Early Childhood Unit



Welcome to the ECU bulletin 03 September 2015

Contents

Policy

1. Good Childhood Report 2015
2. United Nations Human Rights Committee observations

Practice

3. Early Implementers for 30 hours free childcare offer
4. *What to Expect, When?* case studies
5. Level 3 Early Years Educator GCSE requirements FAQs
6. Sure Start, what future?
7. Childcare measures: Small Business, Enterprise & Employment Act 2015
8. Provision and use of preschool child care in Britain
9. Provision for children under 5 years of age: January 2015
10. Summer-born children: starting school
11. National Living Wage Survey
12. CARE project survey: views of parents, carers and professionals
13. Improving school readiness: creating a better start for London
14. Prevent Duty mini guide
15. TACTYC invitation to bid for research on experiences of new early years training and qualifications courses in England
16. PACEY school transition project

Research

17. What parents know and want to learn about healthy eating and body image in preschool children
18. Routledge free access Playday article collection
19. Baby names in England and Wales: 2014
20. Professional partnerships with families of young children
21. What works for reducing problem behaviors in early childhood: lessons from experimental evaluations

Ofsted

22. Ofsted Common Inspection Framework

Families

23. Pregnancy and maternity-related discrimination and disadvantage first findings: surveys of employers and mothers

Disability and special needs

24. SEND: managing changes to legislation from September 2015
25. Young disabled children's experiences of early education and childcare
26. Special educational needs in England: January 2015
27. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathfinder Programme evaluation: final impact research report
28. The determinants of health inequities experienced by children with learning disabilities

Health and wellbeing

29. Obesity: prevention and lifestyle weight management in children and young people
30. Unexplained deaths in infancy, in England and Wales: 2013

Conferences

Policy

Good Childhood Report 2015

Children in England are ranked 14th for life satisfaction in this international survey by the Children's Society, which compares children's happiness in 15 countries. As well as being unhappy with their school life, the study shows that children in England are particularly dissatisfied with their appearance and body confidence. The report shows that how children feel about their own happiness is related to their mental health, with those scoring low on both areas being less likely to flourish. The Children's Society is calling on government to make it a legal requirement for schools in England to provide counselling to pupils, which would bring it in line with Wales and Northern Ireland.

United Nations Human Rights Committee observations

The United Nations Human Rights Committee's observations contain positive aspects of the UK's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and also main matters of concern and recommendations. With regard to children and young people, the Committee calls for a ban on parents smacking their children with a repeal of all legal defences and the encouragement of non-violent forms of discipline.

Practice

Early Implementers for 30 hours free childcare offer

Early Implementers for the 30 hours free childcare offer for 3- and 4-year-olds can now register their interest with the Department for Education. While the free childcare expansion will be rolled out nationally in 2017, trials in some areas will begin in September 2016.

Organisations who would like to register their interest can do so by emailing DfE at early.implementers@education.gsi.gov.uk by Monday 28 September.

***What to Expect, When?* case studies**

In March 2015, 4Children launched the *What to Expect, When?* Guide to help parents and carers to find out more about how their child is learning and developing during the first five years, in relation to the EYFS. 4Children has now published a number of case studies that illustrate how early years settings have been using the guide to involve families in understanding their children's progress and development.

Level 3 Early Years Educator GCSE requirements FAQs

PACEY (Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years) has published a number of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on its website relating to the announcement that Level 3 GCSE entry requirements have been removed in England.

Sure Start, what future?

This report by Labour Friends of Sure Start argues that Sure Start's existence is now in serious jeopardy. It contains data collated by Unison that reveals 102 children's centres are either being considered for closure or have had closure plans confirmed. This follows on from news that 99 children's centres closed in the six months between 1 January and 30 June this year, bringing the total number of children's centre closures since 2010 to 250. The report includes chapters from Tristram Hunt, Labour's shadow secretary of state for education, Sharon Hodgson, Helen Berresford, director of external affairs at 4Children and Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North, who chairs the Early Intervention Foundation.

