

Royal Greenwich – a great place to grow up!



Childcare
Options
Royal Greenwich

We hope that you found an opportunity to rest during the bank holiday and that you were able to enjoy a virtual Easter.

We now know that the emergency restrictions are continuing for a short while longer so we will continue to send a weekly e-bulletin. We understand that you and your families are experiencing a period of uncertainty and we are here to share information, respond to the sector challenges, provide support, advice and guidance and constructively facilitate some difficult conversations where they arise.

Although the team are working remotely from home and are currently unable to access the duty line, please send an email with the nature of your query, comment or information and we will return your call immediately.

Kallie – Team Leader / Kerry, Elaine, Evan & Rebecca – Advisors / Danielle & Janet - Funding

Early Years & Childcare Team



Parents FIS@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Providers Childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Keeping Vulnerable Children Safe

Vulnerable Children on a **Child Protection Plan, Child in Need, Looked After Child (Children in our Care)** and children on the edges of social care – know who your vulnerable children are and whether they are being kept safe and check in regularly to ensure their needs are being met.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend their early years setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk.

In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and setting should explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and the setting to consider how to encourage children to attend

Where parents are concerned about the risk of their child contracting the virus, the setting should talk through these anxieties with the parent following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Staying in touch with the parents is part of your ongoing parent partnership and safeguarding duty to children on your roll. Discuss any concerns you have with their social worker, MASH or the Early Years & Childcare team where there is not an allocated social worker yet.



Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage

Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five

Will there be any temporary flexibility on the requirements within the EYFS Statutory framework in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Department for Education (DFE) Update

We are listening to the sector on the challenges faced in providing safe and quality care during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are planning to amend regulations that would allow for the temporary lifting/modifying of a small number of requirements within the EYFS statutory framework, giving settings flexibility to respond to changes in workforce availability and potential fluctuations in demand while ensuring children are kept safe. The proposals, subject to parliamentary agreement, are:

PROPOSALS : During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak only SUBJECT to Parliamentary Approval (not yet agreed)

- use reasonable endeavours to meet learning and development requirements – but not be required to do so
- not be required to undertake the progress check at age 2
- ratio requirements will remain as set out in EYFS with flexibility for exceptional circumstances
- use reasonable endeavours to ensure that at least half of staff (excluding the manager) hold at least a full and relevant Level 2 qualification to meet ratio requirements - but this will not be a legal requirement
- new entrants will not need to undertake a Paediatric First Aid course within first 3 months to be counted in ratios

Further guidance is due to be issued before the end of April subject to parliamentary agreement of the relevant legislation. **Until agreed by Parliament, the current EYFS continues to apply.**

If you are less than good or have Welfare Requirements Notice, you must continue working with the Early Years and Childcare Advisors by phone and email to improve your quality and meet Ofsted actions

News round up from DFE guidance - you might have missed...

- **Childcare practitioners are critical** to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, so can send their children to school or childcare settings. However, as with all critical workers, many families will be able to ensure their child is kept at home to limit the chance of the virus spreading.
- The DFE states that the scientific advice indicates that educational staff do not require **personal protective equipment**. This is needed by medical and care professionals providing specific close contact care or procedures that create airborne risk, such as suctioning and physiotherapy, for anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) and is displaying symptoms.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

The Department for Education Note : Insurance

Business interruption insurance for nurseries that close:

It is important to note that most businesses have not purchased insurance that covers losses from unspecified notifiable diseases, such as COVID-19. Some policies cover losses arising from any disease classed as notifiable by the government, however most policies only cover a specific list of notifiable diseases.

However, for those businesses which do have an appropriate policy that covers Government-ordered closure and unspecified notifiable diseases, the Government's social distancing instructions are sufficient to allow businesses to make a claim against their insurance, provided the other terms and conditions in their policy are met.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) rules require insurers to handle claims fairly and promptly, not reject a claim unreasonably, and settle claims promptly once settlement terms are agreed. In addition, the FCA has said that, in light of COVID-19, insurers must consider very carefully the needs of their customers and show

flexibility in their treatment of them. The Government is working closely with the FCA to ensure that the rules are being upheld during this crisis.

