



WELCOME

Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed a restful break over the holidays and are settling back into the new term. Our Spring Term training directory was sent out just before Christmas, once again we are delighted to offer a variety of high-quality professional development opportunities, some of the highlights are below, make sure you book on quick to avoid disappointment.

I look forward to seeing all Early Years Leads, Managers and Childminders at our Leadership Briefing on **21st January**. This is how we will share all Early Years sector updates, make sure you attend one of the online sessions to stay in the know.

Best wishes
Sarah

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

UPDATES

Childcare Expansion Capital Grants

Are you prepared for the expansion? Have you seen an increase in demand? Are you able to create more places?

The Capital Grant can help you to develop your provision and prepare to meet demand. Application forms and grant guidelines will be emailed out shortly. The purpose of the grant is to create childcare places to meet the needs of the expansion for both Early Years and Wraparound Care.

Closing date for applications is Friday 14th February.

Greater priority will be given to projects in areas where there are fewer available places for age groups impacted by the expansion.

We are holding a briefing on **Friday 24th January (10.00-11.00)** via TEAMS for Schools, Nursery Owners, Pre-School Committee Members and Setting Managers with more information about the use of Capital Grants, the application process, and to answer questions to support strategic planning.

To book your place please contact early.years@halton.gov.uk



EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS

Childcare is changing!

Childcare Providers have the opportunity to embrace a huge expansion in childcare provision. The Childcare Works HUB hosts resources that will support Providers to deliver this expansion in both Early Years and Wraparound Care. Please share with nursery owners and committee members, the childcare works Hub offers a range of quality reliable resources and expert advice to support you

[HUB for Providers - childcareworks.org.uk](https://childcareworks.org.uk)

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



Safeguarding Network webinar

Safeguarding Network are providing a free webinar discussing the EYFS safeguarding and welfare changes and food safety in early years. Book your place via the link [EYFS Webinar 2025 – Safeguarding Network](#)

Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership

[Partnership Briefings - Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

There have been a couple of new Partnership Briefings released recently – PB93 details a multi-agency event with a drug and alcohol focus and PB94 provides important information about updated Neglect Tools that have been launched. Please take some time to check them out via the link.

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

Early Years Spring Term Training Offer

Have you looked at the training that is available this term? if not don't worry we will be emailing the updated Spring Term training offer today. New training this term includes Hanen, Shine Therapy, Elements of an Inspiring Environment for Under 2s and much more! Please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment. All bookings unless otherwise stated must be made using the online booking form which you can access using the link below

<https://forms.office.com/e/SamkXuDakP>



Halton's Early Years Leadership Briefing

Online leadership briefing for all Managers, EY Leads and Childminders to provide important updates at the start of the Spring Term. We strongly encourage all providers to attend. You need to complete the online booking form in order to receive the link to access this session.

21st January 2025
10.00-11.00 OR 18.30-19.30



Progress Check & Integrated Review

The progress check at age 2 is a statutory assessment in the EYFS. It plays an important role in early identification and working together with Health in the integrated review to help ensure there is action for every child. Join us to find out more about processes in Halton, including the new role of the lead practitioner for 2-year-olds, working with your linked health professional and new proformas and guidance on writing the check, to help ensure you are meeting statutory requirements.



30th January 2025
10.00-11.30

EARLY YEARS CLUSTER

For the Spring Term Early Years Clusters we are delighted to invite Halton's Pre-school and Reception class practitioners to join us and our guest speaker for a day of **inspiration**, **self-reflection** and **collaboration**

6th February 2025, 9.30-15.30, DCBL Stadium



Don't miss Ben Kingston-Hughes, an international keynote speaker, writer and multi award-winning trainer. Ben's blend of humour, neuroscience and real-life experiences will make his keynote speech and workshops an invaluable experience for those attending

Lunch and refreshments will be provided
Book early to avoid disappointment.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Supervised toothbrushing campaign

The public health team would like to invite you to our launch of their new supervised toothbrushing programme due to start in 2025 on 14th January 10.00-12.30. This event is for staff

working in early years settings, whether you have had experience in a supervised toothbrushing programme or not.



We will outline the impacts of supervised toothbrushing and there will be an opportunity over lunch to ask questions about the programme and sign up on the day to register your interest in joining the programme. Training and equipment will be provided for free to each setting participating in the programme.

We hope you can join us! Please let us know who can come to the event (up to two people per setting) by emailing your details to public.health@halton.gov.uk

Please state the name of the practitioner(s) attending and the name of the setting. For any further enquiries, please email vicki.yarwood@halton.gov.uk

DID YOU KNOW...?



The banner features a green and purple background. On the left, the text '1-9 February 2025' is in yellow, followed by 'National Storytelling Week' in large blue letters, and 'Reimagine your world' in black. A blue book icon with yellow stars is at the bottom right of the green section. On the right, the National Literacy Trust logo is in a blue box with the tagline 'Change your story' below it. Further down, it says 'Supported by' above the Amazon logo.

National Storytelling Week 1-9th February

Supported by Amazon, the National Literacy Trust have created an exciting, interactive storytelling project inspired by author Francis Stickley's book *What Will I Be?* for children aged 3 to 5 years (EYFS/P1). It is based on the [2025 National Storytelling Week](#) theme '**Reimagine your world**' and is designed to inspire your practice, and to help you support each child to discover the joy of imagination, expression and connection through stories of their own. The resource includes learning opportunities to enhance continuous provision, group and whole class sessions, story time and home learning.

Resources will be uploaded to the National Literacy website soon
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/magical-storytelling-for-the-early-years-a-week-of-storytelling-activities/>

SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS



Sensory Processing in the Early Years - this training is for parents/carers

Wed 22 Jan 2025 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm

The training session will;

- Introduce sensory processing - what it is and why it matters
- Explore sensory processing differences
- Demonstrate how to create sensory environments conducive to learning
- Provide an overview of when extra support may be needed and where to go for support

Book on using this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sensory-processing-in-the-early-years-for-parents-carers-tickets-906796030337?aff=oddtcreator>

Brighter Beginnings, Early Years (0 - 5) workshops



Introduction to Speech and Language Challenges (age 0- 5) ENGLAND

Wed, Jan 15 • 7:00 PM GMT

Free



Supporting your child with Social Communication Challenges (age 0-...

Thu, Jan 16 • 10:00 AM GMT

Free



Brighter Beginnings -Toilet Training for children with SEND (0 to 5) ENGLAND

Thu, Jan 16 • 7:00 PM GMT

Free



Brighter Beginnings-Supporting Children With Anxiety (0 to 5 years) ENGLAND

Tue, Jan 21 • 10:00 AM GMT

Free



Brighter Beginnings Managing your child's sleep (0-5) ENGLAND

Thu, Jan 23 • 10:00 AM GMT

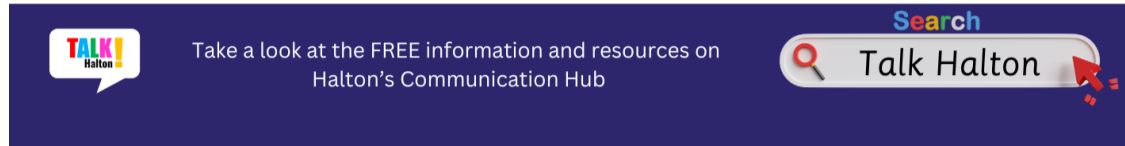
Free

Take a look at the FREE workshops available for parents/carers by [clicking here](#)

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