



NEWSLETTER FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

Welcome to the latest edition of Childcare Connections, a newsletter for all childcare providers in Torfaen.

We would be pleased to include your stories and achievements, send them to your Childcare Development Officers - Aimee, Jo or Danielle.

You can contact us with comments or questions on 10633 648114 / 648115 or email us at:

[aimee.priest](mailto:aimee.priest@torfaen.gov.uk)

@torfaen.gov.uk

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Welsh for Childcare—book your places

Some of you may have seen and taken advantage of the recently offered FREE basic and intermediate Welsh language courses delivered by the Cwlwm Partnership and funded by Torfaen. This fun, relaxed and interactive programme is aimed at all childcare practitioners from nursery nurses to playworkers and childminders with the skills needed to embed Welsh into daily practice.

The next round of (provisional) dates are :

27th April – 6.15pm – 8.15pm (New Inn)

4th May – 6.15pm – 8.15pm (New Inn)

11th May – 6.15pm – 8.15pm (New Inn)

18th May – 6.15pm – 8.15pm (New Inn)

Weekend intermediate – Saturdays

29th April – 9.30am – 1.45pm (New Inn)

6th May – 9.30am – 1.45pm (New Inn)

Intermediate training can be tailored to suit the needs of the settings— to confirm the dates, and book your place, please contact Jane Lolin on 01633 647423 or jane.lolin@torfaen.gov.uk

Important - Childcare SASS part two

CSSIW will be emailing all childcare providers in the near future to give a date for when SASS part two will be happening. SASS part two will involve the Quality of Care Review and a number of other questions, all using CSSIW Online.

Advice for providers

In preparation, providers can start ensuring that their Statement of Purpose is up-to-date, and feedback has been obtained from the users of the service—both parents/carers and children.

If you didn't submit or only partially completed SASS part one, you will need to complete it at the same time as SASS part two, in May. **You cannot do anything online now.** CSSIW will not be able to accept late SASS part one before May.

Website

CSSIW will be posting information on their website which will closely follow the email that providers will receive. The website will be updated over the next few months to ensure that there's relevant information on there for providers. Check regularly to be kept up-to-date on the latest developments.

Are you ready for Tax-Free Childcare?

Childcare providers across the UK are signing up for the UK government's new offer: Tax-Free Childcare. To sign up, childcare providers should visit www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk and will need:

- The unique code included in their invitation letter.
- The bank account details for the account they wish to receive payments into.
- Their Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) number – or their National Insurance number, if they don't have a UTR.

Lost or missing sign up letter?

If you didn't receive, or have lost your sign up letter, contact the childcare service helpline on 0300 123 4097.

Managing your account

Managing your account is quick and easy. You can use it to update your bank details or your delegate information. If you don't want to run your account you can give access to someone else (your delegate), who'll be able to manage your account on your behalf.

How parents can find you

Once you've signed up to Tax-Free Childcare, parents can use the childcare provider checker to search for you, using your:

- Name
- Address or postcode
- CSSIW registration number

How parents make payments to you

Parents can use their childcare account to make one-off or regular payments direct to your bank account. The payment should only take 2-3 working days to arrive in your account. When you receive a payment from a parent this will include both their payment and the government contribution.

Tax-Free Childcare payments have a reference number of 4 letters and 5 numbers, followed by 'TFC'. The letters are made up of the first initial and first 3 letters of the surname of the parent making the payment. For example, AJON12345TFC. This will help you link the payment to the child you provide childcare for.

To access information for parents go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-10-things-parents-should-know>

New Car Safety Laws

Car Seats and Booster Cushions The new law effective from 1st March 2017 means:

- * Any **new** booster seats for children up to 135cm tall or weighing up to 22kg must have a back and sides.
- * If you are using a backless booster seat already for children weighing at least 15kg, you may continue to use this - the change in law applies to new seats.

When transporting children in your car, you must ensure that they are appropriately restrained. Using the correct car seat for their height and weight will help protect them in case of a collision.

For more details visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

Using your phone while driving

New penalties have been implemented, doubling the fine for using a phone at the wheel to 6 points on your licence and a £200 fine.

This includes using your phone when stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic.

#TalkChildcare - The Childcare Offer for Wales

Welsh Government intend to provide 30 hours a week of free early education and childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds in Wales, for up to 48 weeks of the year. The current early education entitlement will form part of this offer.

The offer is being piloted in some local authority areas from September 2017 to make sure it works for parents and childcare providers. The free childcare offer will be available across Wales for all eligible families once developed

Visit the Welsh Government webpage where you can find out more about the free childcare offer.

www.gov.wales/talkchildcare - Look for the hashtag and join the conversation online.