



# Somerset Early Years EAL Advisory Service

## A guide to welcoming Ukrainian children and families

Welcoming an EAL child to an early years setting is a wonderful thing! As with all aspects of early years care and education, careful planning is crucial to make the experience and transition supported and positive.

Since the start of the conflict in February 2022, welcoming Ukrainian refugee families into our community has become a priority. Some families in the UK are preparing to host families, while some families are already here. Some might have links already in the UK, but many won't. Each family will be different.

This guide offers advice and information to prepare for refugee families from Ukraine and to signpost to further resources.



When welcoming a child into an early years setting, positive wellbeing and emotional health is essential.

Children and families may have experienced trauma such as:

- Traumatic or distressing experiences in their country of origin
- Traumatic experiences on arrival in the UK
- Significant grief and anxiety resulting from loss
- Isolation and loneliness in the UK



Settings can:

- Provide a sense of safety
- Reassure them
- Think together about what helps them cope with difficult feelings
- Spend quality time doing things the child enjoys
- Validate their feelings
- Offer a home visit with their host family (there are translated resources to assist with this)

Encourage the parent to stay with the child to help them settle for as long as is needed.

There is Ukrainian or Russian speaking support via DA Languages and Diversity Voice, who can support with this as well as translating documents.

You can contact them directly at:

- [teamsouth@dalanguages.co.uk](mailto:teamsouth@dalanguages.co.uk)
- [translations@diversityvoice.org.uk](mailto:translations@diversityvoice.org.uk)

## What resources are available to help support Ukrainian children and families?

All of the following resources are available to borrow from the Early Years Alliance, with the exception of the My First Emotions Toolkit, which can be sourced from your Early Years Community.

*Pocket translated survival flashcards; My First Emotions Toolkit; Dual Language books and Talking Pen Song Box; Story Communication Boxes.*



## Useful links

- Somerset EAL Advisory Service: [www.eyalliance.org.uk/somerset-ealadvisory](http://www.eyalliance.org.uk/somerset-ealadvisory)
- Somerset support for Ukraine: [www.somerset.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/ukraine)
- Somerset Choices: [choices.somerset.gov.uk](http://choices.somerset.gov.uk)
- Somerset Services for Education: [tinyurl.com/36v8fcnm](http://tinyurl.com/36v8fcnm)
- Taunton Welcomes Refugees: [www.tauntonwelcomesrefugees.co.uk](http://www.tauntonwelcomesrefugees.co.uk)
- Welcome: A Guide for Ukrainian Refugees: [bit.ly/welcomeUkraine](http://bit.ly/welcomeUkraine)
- Supporting refugee children in early education: a blog by Family: [tinyurl.com/423sr4kb](http://tinyurl.com/423sr4kb)
- Blog on how Ukrainian families can apply for an school or early years place: [bit.ly/welcomeUkraine](http://bit.ly/welcomeUkraine)

## If you have any further queries, please contact:

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