Childcare measures: Small Business, Enterprise & Employment Act 2015

In February 2014, the government published 'The regulation of childcare consultation: government response' which included its plans to go ahead with several proposals, including allowing childminders to operate on suitable non-domestic premises for part of the working week and enabling childcare providers to register multiple premises without completing a separate registration application each time. These measures, which apply in England only, are included in the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 and will come into force on 1 January 2016.

Provision and use of preschool child care in Britain

A secondary analysis of childcare using large-scale national data sets, this report by UCL Institute of Education, Thomas Coram Research Unit warns of the possibility of a shortage in the childcare workforce once the economy begins to improve. The sector remains poorly paid compared with other occupations and the report suggests that practitioners may be continuing in the sector due to the lack of alternative employment. As the economy gradually starts to pick up good candidates may move to better paid work in other sectors. This will make recruitment harder for providers looking to grow their workforce to cover the government's increased offer of 30 funded hours per week for three and four-year-olds of working parents from 2017. The report also argues that the provision of these free places is not adequately funded by government, so nurseries and other early years settings will have to raise their fees. Recommendations include setting-up a formal review to examine the complex and interwoven issues of childcare and establishing a recruitment drive to address the lack of male workers in the UK's childcare settings.

Provision for children under 5 years of age: January 2015

These statistics published by the Department for Education on early years provision for children under 5 years in England include the number of children benefiting from funded early years education and providers of funded early years education. The quality and uses document has been updated and additional tables and underlying data have been added.

Summer-born children: starting school

This House of Commons Library briefing provides an overview of the flexibility for parents of summer-born children in England to request for their children to be admitted to school outside of their normal age group, and governmental and parliamentary activity considering potential changes.

National Living Wage Survey

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has conducted a survey of nursery employees that has found that employers' payroll costs will rise by an average of 10 per cent next year and 35 per cent by 2020 as a result of the introduction of a national living wage for staff aged over 25 from next April. The national living wage will be initially set at £7.20 an hour before rising to £9 an hour by 2020. It will replace the national minimum wage – the current rate of which is £6.50 per hour.

CARE project survey: views of parents, carers and professionals

The CARE project is funded by the European Union to develop knowledge about early childhood education and care in European countries, in order to provide information to improve services. The study includes all types of out-of-home early education and care for children from 0-6 years. It will look at the values, beliefs, and experiences of people who have an interest in early education and care from different perspectives. This survey focuses on the views of parents, policy-makers and practitioners.

The questionnaire will take around 30 minutes to complete.

Improving school readiness: creating a better start for London

This report by Public Health England describes the importance of school readiness and the economic case for investing in school readiness. It provides a descriptive analysis of school readiness in London and summarises the evidence of what works to improve school readiness in order to facilitate improvements in service planning and delivery.

Prevent Duty mini guide

The Prevent Duty Guidance came into force on 1 July 2015. It places duties on schools and registered childcare providers around keeping children safe and promoting their welfare. This guide published by the Pre-School Learning Alliance sets out what providers need to do to meet the specific legal duties in the guidance.

TACTYC invitation to bid for research on experiences of new early years training and qualifications courses in England

TACTYC (Association for Professional Development in Early Years) is inviting bids for a scoping study exploring aspects of the impact, experiences and associated issues of one or more of the new early years qualifications/training: early years teacher and early years educator. Proposals should be submitted between 1-30 October 2015.

PACEY school transition project

PACEY is working on a new project this year that helps improve children's transition into school by developing partnerships between childcare providers, families and schools. Starting School Together, funded by a grant from the Department for Education, is running across four pilot sites in Cambridgeshire and North Yorkshire and focuses on children from disadvantaged backgrounds and black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. Families are being supported with toys and resources, face-to-face meetings and online contact to help their children prepare to start school.