Public liability insurance for nurseries that remain open:

The ABI have discussed this issue as a matter of urgency with their leading and specialist members who write insurance for nurseries and have confirmed that those members continue to offer cover to nurseries that remain open (as well as closed), and who are serving key workers' children as well as vulnerable children, with no change to terms and conditions.

If you have specific examples of cases that you are able to share, you are encouraged to let the local authority know who will pass onto the DFE which is working with the ABI and the Financial Conduct Authority.



New twice weekly data collection from early years and childcare providers via local authority snap survey

- **Wednesdays**
- **Fridays**

The early years and childcare sector is part of a critical national infrastructure providing care for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. It is crucial that the Department for Education has up-to-date information on what early years and childcare provision exists during the Covid-19 pandemic; which children are accessing it; and any availability or other problems that may be arising.

The DFE and the local authority recognise that you will already be incredibly busy and under significant pressure at this time and thank you in advance for your co-operation in sharing this vital information. It is also a valuable opportunity to highlight the essential role and support you offer families.

Given the rapidly changing situation, the DFE are asking for a short online data collection form to be completed twice a week

Early years and childcare providers to complete survey on Wednesdays and Fridays no later than 5pm


The snap survey is simple and quick to complete – it takes less than 5 minutes if you have your weekly register at hand – and you can complete it on any device including smart phones. Remember to add your setting name in full with Ofsted URN



30 hour codes and funding in Summer 2020

Early years entitlements funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds will continue to be paid to providers for the whole of the Summer 2020 term – for all PVI's and Childminders there will be an initial 50% advance payment based on Spring 2020 claim and the balance of 50% to be paid on your adjusted return of the pre-populated headcount form. You should have all received your advance payments by now. Get in touch if you haven't eyc-funding@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Please adjust pupils and state whether they are on roll or in attendance and then return as your final claim when you receive close to headcount date – Thursday 21 May. Please include any children who are temporarily with you where their main provider is closed – remember to add their start dates and ensure you have a parental declaration form for them.

 <p>www.childcarechoices.gov.uk</p> <p>HMRC Helpline</p> <p>0300 123 4097</p>	<p>All 30 hour codes should have a valid start date that is no later than <u>31 March 2019</u></p> <p>All parents must renew codes as usual – ie every 3 months to be valid.</p> <p>Critical workers – any issues affecting existing and new 30 hours codes for critical workers will be considered on an individual basis in discussion with the local authority. Please do not decline or withdraw any of these places without contacting childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk</p> <p>Please submit all required information to verify 30 hour codes via headcount or census return and the local authority will verify and check eligibility on your behalf during this period.</p>
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Review your fee and funding arrangements with parents

The unprecedented circumstances of this pandemic in which the government has requested early years and childcare to close to all children except for children of critical workers and vulnerable children has placed many families and providers in difficult circumstances. The DfE have set out guidance that providers are to be **reasoned, balanced and proportionate** in the dealings with parents given the financial uncertainty they are facing too.

Providers have access to business support which is being regularly reviewed by the DfE, so let us know about your experiences <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Any financial issues, questions or clarification, please contact us as below

Parents - **Families Information Service** fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Providers - **Early Years & Childcare Service** childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

#UnsungHeroes

Childcare Leaders, Practitioners, Teachers, and Childminders are all critical to Covid 19 response

Tell us about you and what you are doing!

Let's draw awareness to your great practice in helping children to feel safe and secure and to learn and flourish in difficult times

We will share your case study with Royal Greenwich Comms team to post on social media, the DFE to highlight your work, and with PACEY to promote – in fact everyone we can think of so your critical role is recognised and celebrated.

Tell us about

- ☆ which families in particular you are supporting (*without naming them please*) eg children of a nurse or cleaner working at the QE hospital, care worker working with vulnerable older people, teacher at a school, a family where there has been a history of domestic violence, a child with SEND or perhaps you are closed but are staying in regular contact with all or some of your children
- ☆ what you are doing to help – eg flexible hours, digital offer and video calls, home learning ideas, reduced fees, operating a food bank or participating in Mutual Aid
- ☆ how the family, child and your practitioners feel and say about what you are doing

Send us a photo, video or link to your social media/website to add to your case study. If you would like to tell us about it over telephone so we can help write it with you, let us know.

