

Barnet Virtual School Carer Newsletter Summer 2024

Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of the Barnet Virtual School Carer Newsletter. We hope you had a good break and the return to school has gone smoothly. Please do contact your young person's caseworker if you have any questions or queries—contact details are further on. Please also ensure you ask your child's D.T. in school if you want a copy of the PEP. Sarah Deale Headteacher

FOSTER CARER TRAINING THIS TERM

Barnet Virtual School are offering a range of virtual workshops over the Spring Term. These are an opportunity to learn more about a particular topic, meet other foster carers and ask questions.

Supporting a looked after child/Young person who has complex needs and is minimally verbal

Monday 13th May 10-11a.m.

This workshop will think about the LAC child /young person who uses limited verbal communication:

How to recognise their receptive vs expressive language level.

How to support their communication in everyday situations

How to access further support & next steps

Run by our speech and language therapists



Understanding Post 16 Pathways

Thursday 6th June 10.00- 11.15am

This workshop will help you gain an understanding of the range of pathways and options available to young people at Post 16 such as continuing education at school or college, vocational courses, apprenticeships, supported internships and other opportunities that can support next steps. We will also explore your role in supporting transitions at post 16

Preparing a looked after child for a new school/class

Monday 10th June 2024 10.00- 11a.m.

This workshop will think about the LAC child /young person who is about to move to a new education setting e.g. starting in Reception class or changing school

Thinking about 'adapting to change' for the LAC child or young person.

Preparing and supporting the LAC child or young person with change /transition.

How to access further support & next steps

Run by our speech and language therapists

An introduction to ADHD / ADD

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 10.00- 11.15am

This workshop will help you gain an understanding of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) through an introduction to both as well as top tips on how you can support children and young people with needs in this area.

If you would like to do any of these, please email: barnet.virtualschool@barnet.gov.uk stating which course you would like to do and we will set up access for you.

You will be given a certificate of attendance for each workshop that you attend.

Supporting Your child in school

Many care-experienced children have suffered disrupted learning, may have missed extended periods of school, and many of them have special educational needs (SEN). The gaps in their learning and, in many cases the emotional impact of their experiences, are likely to have become significant barriers to their progress. Schools have a duty to understand the things which can affect how care-experienced young people learn and achieve and how the whole school supports the educational achievement of these pupils. We are currently running a Trauma Informed Schools project with 10 Barnet Schools and recently held a Trauma informed schools conference with some fantastic speakers including Ashley John Baptist (a care experienced BBC journalist) and Louise Bomber (a founding member of Touchbase and leading expert in the field).



You may be interested in these:

[A trauma-informed approach - Supporting care-experienced children - BBC Teach](#) It is aimed at schools but an interesting listen

[Childhood Trauma and the Brain - UK Trauma Council](#) An interesting animation by the UK Trauma Council

Extra training for parents/carers

This term we will be delivering two more training sessions for parents/carers. These will be facilitated by Amelia Brunt who some of you may remember from the Emotionally Based School Non-attendance session last term.

Dates will be: 20th May 10 – 12 and 11th July 10-12.

The topics will be Emotion Coaching and De-escalation

We will circulate details nearer the time!

Supporting Early Years Children with Maths

There are lots of ways you support your child's early mathematical development. Here are just a few ideas.

In everyday situations use opportunities for grouping objects together for example sorting the washing, laying the table, getting dressed

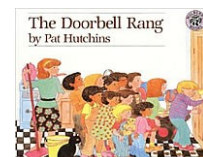


Help children develop their understanding of quantities by using words such as lots/few, light/heavy, more/less, small/large.



Use pictures and objects to illustrate the number symbols.

Read books/stories which support mathematical concepts, play games such as snap, lotto, board games with a dice.



By singing counting songs and rhymes this will help to develop the child have a great understanding of number order as well as addition and subtraction. Think about using props to act out counting. You can find lots of songs here: [Counting songs - BBC Teach](#)

Talk about number patterns through activities such as ordering of events eg identifying the days of the week and the months of the year, use a clock face to illustrate time of the day.



Provide opportunities to create patterns for example activities such as threading beads, making icing patterns on cakes/biscuits. Think about ways language is used to describe measure, shape, position in everyday life. Play with shapes and model their names "Let's make a tower with all the cubes", "I have a triangle can you find two more triangles" "How many circles can you find in this picture?"

Encourage and value children's ability to problem solve and estimate. For example, sharing out: suppose there were three people to share between instead of two, how many do you think we need – is that enough? Use practical activities to write number symbols and/or use a tally system as a way to record.

Resources

Cbeebies has lots of useful free games for children

[Games - Early years Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Games - Free online games for kids 0 - 6 - CBeebies - BBC](#)

Orchard Games make lots of great, simple games: [Number & Counting Games | For Children | Orchard Toys](#)

Contacts in the Virtual School

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