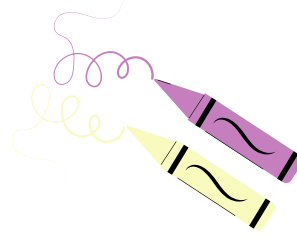


# Early Years

## NEW TERM 1 & 2



Welcome back to the new academic year; we hope you managed to have some 'switch off' time and feel a little bit refreshed and ready for the new term and new cohorts.

## STLS News

- Any training you require needs to be requested via the Booking form available here: [BOOKING FORM](#)
- All training information can be found on the STLS section of the St Nicholas School website here: [WEBSITE](#)
- We are offering you the chance to become an Early Years Sensory Champion (see below)
- We will still be offering in-nursery reviews, coffee mornings and the newly named Reception SEN Reviews.
- The new LIFT schedule is available on the STLS website; we have continued with the blended offer of providing two face to face meetings and one virtual as we recognise it can be challenging for some staff to attend in person.
- Charlotte Wiffen is the new Manager of Caterpillars Nursery (SNI); she will be joining us at Forums, LIFTS and visits.

## New for 2024! Sensory Champions!

- Sensory Champions is a 4 session course (10 am to 12pm), designed to provide practitioners with the knowledge and skills to develop Best Practice in the settings for children with Sensory Challenges.
- A requirement of the course will be, that those taking part ,will share their professional insight by feeding back on a project they have implemented that shows the impact of what they have learned.
- Cost : £80.00 ( EY Settings) £120 (Schools)

## KCC Local Offer

The SEND Hub is operational and offers useful info for parents on the KCC website - you can check it out here:

[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)





The SENIF team are continuing to try and make the process easier please click on the link below to find out how: [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

There is also a new document for families to explain SNI requests: [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

## PD News

Kate Hebson is the interim Head of Service until January 2024

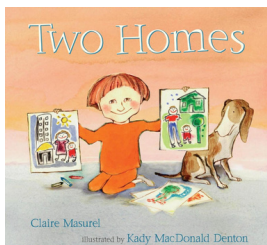
PD surgeries will run much like before with 2 specialist PD teachers to give Advice and Guidance and decide next steps. The flyer now also encompasses a very short form for SENCOs to complete, including parental signature. Minutes from the surgery will follow on as before. Should SENCOs want an anonymised discussion; they can contact their PD Specialist Teacher directly outside of Surgery slots. You can find the PD Surgeries flyer here: [\*\*ADVICE FOR SENCOs\*\*](#) (titled PD Surgeries Flyer 2023/2024)

We are now fortunate to have Business Support from Helen Pyke who will be taking this forwards. With this in mind, SENCOs can now email [\*\*pdteam@kent.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:pdteam@kent.gov.uk) to request a referral form to our service directly. It has been slightly updated to give SENCOs more information on thresholds/criteria. Moving and Handling will be running from 2 bases in Kent starting imminently. SENCOs can email to book a place via Helen.

## In the National News

A new report from S & L UK 'Listening to unheard children', which reveals a shocking rise in the number of children struggling with talking and understanding words: [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

## Sue's Book Corner

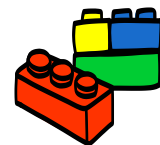
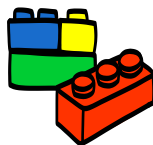


[Two Homes by Claire Masurel \(Sue's Favourite\) - CLICK HERE](#)



Two Homes Filled With Love - A Story about Divorce & Separation by Steve Herman - [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

Both offer a comforting, reassuring and sensitive portrayal of divorce for children.



**EECERA Toolkit** to support early years practitioners working with refugee children. The EECERA Special Interest Group for Children from Refugee or Migrant Backgrounds has produced an education toolkit to approach and mitigate the challenges that refugee or migrant children may face in their new country. The toolkit is a global play-based resource for practitioners working with children aged two to seven years. It aims to support early years educators by introducing ideas and concepts about refugee and migration experiences in a trauma-informed way.

**Every Moment Counts'**: strategy for deaf children in the early years The National Deaf Children's Society has launched a five year strategy with the aim of closing the attainment gap by making sure deaf children get the help they need in their early years, when deafness has the greatest impact on children's language, development and social skills. The new strategy is supported by the NDCS existing suite of early years resources: • Developing your baby's communication and language; • Learning at home with three- to four-year-olds; • Phonics and your deaf child; • Summer born children in England: starting school a year late; • Quality standards in early years services; • Choosing childcare for your deaf child.  
Published 1st June 2023.

**Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance update** The Department for Education has updated statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment. This guidance applies to all schools and colleges and is for headteachers, teachers and staff, governing bodies, proprietors and management committees. It sets out the legal duties you must follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges. The 2022 version of the guidance is currently in force. The 2023 version will come into force on 1 September 2023. Updated 6th June 2023

**TES SEND show, 13th – 14th October 2023, London** The TES SEND show will take place at the Business Design Centre, Islington 13th – 14th October 2023, including CPD workshops and free seminars. Click [here](#) to register your interest in this event. This event is free to attend.

## Early Years SENCo Network Meetings

**Term 1** - Guest speaker Jane Flockhart to tell us more about the 'Funtrain'

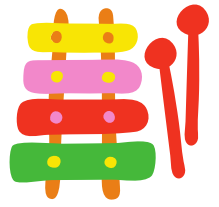
**Focus** on Sensory & AET Training  
Catch ups from E&I and SENIF

**Term 2** - Guest speakers Ian Blesdale from Emporium & Sarah Alridge from the Autism Apprentice.

**Focus** - PECS



## Early Years Training Available



**Supporting Children with Complex Needs in the EYFS - NEW** – Thursday 9th November  
(9.30-12.30)

Target Audience – Class Teachers & TA's working with children with complex needs in year R.

Cost: £20 (EY Settings) & £40 (Schools).

**Attention Autism** on 28th November & 12th December (both days must be attended)

Targets Audience - EY's practitioners in nursery and schools working with children with Autism and attention difficulties.

Cost: £120 per person (ideally 2 people should attend and priority will be given to those schools and settings that endeavour to meet this requirement). This is subsidised for one more year.

All STLS Canterbury training courses should be booked via the booking form [HERE](#)

We are able to offer the new **AET** Basic awareness training (Making Sense of Autism) for whole settings but this may be delivered by the AET County team if the demand exceeds our capacity. The targeted AET training will be offered as part of our training offer. There is a tab on our website with booking details.

AET (MSA) should be booked via the booking form [HERE](#)

You can find all training information on the St Nicholas School website here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

**LIFT**

Please continue to send LIFT referrals in before the deadlines and with all relevant paperwork. There is a LIFT checklist and the LIFT schedule available on the St Nicholas School website:

[CLICK HERE](#)