Email childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Rachel and children at Thames Tiddlers created a lovely video with The Rainbow Song which you can view on their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/thamestiddlersnursery/videos/1847748438695349/>



The Rainbow Song

Something the children and educators at Thames Tiddlers Nursery created yesterday. Hopefully something to put a smile on all of your faces. Stay Safe and...

www.facebook.com

You can find digital offers by the Library Service and the Children's Centres below

Laura at Under One Roof told us that they are running a volunteer scheme for vulnerable families and key workers.

“We are the donation point for it and are developing a phone line with Berkeley homes to get support to the right people. A few nurseries have already donated in particular food and PPE gear (aprons and gloves that are spare) which we have taken to the nearest hospital. It also enables us to support our families who are key workers and vulnerable.”

Please share the flyer attached with families who may be local to the Woolwich area and in need of some extra help.

COVID-19
MUTUAL AID
ROYAL ARSENAL & WOOLWICH

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT?

 Picking up Shopping

 A friendly phone call

 Accessing essential items

 Anything else?

CALL OUR FREE NUMBER:
0800 1126 019
OR GO TO:
www.RAMutualAid.co.uk


SCAN ME

WANT TO HELP?
If you are healthy and would like to volunteer, please go to our Facebook group:
"Royal Arsenal Covid19 Mutual Aid Group"

A HUGE THANKS TO:

This group has been established solely by volunteers. To confirm any details please contact Carolina Correia on carolina.correia@berkeleygroup.co.uk

Chizzy at Zippy's told us about delivering meals to University of London hospital and Royal Free hospital.

“We have set up a GoFundMe page to make sure we deliver meals at least once a week to our NHS heroes. It's called the *Zippy's Relief Fund* Doctors, Nurses and other health personnel of the NHS have shown what it takes to lead and love from the front lines of this Pandemic that is crippling the world. We at Zippy's Day Nursery want to assist in our own unique way. The goal is to safely provide meals for 2 months or more for NHS. Contact Zippy's to find out more on info@zippynursery.co.uk



Home Learning Environments

The Department for Education has set out their expectation that settings stay in touch with parents where children are at home.

Many of you have a great parent partnership and are offering lots of support and ideas to parents and carers already. Tell us what you are doing – so we can share with other providers.

This will all go to help families through stressful times - sometimes parents may need a little extra help with ideas and supporting positive behaviour in children. You are play experts – so share what you know.

There are many simple ways to help children learn and it does not have to feel like 'learning'. Encourage parents to have everyday conversations, make-believe play and read together - support parents to know that this will all make a big difference to children's development.

You may be inspired by great simple ideas from Development Matters and you can pick out parent friendly ideas <https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2012/03/Development-Matters-FINAL-PRINT-AMENDED.pdf>

Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



[Hungry Little Minds](https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/) campaign features tips and practical activities that parents can do at home with children to support their early learning <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>



BBC's [Tiny Happy People](https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people) has lots of activities and advice for parents as well Cbeebies

TINY Happy PEOPLE
Your words build their world



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>



Digital Offers by **Children's Centres** and **Greenwich Libraries**

To get in touch with your local children centre by phone – you can find their contact details here

https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/directory/15/childrens_centres

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Greenwich-Libraries-375637446612900/videos/>

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for Greenwich Libraries. The profile picture features the text "BETTER the feel good place". The page has a search bar at the top with "Greenwich Libraries" entered. Below the search bar are buttons for "Liked", "Following", "Share", "Learn More", and "Send Message". The main content area displays a grid of video posts:

