Training sessions, please see next page for more details and how to book a place.



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Maths Fixed Apparatus Training

28th September – Knights Templar
School, Liddymore Road, Watchet,
TA23 0EX

&

12th October – Williton Children's
Centre, West Somerset House Killick
Way, Williton TA4 4QA

9:00am-3:30pm

This training will enable a multi-sensory approach to maths, using resources built on a proven pedagogy that raises achievement across all mathematics ability levels. Using research-based resources and rigorous teaching support from nursery to Year 6, fixed apparatus resources such as 'Numicon' provide children with the skills they need to become confident mathematicians.

Children's early experiences of math's have a huge impact on their later achievement. This fixed apparatus training will enable you to give children a sound start to math's through playful and innovative activities.

Reception teachers, Teaching assistants, practitioners and childminders will be given straightforward explanations and guidance on embedding fixed apparatus math's in their teaching and every day practice.

The resources for this training were given out to West Somerset providers on September 3rd.

A key feature of these resources are the focus on math's conversation with ideas to encourage mathematical development throughout the Pre-School and reception setting, which will help give children a sound start to their math's understanding.

To book your place/s please visit:

September 28th-

<https://mathsfixedapparatusseptember.eventbrite.co.uk>

October 12th-

<https://mathsfixedapparatusoctober.eventbrite.co.uk>



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Number Blocks- Cbeebies



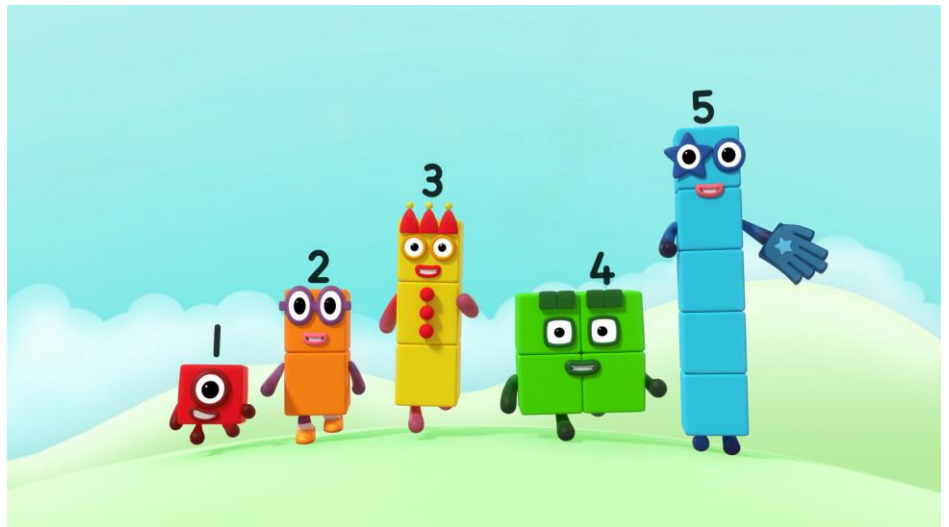
Numberblocks: materials to support Early Years and Year 1 teachers

Numberblocks, first broadcast in January 2017, is a pre-school BBC television series aimed at introducing children to early number.

Snappy animation and loveable characters combine with engaging storylines to gently introduce concepts of number to support early mathematical understanding.

Please see below a link to the Numberblock Episodes, which link to the Boolean Maths training, presented by Sue Rayner in July.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>



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Holiday Hunger

This summer Minehead Eye teamed up with a number of West Somerset organisations such as Homestart, CLOWNS and Getset to help deliver a 'holiday hunger' programme. Fareshare were willing to offer us a range of food on a weekly basis at no cost, this enabled us to offer free food at a range of events, trips, venues and family days to West Somerset families at no additional cost.

Its principle aim was to offer children easily access to food and drink at no cost during school holiday period. I'm very proud to state that through the commitment, time and goodwill of such a range of West Somerset organisations it made this scheme a huge success. Fareshare provided and delivered hundreds of pounds worth of food to the Minehead Eye centre which enabled us to offer out to our youth clubs, groups and activity trips. This included free food during Minehead and Watchet youth club's 3 day summer camping trips!! Feeding a lot of hungry teenagers!!! This also involved food at range of Homestart events, community family activity days and a host of CLOWNS family fun days.

Minehead Eye hopes they will have the opportunity to do something like this again as it not only provides some much needed food and drink to our families during holiday periods, it also shows how effective and supportive West Somerset organisations are towards providing for our communities.



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Training:
Explore, experience
and challenge Effective
outdoor play



Thursday 25th October

The Hub Soft Play Centre, Hopcott Road, Minehead,
Somerset, TA24 6DJ

2 sessions: 4pm-6pm and 6:30pm-8:30pm

*'The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only
by the sky'*

Margaret McMillan

Outline

Evaluate, develop and enhance your outdoor environment to engage children and practitioners whatever the weather!

Aims

To explore what is understood by quality outdoor play and refresh provision

To explore what we want our outdoor play to do (our vision)

Objectives

Audit current aspects of provision (spaces, resources) to enhance the outdoor curriculum

Identify why outdoor learning is important

Consider the adult's role in outdoor play and learning

Develop strategies to support the provision of outdoor learning

To book:

4pm-6pm: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/explore-experience-and-challenge-effective-outdoor-play-tickets-50528435912>

6:30pm-8:30pm:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/explore-experience-and-challenge-effective-outdoor-play-tickets-50528457978>



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Coming this term is I CAN *Early Talk*. This is a training package that focuses on increasing early years practitioner’s knowledge of typical communication and language development and helps staff develop strategies and interaction styles to maximise opportunities to develop every child’s skills in communication and language. As part of the training, settings receive a range of resources to understand, reinforce and enable good practice in supporting children’s speech, language and communication.

After the training settings will be able to access support to help embed the new learning and make real, sustainable changes to improve outcomes for children. For some settings there will be an opportunity to become I CAN accredited for meeting standards of good practice in supporting all children’s speech, language and communication development.

Please get in contact if you’d like to find out more. Liz Wood lwood@ican.org.uk Tel 01749 678366/ 07912 848697. I look forward to working with you.



Thanks to West Somerset Early Years settings/services for piloting I CAN’s latest intervention *Tots Talking*. This is an 8-week course for parents of two-year olds who are at risk of language delay, and through films, fact sharing, discussion and creative activities helps parents to develop language and behaviours that support the development of children’s communication skills. More settings are being trained to run groups this term and in January we will be carrying out an evaluation with City University to assess the impact of the sessions on children’s language development.

If you’d like to find out more, please contact Liz Wood lwood@ican.org.uk Tel 01749 678366/ 07912 848697.



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Ten Tips to develop children’s speech and language



Use all the senses to help teach new words

Tip No 2

Make learning new vocabulary fun and memorable. For example, if you’re teaching the names of fruits, encourage the child to feel and smell the various fruits as they learn the words. Another idea is to use familiar songs and rhymes as a learning tool by missing out words for the child to fill in.



www.ican.org.uk



Autumn Term Training Planner

Autumn Term 2018		December
October	November	
Healthy Movers Training Youth Support Trust 3 rd October The Hub – Minehead	Inset Day – 5th (Moderation, EY Literacy)	
Apparatus Training (Nunicom) 12 th Williton Children's Centre	Inclusive Communication (STC) Universal Module 14 th & 28 th 1 – 3.30pm (must attend both sessions) Yarn Market Hotel Book through Event Brite	
Outdoor Learning 25th The Hub – Minehead 4pm-6pm, 6:30pm-8:30pm	SEN Conference 21st Taunton Racecourse 1 place per setting/school (funded through WSOA) Book through Event Brite for the funded place.	
GLD data published and shared		
Story Start Sessions – Homestart		
Alison and Nikki visit all EY settings		
Early Talk Training – TBA		
Youth Support Trust – visiting all settings		



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Support Surgeries

Early Years Improvement Team, are offering a **support surgery** on Tuesday 9th October at SCIL, from 10am - 7pm.

These surgeries are open to all childcare providers (Pre-schools, nurseries, childminders, holiday, out of school provision, and schools etc). They are organised so you can drop in at any time, no need to book.

We will be there to answer any questions around:

Learning and development

Welfare requirements

Business including financial, sustainability, HR etc.

Committee

Safeguarding

Quest

Early Years Communities and

Any other question which is relevant to your sector.

If you want more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Early Years Improvement Team:

Tele: 01823 348271 or email

SSEarlyYearsTeam@somerset.gov.uk

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Season

Do you want support with your AGM?

Early Years Improvement Team have developed an AGM pack which is available on the Support Services for Early Years website:

www.supportservicesforearlyyears.co.uk

Or

Alternatively contact:

Nikki Difford - NLDifford@somerset.gov.uk (West Somerset)

Sarah Love - SPLove@somerset.gov.uk (East Somerset)



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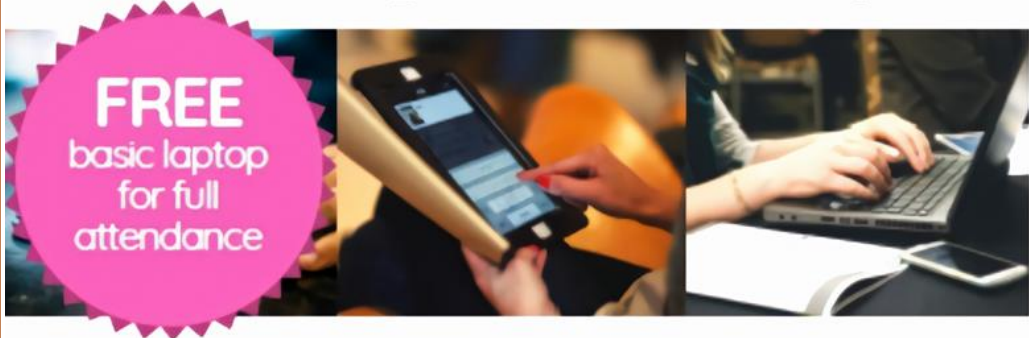
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NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED



FREE Digital Workshops



FREE
basic laptop
for full
attendance

Positive People offers a life-line to build hope, confidence and skills for people who are not at work

Booked attendees only due to limited space. Please contact Chloe or Clive (details below) to register your interest

FREE 9 week IT course

Introduction to IT and computers. Covering the basics of: using a PC or laptop, the internet, using email, creating documents, using memory sticks and getting the most from your smart phone or tablet. No previous experience necessary

Wednesday 10th October 10:30-12:30

Sign Up Event!- Meet the team and join the project

Wednesday 17th October-19th December
(excluding 28th November) 10:30-12:30

Weekly sessions to complete the course

The Hub, Hopcott Road, Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6DJ

Positive People is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery, through the Big Lottery Fund



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