



Childcare Choices

Torfaen Play Lending Library 2018

From educational to sensory, to role play and music, you will find a range of play equipment in the 2018 Catalogue. The Play Lending Library service is offered by Torfaen County Borough Council to childcare and play activity providers in Torfaen as well as to parents and carers. Toys, equipment and activity packs available are suitable for a range of abilities

For further information please contact Torfaen Play Service on 01495 742951 or via email to Katy.Allen@torfaen.gov.uk (01495 742954)

Tax-free childcare service expanded to more parents

Parents of children aged 9 and under are now able to apply for Tax-Free Childcare support. All remaining eligible families with children under 12 can apply from 14 February. This means that all eligible parents will be able to apply for Tax-Free Childcare before the end of the financial year.

Parents, including those who are self-employed, can apply online for Tax-Free Childcare by visiting the [Childcare Choices website](#). Parents can also access the government's childcare calculator through Childcare Choices, which helps parents to choose which type of government childcare support is best for them.

Since opening the childcare service, through which parents apply for 30 hours childcare and Tax-Free Childcare, more than 325,000 customers have successfully applied and are now using the service.

The government initiative means that parents can pay up to £2000 a year in childcare costs, or £4000 if their child is disabled, without paying tax. The scheme is for parents of children up to the age of 12, or 17 for disabled children. To qualify, parents have to be in work, and each earn at least £120 a week (roughly equivalent to 16 hours per week at the minimum wage). Each parent must not have income over £100,000 per year.

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19
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2018



Childcare Connections



NEWSLETTER
FOR
CHILDCARE
PROVIDERS

Welcome to the Latest edition of Childcare Connections. This newsletter is dedicated to you and we want to hear from you with your stories and achievements. In this edition you will find updates and information on the new ALN bill and the Tax Free Childcare service as well as information about the Childcare Offer for Wales. For any enquiries, comments or questions or to put an article in the newsletter please contact your CDO - Aimee, Jo or Danielle on 01633 648114 / 648115, or call in and see us in New Inn.

Save the date.....

Childcare Provider Network Evening –
Tuesday 27th March 2018
6.30pm at New Inn Family Learning Centre, The Highway, New Inn, NP4 0PH

Future changes to the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare

Further to recent updates from CIW on changes to Playwork qualifications required by existing settings, the lead-in time for the childcare and play workforces to attain the required play qualifications has been set at September 2021. There are no changes to the current requirements for childminders, nor for registered childcare services caring for children under the age of 8 years old.

Funding is available for level 2 and level 3 Diplomas in Playwork through the apprentice route, the criteria is below:
For level 2, learners can be 16 + and must work with children aged 5 + for a minimum 16 hours per week.
For level 3, learners can be 18 + and must work with children aged 5 + for a minimum of 16 hours per week.

Learners must attend a workshop twice per fortnight if they do not have their essential skills in application of number and communication level 2 or above, or GCSE Grade C and above in English and Maths. Funding is currently available through Aspirations Cardiff and Clybiau Plant Cymru Kid's Clubs.

Please contact the training providers direct for more information:
info@clybiauplantcymru.org Clybiau Plant Cymru Kid's Clubs
Alyson Dale Aspirations training (adale@aspirationtraining.com)

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill gains Royal Assent

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill gained Royal Assent on 24 January 2018.

The Bill, passed by the National Assembly for Wales on 12 December 2017 aims to provide better support for children and young people between 0 and 25 years old who need it.

The legislation will be supported by reforms, subordinate legislation and an Additional Learning Needs Code.

Implementation of the new system will begin in September 2020 and is expected to be complete by the end of 2023. £20m has been committed to the transformation programme by the Welsh Government.

The full bill can be found here

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s68616/Revised%20Explanatory%20Memorandum%20-%20November%202017.pdf>

Children In Wales are offering a one day training course 'Inclusion of disabled children' at a cost of £135 which will also look at the new legislative framework.