Research

What parents know and want to learn about healthy eating and body image in preschool children

This study examined what parents of children aged 1–6 years understand about child healthy eating and body image, and what they would like in future interventions. The authors used structured focus groups with parents, and individual interviews with early childhood professionals.

Routledge free access Playday article collection

Routledge is providing free access to online articles from its research collection dedicated to Playday 2015. The articles cover a variety of topics, including early years and play.

Baby names in England and Wales: 2014

Oliver and Amelia were the most popular first names given to babies born in England and Wales last year. It is the second year that Oliver has topped the list while Amelia has been number one in England since 2011. However, TV programmes such as Game of Thrones are providing inspiration for a new generation of names such as Khaleesi, Tyrion and Daenerys. The data is published by the Office for National Statistics.

Professional partnerships with families of young children

The Journal of Early Childhood Research has published the first of several themed, free access, virtual special issues. This issue, edited by Professor Cathy Nutbrown, focuses on initiatives involving professionals engaging with families.

What works for reducing problem behaviors in early childhood: lessons from experimental evaluations

Problem behaviours in early childhood (birth to five) are associated with poor outcomes in adolescence and adulthood, including delinquency, engagement in criminal activity and violence, and depression. This Child Trends research brief summarises experimental evaluations of 50 programmes. The evaluations assessed programme impacts on externalising behaviours and/or internalising behaviours among children ages birth to five.

Ofsted

Ofsted Common Inspection Framework

This letter from Ofsted's Chief Inspector outlines the changes the Ofsted Common Inspection Framework will bring for Early Years settings from 1 September. All Ofsted inspection materials, further information and some short videos explaining the changes from September 2015 are available on the Ofsted website

Families

Pregnancy and maternity-related discrimination and disadvantage first findings: surveys of employers and mothers

Based on interviews with 3,034 employers and 3,254 mothers, this research by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Equality and Human Rights Commission examined the prevalence and nature of pregnancy discrimination and disadvantage in the workplace. 11% of the women interviewed reported having been dismissed, made compulsorily redundant where others in their workplace were not, or treated so poorly they felt they had to leave their jobs. If replicated across the population as a whole, this could mean as many as 54,000 women losing their jobs each year. The research also found that around 1 in 5 new mothers experienced harassment or negative comments from their colleagues, employer or manager when pregnant or returning from maternity leave. However, it also shows that 84% of employers believe that supporting pregnant workers and those on maternity leave is in the interests of their organisations and two thirds of mothers (66%) felt their employer supported them willingly during pregnancy and when they returned to work.

Disability and Special Needs

SEND: managing changes to legislation from September 2015

The Department for Education has published the third edition of this advice on changes to legislation relating to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It explains the process for moving children and young people with SEND across from the old SEND system to the new one introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014.

Young disabled children's experiences of early education and childcare

Contact a Family, Every Disabled Child Matters and the Family and Childcare Trust came together for a Parliamentary Inquiry into Childcare for Disabled Children, and are now following up this work with a short survey.
The survey is looking into family experiences of finding free early education, and any barriers parents and carers may have faced when they tried to find suitable childcare.

The survey closing date is 21 September 2015.

Special educational needs in England: January 2015

Based on pupil-level data collected via the school census, this statistical release by the Department for Education provides information on the characteristics of pupils by their level of SEN provision - education, health and care (EHC) plan or SEN support, and type of SEN. A total of 15.4% of pupils in schools in England have identified special educational needs (equating to 1,301,445 pupils). This has been decreasing since 2010.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathfinder Programme evaluation: final impact research report

The final report by the Department for Education covers the second 18 months of the pathfinder programme, ending in September 2014, and looks at its effect on families' satisfaction with the systems and processes in place to obtain support for their child, their views about the amount and quality of support available to them, and about their own and their child's health and wellbeing. The family survey found improvement across a wide range of variables relating to the process of getting an EHC plan. Families who had received an EHC plan were statistically more likely to report that their views had been taken in to account and their views had been sought and listened to. This suggests a more family-centred approach, as was intended.

