

### Welcome

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> bulletin, with contributions from Verity Hyde, Early Language Consultant, Katie Mackle, EY Advisory Teacher and myself. We hope that your first half of the term has gone well. Here are some tips and reminders for you from a local perspective as well as national developments in SEND

Judith Thomas, EYAT for SEND

#### Updates on Portage Home Visiting Services

We have had a change of Portage Home Visiting personnel in Torbay. We have successfully interviewed and offered positions to new practitioners. Our hope is that following the induction process, the new Portage Home Visitors will be able to start meeting our families during the spring term 2021.



#### Educational Psychology Services (EPS)

This term, many of you have been referring children into the service for an assessment in readiness for the children's school start in 2021. An educational psychologist, the Portage lead and myself meet each month to allocate services. It is important to try and identify where possible, the children who will go on to need an education, health and care plan, as soon as possible and refer these children to the EPS before February half term 2021. The referral form can be found on <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/send/educational-psychology/> You can ask to discuss any children that you have concerns about and are considering referring to EPS, by contacting me through email [Judith.thomas@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.thomas@torbay.gov.uk) having sought parental consent first.

#### Information for parents/carers regarding SEND

Some of your parents/carers will be involved in accessing additional SEND support for their child, from both within & outside of the setting. The following information will be very useful to share with parents of children starting school 2021.

Torbay's guide and descriptors for SEND Support (A Graduated Response) – This document will be reassuring to parents/carers to see that SEND support will continue on into school, just as their child has been supported at a preschool level. It can be found on <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/send/statutory-assessments/>

SENDIASS Torbay – Independent advice for parents/carers with children with SEND found on <http://sendiasstorbay.org.uk/> and Facebook.



Autumn 2020

<https://nasen.org.uk/training-and-cpd/early-years.html>

Follow the link above to discover a range of free training webinars and resources delivered by the EYSEND Partnership (The Council for Disabled Children, I CAN, The Communication Trust, Contact, School Improvement Liverpool and Nursery World with nasen)

#### **NEW for Autumn 2020! Early Years Resources & CPD**

- **Building Resilience for Vulnerable Toddlers** – A 26 minute webcast, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fall out for our young children
- **The Importance of Play and Relationships** – A 20 minute webcast covering the development and range of play, linking the importance of play with children's cognitive and social development.
- **Time together with your toddler** – a booklet packed with ideas and resources for parents and practitioners with the relevant links to videos and websites
- **Resilience Development Pack** – 7 Days, Many Ways booklet and webcasts

### Children with SLCN

**Do you know who they are in your setting?**

**Answer these questions...**

- How many children are in your setting? (e.g. 100)
- What is 10% of the number of children in your setting? (e.g. 10 children)
- What is 25% of the number of children in your setting? (e.g. 25 children)

Statistics tell us that 10-25% of children in any setting will likely have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

In areas of disadvantage more than 50% of children enter school without their SLC as expected – so if you are in an area of disadvantage, the number of children in your setting with SLCN might be much higher.

At this point in the term, it's really important that you have identified who those children are and how you will plan to support their needs.

Use the Torbay SLC monitoring sheet to help with the identification process and then decide –

Does this child need targeted support in the setting and at home?

Do they also need specialist support from another professional? (e.g. a referral to a Speech and Language Therapist)

### Speech & Language Therapy

If you have a child who needs referring to Speech and Language Therapy, please continue to refer. The service is open, even though appointments may look a little different.

[torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy/](https://torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy/)



## Useful links for support

### [Chat, Play, Read](#)

The home learning environment continues to be an area of focus for us in the early years sector. There are so many resources online for parents and practitioners and here are some of the best of the bunch:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

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

<http://www.smallstepsbigchanges.org.uk/biglittlemoments>

### [Free online training from I CAN](#)

I CAN has developed two free webcasts for early years practitioners, SENCOs and managers to find out about how to support SLCN in early years settings. The webcasts can be viewed at any time, at home or in the setting. They make excellent material for a staff meeting. The webcasts can be followed up with a free live webinar that participants can book to help them implement their learning.

To book a webinar place visit:

[www.ican.org.uk/eysend-partnership/](http://www.ican.org.uk/eysend-partnership/)

### [Speech and Language virtual drop-in](#)

A group of Speech and Language Therapists across Devon, including from our area in Torbay and South Devon, have been working together to consider how to further support children under 2 who are beginning to show signs of speech and language difficulty.

Since September, the Speech and Language Therapy team have been offering a virtual drop-in session for children under 2. This is mostly for families, but can be accessed by professionals who are not sure whether to be concerned or not. Please share this information with parents so that they can access the drop-in for children under 2 if they have concerns. Alternatively, you as practitioners can access the drop-in yourself to discuss a child under 2 anonymously.

The remaining virtual drop-in dates for up till Christmas are:

10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 12pm

8<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 12pm

*For further information, support or advice regarding early speech, language and communication please do get in touch:*

[verity.hyde@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:verity.hyde@torbay.gov.uk)

**07879487455**

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare/early-years-foundation-stage/speech-language-and-communication/>



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As we know good relationships are key to promoting positivity and well-being, we are experiencing challenging times and we all need to be mindful of our own wellbeing as well as children's, staff's and that of our families.

### 10 a day choices towards balancing our mental health

This poster outlines the Top 10 tips which you have possibly seen but it is worth flagging up with everyone to promote wellbeing

#### Emotion coaching:

There is a good 30 minute webinar on Emotion Coaching and regulation. It may be good time to focus on co-regulation within your teams with peer on peer support as well as with adults supporting the children.

Steps of Emotion Coaching

#### Step 1

- Recognising the child's feelings and empathising with them.

#### Step 2

- Label the feelings and validating them

(validating = let the child know why they might be feeling like this and that this is okay)

#### Step 3

- Set limits on the behaviour (if needed)

#### Step 4

- Problem-solve with the child

**Regulation stations:** this poster supports the idea of having a space to support regulation.



CLICK ON THE LINKS

### **10 a day choices towards balancing our mental health**

<https://www.torbayandsothdevon.nhs.uk/uploads/25575.pdf>

### **Emotion coaching:**

<https://www.emotioncoachinguk.com/for-professionals>



### **Regulation station poster:**

[https://0cb242fb-7e24-4208-86de-d7c876a2f1c2.filesusr.com/ugd/994674\\_ef840e8a09504d37a8004a9e7c0982c3.pdf](https://0cb242fb-7e24-4208-86de-d7c876a2f1c2.filesusr.com/ugd/994674_ef840e8a09504d37a8004a9e7c0982c3.pdf)