

A message from your Babcock Early Years Consultancy Team

Dear EYFS Colleagues,

We hope this finds you safe and well. We will be keeping in touch with you during these exceptional times, through regular newsletters, Facebook and Twitter updates, and providing information on the Babcock LDP website - **Coronavirus: Support for Schools, Parents and Pupils**
<https://www.babcockldp.co.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-support-for-schools-parents-and-pupils>

Supporting those children who are at settings and schools

If children are attending settings and schools at this time, your focus remains on keeping them safe and secure. We would like to reassure you that being responsive to children's emotional needs is of paramount importance, and we know that this is what you do best.

The children who are currently attending are likely to be dealing with new and unusual situations at home and while they are with you, they will need your professional love to support their emotional well-being.

We are also acutely aware that if you are going into work, you will be putting yourselves at greater risk, so supporting each other at this time is also crucial. As part of our support to schools and settings we remain contactable via our mobiles and email to discuss any concerns regarding learning and development, and inclusion.

Supporting those children who remain at home

Via our website and social media we have shared the following key message with parents and hope you are able to reiterate this....

'Whilst your children are at home they need to feel safe, secure, comforted and loved. It is important to spend time together, enjoying shared activities, reading stories and playing together. Play is fundamental to your child's well-being and development and it is also a great way to reduce stress in adults.'

We will continue sharing ideas through our Facebook Page, for you to pass on to parents of children in your settings and schools. Find us on Facebook: **Babcock LDP Early Years**

You will also find a number of links to useful documents and web links on The Babcock LDP website
<https://www.babcockldp.co.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-support-for-schools-parents-and-pupils/links-for-home-schooling-resources-and-activities>

Our role - Support we can offer during this time

At this present time we are unable to make any face to face visits and will continue to update you with regard to this situation.

We can offer telephone and email advice regarding:

- EYFS learning and development
- Post Ofsted support
- Inclusion – to support you in the setting and to help you support parents if they are at home with their children
- Advice to enable you to support vulnerable children, whether attending or at home
- Emotional well-being
- Managing the administration of the revised processes for statutory assessment (when we receive guidance from the DfE and STA)
- **Planning for transition** – We will be producing a transition document in a new format to reflect the current situation, which you may choose to use.

Updates

Primary school admissions

You will know that today, Thursday 16th April, is National School Offer Day. Devon Admissions have shared the following information....

'When you receive your allocation day email, please do not attempt to contact the school you have been allocated. Transition arrangements for the new academic year are yet to be agreed. Be assured the school will contact you directly to discuss the admission and to make transition arrangements as soon as things start settling down. If you do call a school, they will not be able to assist you at the moment.

We also ask that you have some patience when contacting us on the day. We are all working remotely and our phone lines will be under more pressure than usual. We would ask if people can, they send an email to us to ease the pressure on our phone systems.

If you applied using a paper form rather than electronic you will not receive a letter but will receive an email instead using your given email address.

With Schools now closed and the Independent Appeal Panel Members being unpaid and trained volunteers, there may be unavoidable delays to progressing and hearing appeals this year due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

We would request that you look on our website to see if your query can be answered.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

If you wish to appeal for a place at a school you have been refused, you will be able to do this online and there will be a link in your email. You do not need to ring us to lodge an appeal.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/school-appeals>

If you simply wish to know the position of your child on the waiting list, you can email us on admissions@devon.gov.uk and we will respond quickly.

You can find up-to-date information from the Devon School Admissions Service on their Facebook page.

SEND and Inclusion

Any SEND and Inclusion updates will be included in a SENDCo newsletter which you will receive with this letter.

Links to useful documents

ALL SCHOOLS GUIDANCE from DfE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Babcock LDP information

<https://www.babcockldp.co.uk/latest-news/covid19-attendance-advice-for-schools>

Contact details - If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

	Contact email and mobile	PVI Setting, School Nursery and FSU Locality Areas	Nursery Chains
Anne Hudson - Early Years Team Lead	anne.hudson@babcockinternational.com 07921 400927		
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Carolyn Huxtable	carolyn.huxtable@babcockinternational.com 07704542612	Barnstaple Bideford Braunton Ilfracombe South Molton Chulmleigh	Kiddywinks Tarka Tots Ladybirds
Julie Paddick	julie.paddick@babcockinternational.com 07866 701207	Axe Valley Exeter Honiton Ottery St Mary	Puffins SPL Ottertots
Sally Rice	sally.rice@babcockinternational.com 07522 349794	Torrington Holsworthy Okehampton Tavistock	Lovacott Nursery / Happy Hares
Tamsin Robertson	tamsin.robertson@babcockinternational.com 07966 925487	Exeter Tiverton Culm Valley	Little Ones Kiddi Caru Nanny Bears Hurly Burly
Karen Salter	karen.salter@babcockinternational.com 07966 046059	Clyst Vale Dawlish Teignmouth	
Sarah Murts	sarah.murts@babcockinternational.com 07933 396680	Ivybridge Totnes Newton Abbot Woolwell	Little Orchard Montessori
Babcock Early Years admin and general enquiries – Tina Turner – tina.turner@babcockinternational.com – 01392 287352			

For queries regarding education entitlement funding, furloughing and other operational issues, please contact your Devon Early Years and Childcare Adviser (EYCA)
https://services.pinpointdevon.co.uk/kb5/devon/services/service.page?id=beDuoSq-Mzl&communitychannel=8_7

We want to acknowledge and thank you for the continued dedication and hard work in supporting the needs of children and their families in such challenging circumstances.

Stay safe and well,

Your Babcock Early Years Consultants.
16.4.20