

# RCT CHILDCARE TEAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 06 • MARCH 2023

## HELLO AND WELCOME

TO THE SPRING EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

The days are getting longer and we're on our way to warmer weather again!



## Childcare team update

We are working through the priorities identified in the CSA action plan. This can be viewed at [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/csa](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/csa).

The focus this term so far has been on out of school childcare in the Cynon area and recruiting new childminders.

We are keen to support unregistered settings and nannies. This can be with 1:1 support to register with CIW, business advice, access to training or signposting to other agencies. Please get in touch if you would like our support or let us know of any other settings/nannies that would like to join our mailing list.

As always, we are committed to recruiting and supporting new childminders. We have a tailored package of support and work with partners to promote childminding as a career. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a childminder, please pass our details onto them.

## Expansion of Flying Start childcare

Welsh Government are continuing with the phased expansion of Flying Start childcare. The aim is that eventually every 2-3 year old will be offered a free childcare place, from the term following their second birthday.

In RCT we are preparing for the expansion and have an approved provider list for Flying Start childcare. There are currently 55 settings approved, 21 of which offer Welsh medium places. If you are a childcare provider or childminder, you can apply to join by registering on eTenderWales, expressing an interest in **ITT-92447**, answering and submitting the questions. If you want more information please contact **Helen Fisher-Holland** on **07824 496497**.



Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh.



# Childcare Offer for Wales

The new national system is now live. Those of you with children who were eligible from January 2023 should now be claiming your funding via this system. Despite a few teething problems, it seems to be working well. If you have any feedback, please let us know and we can pass it onto Welsh Government.

## A few things to remember:

- Funding on the new system is paid in arrears. However, you can claim weekly. Claims open after 7pm on the Friday evening each week.
- Once we've approved parent applications, they must set up an agreement on the system with you for the agreed term time and holiday hours. They must do this by the Sunday each week to be able to claim funding from the following Monday.
- You must approve agreements by the Thursday each week for that agreement to show on your claim on the Friday night.
- Remember, you need to carry on claiming on the old system for any children who accessed the Offer before 31st December 2022.
- Remember children can access the Offer in the holiday periods, even if they are full time in school (until the September following their 4th birthday).

## Drop in sessions

We are now offering drop in session for parents and providers each week. Come along and see us if you have any queries. Please also encourage your parents to come along if they need our help with any aspect of the Offer.

### » Pontyclun Library

Heol-y-Felin, Pontyclun,  
CF72 9BE  
Every first Tuesday of  
the month | 2pm-6pm

### » Treorchy Library

Station Road, Treorchy,  
CF42 6NN  
Every second Tuesday of  
the month | 2pm-6pm

### » Aberdare Library

Green Street, Aberdare,  
CF44 7AG  
Every third Tuesday of the  
month | 2pm-6pm

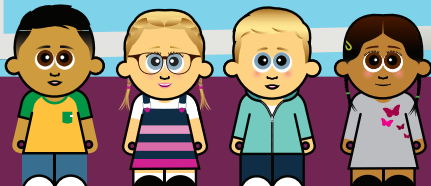
### » Pontypridd Library

1 Llys Cadwyn, Taf Street,  
Pontypridd, CF37 4TH  
Every fourth Tuesday of  
the month | 2pm-6pm

### » Council Offices

Ty Trevithick, Abercynon,  
CF45 4UQ  
Every Friday 9am-1pm  
by appointment only  
(ring 03000 628628)

Please promote the Offer to new parents and contact us if you would like any promotional material to display in your settings or hand out to parents.



# Engagement with providers and parents

Our team are continuing their visits to parent groups throughout January to March, so come along and see us or spread the word to your families. If you run a P&T/Ti a Fi group, get in touch with us and we will be glad to add you to our schedule. The timetable of our visits is shared via our social media channels every month.



Our next "Hybrid" engagement event will be taking place on **11th May 2023**. This will be our second event where we hope to see you face to face or via teams if this is preferred. Guest speakers will include Coleg Y Cymoedd talking about childcare apprenticeships and further information on completing CCLD level 3, 4 & 5. And the new complex families team will be talking about ALN transitions from pre-school childcare to nursery classes in school. We will also have updates from our teams and update you on the Early Years and Childcare small capital grant scheme. Keep an eye out for details on how to book a place in early April.

# Training

Our mandatory training courses, such as First Aid, Food Hygiene, Safeguarding and Managing Challenging Behaviour have been planned and booked for this year. Bookings for these will be released in early March 2023, so keep an eye out for emails and on Facebook.

At least 25% of training is still going to waste, either through non-attendance or not giving us at least 48 hours notice of cancellation. With LA budgets under pressure, we have to demonstrate that our funding is making an impact. If you are unable to attend, please cancel your place as soon as possible so that we can offer it to someone else and ensure every course is fully attended.





## Family Information Service

Remember to keep your account on DEWIS up to date and active. All our information is emailed out via the FIS distribution list, so if your business isn't listed on the FIS database, you won't receive important information from us. You will also be missing out on **FREE** advertising to parents who use the FIS database to search for childcare in their area.

Your DEWIS resource will need to be 'reactivated' every 6 months to ensure that all your details are up to date. If you do not reactivate your account, your resource will expire and it will no longer be visible to the public.



To register or sign in to your account, please use this link:

**<https://www.dewis.wales/secure/login.aspx>**

If you have any questions or need assistance with your DEWIS account, please email:

**[fis@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:fis@rctcbc.gov.uk)**



# ALN



The Access & Inclusion department runs a rolling programme of ALN training for providers.

The Early Years ALNCo Forum continues to run and is next due to meet on **Thursday 4th May 1.30-2.30** via Teams. A flyer will be circulated soon with further details. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and to share issues and good practice with your peers.

The Early Years Forum is a multi-agency forum that meets each month to discuss children who may have emerging ALN. You can refer to this forum for any children that you have concerns about. Dates have been emailed to you and shared on our Facebook page.

To book your place on training, join the ALNCo forum or for more information on the Early Years Forum, please contact Ryan Phillips on **[AndIService@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:AndIService@rctcbc.gov.uk)**. If you have not referred to Early Years Forum previously then contact **[luci.hooper@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:luci.hooper@rctcbc.gov.uk)** for more information.

## Facebook

Remember our closed Facebook page is a great way to stay in touch with the latest news from the team and other partners.

### To join, go to...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/childcareteamRCT> or search for **RCT Childcare Team** in the Facebook search facility.



# Teddy Bears Picnic

The date for this year's Teddy Bears Picnic has been confirmed as:

**Friday 23rd June 2023**

It will take place in:

**Ynysangharad War Memorial Park** as previously  
**10am-2pm**

More information will be available soon.



## Childminding Forum

Remember, there is a private Facebook group that has been set up for childminders to exchange ideas, support and inspire each other to provide open ended play opportunities. It's an excellent way to engage with your peers, so if you're a childminder in RCT, please search for: **Curious Adventures, Learning Through Play.**

If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters, please let us know and we will take you off our distribution list.



### Contact Us ...



01443 570048



[www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareteam](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareteam)



Childcare Team:

[childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk)

Childcare Offer for Wales (Providers only):

[ChildcareofferProviders@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:ChildcareofferProviders@rctcbc.gov.uk)



**RCT Childcare Team**



Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg  
You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh.