

# smalltalk

Early Years Wales members' magazine

Autumn 2021 | Issue 143 | £7

## Reach your full potential: the importance of Continued Professional Development

- Early Years Wales Learner of the Year 2020
- Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme getting children and families active
- Talk with me: Welsh Government on its Speech, Language and Communication Delivery Plan
- The importance of childcare to the Welsh economy
- Meet the learners who have been getting qualified during lockdown

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## Foundation Phase: Talking Point

- Exploring outdoor risky play and schema development in the Early Years with the University of South Wales

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Promoting movement, language and cognitive development in the home with the NSPCC, Booktrust Cymru and Welsh Active Early Years



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Early Years  
Wales  
Blynyddoedd  
Cynnar Cymru



# inside

## 4. Disclosure and Barring Service

Having to deal with safeguarding issues is never easy, but it's important to know what to do and when to do it. We highlight your legal responsibilities.

## 6. Cover story: Reach your full potential

Why continued professional development (CPD) is important.

## 7. Early Years Wales Learner of the Year 2020: The secret to success is passion

We celebrate the achievements of Sandra Stait, our Learner of the Year 2020.

## 8. Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme; happy healthy children for life

How the Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme is the perfect way to get families and children healthy and active.

## 10. Talk with me: Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) Delivery Plan

Welsh Government explain how children in Wales will be supported to develop their SLC skills during their early years.

## 13. City and Guilds and WJEC – the importance of childcare to the Welsh economy

The pandemic highlighted how essential the childcare sector is to Welsh businesses - getting people trained and qualified to a high standard was critical.

## 14. Childcare key workers – the unsung heroes

Educ8 Training introduce us to some of their learners who have been getting qualified during lockdown.

## 15. Out, out... Newport Childminder Event

Our Newport team fill us in on the fun they had with our childminder members.

## 16. Looking after your financial wellbeing

The last 18 months have shown us that we never know what's round the corner. Pensions specialists Demna Consulting talk to us about the importance of planning for the unexpected.

## 19. Look Say Sing Play

Look Say Sing Play is NSPCC Cymru's baby brain-building campaign. Emma Motherwell explains how it can be used by professionals to help parents support their baby's development.

## 22. Booktrust Cymru: top tips for reading with young children

How to make reading with children fun.

## 24. Welsh Active Early Years working in partnership with Booktrust Cymru

How through the donation of books we have been able to promote movement and language in homes across Wales.

## 26. Foundation Phase: Talking Point Outdoor risky play and schema development in the early years (part one)

The first in a 2-part series of articles exploring outdoor risky play and schema development in the Early Years.

## 31. Finance for Early Years

Are you looking to grow your business? Business Wales and the Development Bank of Wales have the support and funding that could help.

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# Cover story:

## Reach your full potential: why continued professional development (CPD) is important

*“Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is planned, ongoing development of professional knowledge and skills throughout your working life. It is a holistic approach to learning which recognises everyday experiences as learning opportunities. The essence of CPD is about achieving professionalism in everything you do; it is a personal commitment to continuously updating your knowledge and skills.”* (Ref: [https://socialcare.wales/cms\\_assets/file-uploads/CCPD-toolkit-for-social-care-ENGv01.pdf](https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/file-uploads/CCPD-toolkit-for-social-care-ENGv01.pdf))

### Professional development is important at every stage of our working lives

Over the past 18 months, Early Years Wales has invested heavily in its membership package and just one aspect of this has been the delivery of a diverse programme of over 40 online courses to over 450 practitioners, all free of charge to all setting staff and volunteers.

With registration now open for the Early Years Wales Awards 2021 we celebrate our **Learner of the Year 2020** winner, and we include articles that highlight some of the key ingredients that made this individual stand out to the judges: Catherine Perry, Senior Health Promotion Specialist, Healthy Schools at **Public Health Wales** talks about why now is the perfect time to engage your families and children in health promotion, through the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-School Scheme; and Catherine Pape, National Speech, Language and Communication Coordinator, introduces us to

**Welsh Government’s** Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) Delivery Plan, which was published in November 2020.

We also hear from **City and Guilds** and **WJEC** on how the importance of the childcare sector on the Welsh economy has been recognised over the pandemic and how they have been working with their centres, employers and stakeholders to enable learners to move from classroom learning to online, and **Educ8 Training** introduce us to some of their learners and talk us through how they support online learning, and the courses they offer.

### Additional reading:

[https://socialcare.wales/cms\\_assets/file-uploads/CPD-ENG.pdf](https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/file-uploads/CPD-ENG.pdf)

# The secret to success is passion

**Sandra Stait – Little Tigers Day Care, Monmouthshire  
Early Years Wales Learner of the Year 2020**

This award was looking to recognise an individual who had clearly demonstrated progression and excellence within the Early Years sector.

Now manager of the Under 3's section, Sandra's journey at Little Tigers Day Care in Rogiet, Monmouthshire started 8-years ago as a Play Assistant.

She was nominated by her colleagues at Little Tigers Day Care for the Learner of the Year Award for successfully completing her **Level 5 CCPLD** under the guidance and support of her assessor at ACT Training, despite undergoing treatment for ill health and struggling with dyslexia.

Pam Curtis, Owner of Little Tigers told us "Sandra runs a tight team of staff, who work to support each other as well as meeting the needs of each individual child. She keeps staff motivated and engaged.

"She carries out every duty a manager would be expected to do and much more, including preparing activities at home, extra planning to meet specific needs, supporting her team of staff out of hours and any other training she can access.

"During her time at Little Tigers Sandra had gained qualifications in areas such as Prevent training, ASD Awareness, City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork, Food Hygiene, Paediatric First Aid, Foundation Phase training as well as having an active part to play in the setting achieving the **Healthy and sustainable pre-school award** (HSPSS) (see page 8) and Quality for All (QfA) (Highly Commended 2019)

Parent testimonial **"My eldest daughter has cerebral palsy and because of Sandra's patience and dedication to caring for children she thrived at nursery and was able to seamlessly integrate into school life and has gone on to become a very confident and independent young girl."**



***"Sandra has created a calm, natural environment for the children which is also stimulating and engaging for them. She has for example, introduced loose parts, a sensory area and is currently working with parents to minimise dummy and bottle usage (see page 10). This being due to the increase in speech and language difficulties."***

## You may also be interested in:

Introducing Welsh to Children with Additional Learning Needs, *smalltalk*, (spring 2019), pg 11 – 13  
Foundation Phase: Talking Point – Building Links; Enriching Lives, *smalltalk*, (summer 2019), pg 14 - 19  
Attention Autism Programme; Sharing good times and making fantastic memories, *smalltalk*, (winter 2019), pg 14 – 15  
Carter's story, *smalltalk*, (spring 2021), pg 8 - 9

## Don't forget

Early Years Wales members can download back issues of *smalltalk* for free: [earlyyears.wales/shop](https://earlyyears.wales/shop)