- Post 1:** "It's an Easter Baby Rhyme Time with Miriam! Join in with songs new and..." (29:33, 209 Views)
- Post 2:** "Bed Time Read: the Caw Who climbed a Tree by Gemma Merino" (3:42, 130 Views)
- Post 3:** "Easter virtual #GreenwichParade! The Royal Borough of Greenwich..." (5:47, 29 Views)
- Post 4:** "Easter Messy Morning: paper plate sheep" (6:34)
- Post 5:** "WellbeingWednesday tutorial: Knit an Easter..." (10:02)
- Post 6:** "Bed time read The Cook and the King..." (5:29)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/bedtime-stories>

The screenshot shows the BBC Cbeebies website's "Bedtime Stories" section. At the top, there is a navigation menu with icons for Home, Shows, Games, Puzzles & Quizzes, Watch & Sing, Join In, Make & Colour, Radio, and Topics. The main banner features a smiling moon character holding a book titled "Cbeebies and Bedtime Stories". Below the banner, the text reads "Bedtime Stories" and "Join a host of different celebrities for a different story read each night just before bedtime." A button labeled "On iPlayer" with "Choose an episode" is also visible.

EAST GREENWICH CHILDREN'S CENTRES

www.facebook.com/abbeywoodthamesmeadchildrenscentres

Telephone 020 8311 5491 / Email waterways@gll.org

Week beginning 20 April (still time to join with this Sat 19 April with Cuddles and House Party)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Storytime with The Dream Princess	Rhyme Time with Elaine	Mindful Ready Teddy Go	Sensory Play with Danielle	Baby Massage	Cuddles
Bouncing Babies	Cuddles	Sing along with Deni	Boys will be...	The Learning Canteen	House Party with Paul
Doughnut Muffins with Lisa Matusha	Story time with Jacqui	Bucket Time with Lisa Stevens		Ball Skills with Dhan	

SOUTH GREENWICH CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Facebook: @southgreenwichchildrenscentres Email: SGCCSM@gll.org Tel: 020 8859 1110

www.facebook.com/southgreenwichchildrenscentres

Week Beginning 20 April (still time to join with this Sat 19 April- Bringing the outside inside 10am / Story time with GLL Libraries 4pm)

Monday	10am Wave in the new week, Ted!	11am Bouncing Babies with Zuleika	2pm Children's Gallery	4pm Story time with GLL Libraries	
Tuesday	10am Ted starts the day with a song	11am Craft Ideas with Katie	2pm Children's Gallery	4pm Story time with GLL Libraries	
Wednesday	10am Ted starts the day with a song	11am Messy Play with Vista Field Nursery	2pm Children's Gallery	4pm Story time with GLL Libraries	
Thursday	10am Ted starts the day with a song	11am Baby Massage with Bijita	2pm Children's Gallery	4pm Story time with GLL Libraries	5pm Relaxation Techniques with Sarah
Friday	10am Scooby Story Time with Ted	11am Work those little fingers!	2pm Children's Gallery	4pm Story time with GLL Libraries	
Saturday	10am Bringing the Outside Inside with Vista Field Nursery	11am Cooking with Maggie	2pm Top Tip of the Week		

GREENWICH WEST CHILDREN'S CENTRE DIGITAL OFFER

Website: <https://www.quaggydevelopmenttrust.org/>

Online calendar: <https://www.quaggydevelopmenttrust.org/live-calendar/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/quaggycc>

Twitter: @quaggycc www.twitter.com/quaggycc

Instagram: quaggycc1

Follow Halo the Hippo <https://www.facebook.com/halothehippo>

Family support

We continue to offer family support, but we will only be able to offer phone calls whilst we are in lockdown, we will try and guide you to the right agencies who can help with finances, housing, activities to do with your children at home and more.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10am Halo the Hippo Family Learning Activity	10am Halo the Hippo Family Learning Activity	10am Halo the Hippo Family Learning Activity	10am Halo the Hippo Family Learning Activity	10am Halo the Hippo Family Learning Activity	10am Halo the Hippo Family Learning Activity	10am Halo the Hippo Family Learning Activity
	3pm Music and Movement with Sharon			Sensory Play Session		
3.30pm Story Time with Quaggy staff	3.30pm Story Time with Quaggy staff	3.30pm Story Time with Quaggy staff	3.30pm Story Time with Quaggy staff	3.30pm Story Time with Quaggy staff		