For more information you can visit their website at <http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/item/inclusion-disabled-children/>

TALK CHILDCARE
 - The offer for
 Wales

Update

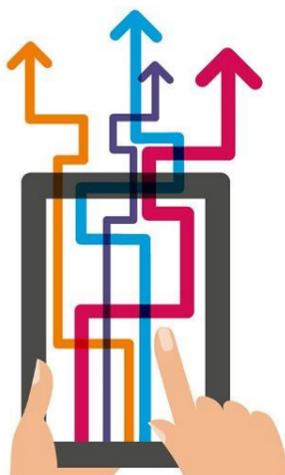
A big thank you to those who attended the recent 30 Hours Childcare consultations!

Another series of consultation events will take place in early April to keep all childcare providers up to date and provide answers to the questions they raised in the Autumn term.

Torfaen County Borough Council has formally submitted a Childcare Offer Proforma to Welsh Government to take part in the next phase of the pilot and we will be notified in March if we have been successful.



MAKING TAX DIGITAL



Making Tax Digital - updates to timings and scope

Back in 2015, the government announced plans for a transformed tax system, Making Tax Digital. The Making Tax Digital roadmap sets out government plans to transform tax administration by 2020 to make it more efficient, effective and easier for tax payers.

Following concerns raised by businesses about the scope and timings of the Making Tax Digital project, the government announced in the summer that only businesses with a turnover above the VAT threshold (currently £85,000) would be required to

use the Making Tax Digital system by April 2019, and then only to meet their VAT obligations. Businesses operating below the VAT threshold

may use the new system if they wish. Businesses may also opt to use the system to manage their other taxes,

benefitting from a streamlined digital experience.

The government has also confirmed that they will not widen the scope of Making Tax Digital beyond the management of VAT

Visit the HMRC website at www.gov.uk for more information.

until the system has been proven to work, and not before April 2020 at the earliest. This gives HMRC time to test the systems fully, and for digital record keeping to become more widespread.

These changes mean that even the smallest businesses will be able to move to keeping digital records at a pace that works

for them.

We are expecting more detail from HMRC in the coming months about how businesses with a turnover above the VAT threshold can get involved in the pilot and will share that when it is available.

Delivering a tax cut for small businesses: a permanent small business rates relief scheme for Wales

The Welsh Government Finance Secretary announced a permanent Small Business Rates Relief scheme (SBRR) will be introduced from 1 April 2018.

Increasing the upper threshold for rates relief for childcare providers from £12,000 to £20,500 will make a difference to a number of childcare settings who are providing early years and childcare services in Torfaen.

This as a positive move forward for the sector at a time when they are meeting increasing costs and will help to address sustainability issues.

Link to Statement:

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/smallbusinessratesrelief/?lang=e>

GDPR is coming.....

From 25th May 2018, Data Protection rules will change with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This is a wide ranging change that will affect businesses across the EU. All businesses will be impacted—even a small, one-person business such as a childminding business.

There will be steps all businesses will need to take to ensure they are compliant. Businesses will need to reflect carefully on how they gather, hold, and share any personally identifiable information, which includes anything that can be used to identify a specific person.

However, preparing for the GDPR should not require you to spend lots of money; you should beware of targeted marketing suggesting you need to purchase costly training and/or resources to be compliant. The Information Commissioner's Office has produced some free guidance.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>



Day Nurseries start to star as part of a new scheme with Mudiad Meithrin

Mudiad Meithrin have recently launched a new quality assurance scheme for Day Nurseries, called 'Safonau Serennog'.

The aim of the 'Safonau Serennog' quality scheme is to set achievable aims and goals that all Day Nurseries can work towards. The scheme offers a structure to enable committees/employers and staff to evaluate their service objectively. Day Nurseries will be required to develop, innovate, improve quality and raise standards of the services they provide to young children and their families in order to achieve the 3 possible standards – Bronze, Silver and Gold.

For further information contact Mudiad Meithrin directly.