The determinants of health inequities experienced by children with learning disabilities

This report by Improving Health and Lives for Public Health England summarises current scientific knowledge about the determinants of health inequities experienced by children with learning disabilities in the UK. The existing evidence and new analyses it presents suggest that, when compared with their non-disabled peers, children with learning disabilities are: less likely to have been breastfed at all or breastfed exclusively; more likely to live in rented housing, overcrowded housing, housing in a poor state of repair and housing that was too cold in winter; more likely to be exposed to tobacco smoke; at increased risk of exposure to violence, including bullying, physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect; less likely to have a close relationship with their mother; more likely to be exposed to inconsistent and harsh parenting and more chaotic family environments; more likely to be exposed to a greater number and wider range of potentially adverse life events.

Health

Obesity: prevention and lifestyle weight management in children and young people

This NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) quality standard aims to support high-quality weight management and obesity prevention interventions for children and young people, including lifestyle weight management. It is expected to contribute to improving outcomes in areas including dietary habits, excess weight and prevalence of type 2 diabetes in children and young people.

Unexplained deaths in infancy, in England and Wales: 2013

This statistical release on unexplained infant deaths in England and Wales includes sudden infant deaths and deaths for which the cause remained unknown or unascertained. Headline findings include: There were 249 unexplained infant deaths in England and Wales in 2013, a rate of 0.36 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is the first rise in unexplained infant deaths since 2008. Before 2013, the rate had fallen steadily from 0.41 in 2008 to 0.32 in 2012.

Conferences

15 September 2015, Manchester
17 September 2015, London
Information Sharing seminars - Preparing for the Integrated Review
These seminars will focus on preparing for the Integrated Review at Age Two, which is a requirement for local authorities from 1st September 2015.

5 October 2015, Sheffield
Early Education: Achieving Excellence Conference
This event will focus on key issues for primary heads and leaders in relation to nursery and reception classes in primary schools including:

- identifying and encouraging outstanding practice in the EYFS;
- effective transition into the Foundation Stage, and from Reception to Year 1, including appropriate transition of pedagogy;
- key aspects of leading and managing a successful Foundation Stage, including balancing the competing pressures on Reception classes.

13 October 2015, Birmingham
15 October 20915, Leeds
21 October 2015, London
Supporting SEND in the Early Years: Regional Seminars
Following the release of the 4Children and the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) toolkit for SEN and disability in the early years, this series of seminars will introduce you to this unique resource and give you the opportunity to hear from those who have used the tool in practice.

14 October 2015, London
Annual National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS) Conference
Following on from the general election in May, the information agenda and the duty to provide quality information for parents remains firmly on the government's list of priorities. The conference will examine the implications for Family Information Services of the new strengthened information duty and give you the chance to discuss the future of Family Information Services in the UK. It will set a vision and strategy for future support.

15 October 2015, London
Childcare and Early Education Conference
This conference held in partnership between Westminster Briefing and the Family and Childcare Trust will be an opportunity to examine the new government's policy around childcare and early education and the implications for local delivery.

16 October 2015, Oxford
Birth to Three Conference
Oxfordshire County Council host this conference focusing on improving outcomes for children from birth to three. Speakers include Alice Sharp (experiential play), Denise Kingston (sustained shared thinking) and Joyce Connor from NCB (the integrated review at 2).

30-31 October 2015, Birmingham
TACTYC Conference: Children's and practitioners' experiences of early years care and education

ECU Bulletin is compiled and edited by NCB Information Centre. Any communications about the ECU Bulletin should be sent to: ecuadmin@ncb.org.uk

Please note that there may be a charge to download or view some documents featured in the Bulletin.

The Early Childhood Unit (ECU) works to sustain and improve the quality of services for young children through direct work with children's services and settings, and through its national networks. This fortnightly bulletin provides up to date news and information for the Early Years sector, including research, policy and resources.