

A message from your Babcock Early Years Consultancy Team

EYFS Newsletter 3 - May 2020

Dear EYFS Colleagues,

Another few weeks have passed and we continue to do our utmost to keep you informed and updated with the ever changing educational landscape. We recognise the emotional impact these uncertain times have on yourselves, your families, and the adults and children you work with. Within the Early Years Team, we too are experiencing a range of feelings and emotions in response to the uncertainties we are faced with.

With this in mind, we have included some quick relaxation tips below (each only takes a few minutes). These could be helpful during the current challenges, where we may find ourselves with less time but more need to relax!

- *A quick walk outside*
- *A few minutes of simple exercise, e.g. skipping, jumping jacks, running on the spot, dancing, etc*
- *Listening to your favourite song*
- *A few minutes of shoulder rolls and shrugs, arm circles and neck circles and stretches – especially if you have been working at a computer/laptop*
- *Give yourself a quick foot massage with some foot cream*
- *Deep breathing for a few minutes*
- *A few minutes reading a book for pleasure (not work related)*
- *A few minutes of gardening*
- *Sitting outside for a few minutes and feeling the sun, wind, fresh air on your skin*
- *Drawing or colouring for a few minutes*
- *Massaging in some relaxing scented body lotion and breathing deeply*
- *Massaging your hands while applying hand cream*

We were all so pleased to hear that we are no longer restricted to one outing a day for exercise but can spend more time outdoors enjoying our beaches, parks and glorious Devon countryside. We hope you are finding time away from work to do the same. If you are having to stay at home because you are shielding, we hope you have some safe, outside space to relax in.

We are striving to keep you fully informed with Government announcements. Although we work in partnership with the Local Authority, we find out the latest news and government thinking exactly when you do, so please bear with us as we work together to interpret guidance and find ways to work in partnership. Thank you

This week we heard the news that educational and childcare settings have been asked to prepare for wider opening from June 1st. The DfE have published the following documents to support this.

- [Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening](#)
- [Initial planning framework](#)
- [Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)
- [Guidance for parents and carers](#)

Reception Teachers, you may be wondering if Baseline will go ahead in September 2020...

We have received this statement from NFER in response to questions from teachers with regard to whether Baseline would still go ahead and if it is necessary for pay for additional training.

....As of yet, the Covid-19 will not affect the reception baselines process. Obviously, if anything changes we will contact all schools to make sure they are aware. As for the webinar, it is not necessary as all training will be provided on the ePortal.

Transition planning

We've recently had a few questions about delayed or deferred entry to school. In case you are currently discussing these terms with parents, here are the definitions of [delayed and deferred](#) entry and Devon's guidance on the process is here [delaying school entry](#).

We have revised and simplified our Preschool to Reception Transition Document in light of the current situation and it has been circulated. It will also be available to download from the [Babcock Early Years website](#) main page, then scroll down to resources. The 2020 updated Transition documents are a similar format to the 2 year old check as the same essential type of information needs to be shared. After discussions with EY Providers the Babcock EY Team decided to use the same format to make it easier for practitioners to complete in the current circumstances.

EYFS Teachers have asked us about report writing. The transition document format could be used to support transitions at other stages within the EYFS such as end of year reports in Reception. However we are waiting to receive further information from the DfE (see FAQ below taken from the [Babcock assessment guidance](#))

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| <p>Is there a statutory requirement to produce written reports for parents? Do these have to include attainment information?</p> | <p>DfE response to this questions is as follows:</p> <p><i>Please also be advised with the removal of statutory assessments there will be no formal reporting requirements. We do however recognise that in the absence of reported test results or teacher assessment information, parents will still want information on their children's achievements. We will consider and provide guidance to schools.</i></p> <p><i>We understand your concerns however we are unable to provide more specific timing at this stage, please be assured that the Department for Education see this as a growing priority. We are currently engaging with the teacher unions and are aiming to provide an update to schools as soon as possible in the summer term.</i></p> <p>If further guidance is received, this FAQ will be updated. Many schools have already completed written reports. Any schools choosing to continue with a written report should consider not including attainment data as this is potentially not accurate due to the interruption to learning caused by school closures.</p> |
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You will find any recent and relevant SEND information in our SENDCo Updates. The newsletters and updates are also available to download on the Early Years main page of the [Babcock website](#). Please also follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds, and share with parents and carers.

We thought we'd finish this newsletter by sharing some of the things we've been doing to get us through Lockdown;

- *Box set binging...Peaky Blinders, This Country, Killing Eve, After Life, Life on Mars, Gavin and Stacey, The Crown and Designated Survivor are a few team favourites*
- *Virtual Pub Quizzes*
- *Family get-togethers on Zoom and House Party*
- *Cocktail making*
- *Virtual dine-in*
- *Home hairdressing (!!!)*
- *Gardening, DIY and 'Hinchin' our homes*
- *Online exercise classes*
- *Reading (non-educational!)*

- *Live theatre and musicals, and online music festivals*
- *Celebrating special events online...we've celebrated family birthdays including an 18th, 21st, two should've been-weddings, grandchildren's milestones and even getting an online supermarket slot!!*
- *Following our favourites on social media (someone in the team had a message liked by Paul Cooper AKA Martin Mucklowe from This Country!)*

We hope you continue to find our regular updates useful and we thank you for the many positive comments we have received. Your lovely messages keep us smiling through these difficult times. Please don't hesitate to make contact if you need us. The EY Team remain available via phone and email.

Stay safe and well,

Your Babcock Early Years Consultants.

May 12th 2020

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

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