



WELCOME

What a busy start to the year we've had. For those of you heading into half term next week, we hope you enjoy a restful break and a chance to recharge.

As always, stay in touch with the team. For general enquiries, you can reach us at early.years@halton.gov.uk – it's always lovely to hear from you.

Best wishes
Sarah

FEYE FUNDING

DID YOU KNOW...

Pre-schools and schools registered to provide places for 2-year-olds can accept children with a Working Parent 9–23 month (under 2s) 11-digit code from the child's 2nd birthday, as long as the 30-hour code remains valid.

If your pre-school or school needs to be set up on the Provider Portal to accept 9–23 month codes, or if you require any further information, please contact:

jackie.durr@halton.gov.uk

(Note: Two Year Olds with a FRAS code (6-digit) are only eligible for the funding from the term after their 2nd birthday)

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

NSPCC Masterclass

NSPCC Learning has launched a new on demand masterclass on the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements. It covers the new safeguarding training expectations, safe recruitment and safer culture, and reducing online risks for children under five. The

masterclass is suitable for anyone in England working or volunteering with babies and young children in early years settings. [Find out more here](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

A colorful poster for an 'EARLY YEARS CLUSTER' event. The title is in large blue letters at the top. Below it, text invites Halton's Pre-school and Reception class practitioners to join a day of inspiration, self-reflection, and collaboration on 25th March 2026 (9.30-15.30). A circular photo of Helen Battelley is featured, with a text box next to her stating she is an internationally renowned consultant, trainer, and author in Early Years Physical Development, leading the Spring Term Early Years Cluster. The poster also includes the text 'Book early to avoid disappointment.' at the bottom.

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**

25th March 2026 (9.30-15.30)

We're delighted to welcome Helen Battelley, internationally renowned consultant, trainer, and author in Early Years Physical Development, to lead our Spring Term Early Years Cluster. Helen's global experience and passion for active learning will inspire us to champion physical activity and raise its profile in early years practice.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Core strength, balance and body awareness help children move confidently and self-regulate. These essential skills lead to stronger fine motor control, supporting mark making and future writing. Book your place now using the button below.

Book Now

SEND

Gestalt Language Processing Training

Gestalt Language Processing Training is available at the DCBL Stadium on Tuesday 24th February, from 9:30am–12:00pm.

The cost of this training is £120 per attendee.

If you would like to book a place, please email stas@halton.gov.uk to reserve your space.

DID YOU KNOW..?

Supervised Toothbrushing 'Celebration' Event

The Health Improvement Team are hosting a Supervised Toothbrushing Celebration Event on Tuesday 28th April at the DCBL Stadium, with lunch provided.

All settings—those already involved in the programme and those who have not yet started are invited to join the event. The event will include:

- Information about the programme
- Demonstrations
- Testimonials on how straightforward it is to run
- Opportunities to ask questions, including to schools already taking part

Any school or setting with children aged 2–7 years is eligible for the programme, and we encourage at least one representative from each setting to attend.

RESEARCH/READING

Supporting Behaviour with Blank Levels

Sarah Isherwood highlights that during distress, children cannot process complex “why” questions. Instead, using simple, concrete language helps them feel safe and regulated before moving to more descriptive levels as they calm. Matching language to emotional capacity supports emotional regulation and may prevent escalation. [Read the article here](#)

SHARE WITH PARENTS



New Ofsted Framework Report Cards: A Guide for Parents

Ofsted have produced a new YouTube video explainer to help parents understand the new grades and report cards. Leaders shared that they needed support in explaining these changes, including how safeguarding is reported.

Early years settings may find this video useful when talking to parents about their latest grades and report cards.

explainer has more information on exactly what Ofsted's new grades mean, including how we report on safeguarding. Early years settings may find this helpful when explaining their grades and report cards to parents.



Have Your Parents Signed Up to Family Corner?

Family Corner, created by the Early Years Alliance, offers parents free events, newsletters, and a wide range of helpful tips to support children's learning and development at home.

All information on the site can also be displayed in different languages, making it accessible for every family. [Find out more here](#)

DID YOU KNOW...?

Children's Mental Health Week: 9th–13th February 2026

Children's Mental Health Week takes place from 9th–13th February 2026. This year's theme, "This is my Place", focuses on how children experience belonging—feeling safe, included, and that they matter.

To find out more, visit:

- [Children's Mental Health Week 2026: All you need to know - BBC Newsround](#)
- [Children's Mental Health Week 2026 | The Thrive Approach](#)

We will also be sharing useful links, ideas and resources on our social media platforms, so make sure to follow Halton Early Years Instagram and the TALK Halton Facebook Group

FURTHER TRAINING

Funded Early Years Qualifications for Liverpool City Region

Settings and staff in the Liverpool City Region can now access fully funded Pearson Early Years Diplomas for those wanting to upskill or gain a recognised qualification. Details are in the attached leaflet.

Available qualifications:

- Level 2 Early Years Practitioner Diploma (9 months)
- Level 3 Early Years Educator Diploma (12 months)

Who can apply:

- Aged 19+
- Living in Liverpool City Region
- Working or volunteering in an early years setting for at least 16 hours per week
- Level 2: access to children aged 2–5
- Level 3: access to children aged 0–5

What's included: flexible remote learning, monthly visits, 1:1 assessor support, webinars, and assessments through discussion, written work and observations. No off-the-job training or end-point assessment required. English qualifications can be achieved during the programme if needed.

Interested?

Anyone interested and willing to take on an individual for voluntary hours. Please contact kate.morris@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

If you have staff who may be interested, or would like to find out more, please complete the Expression of Interest form below.

<https://realisetraining.com/level-2-and-level-3-early-years-diplomas>



If this newsletter has been shared with you via your setting/school and you would like to receive a copy directly to your own inbox please click on the subscribe button and complete the relevant information.



Take a look at the FREE information and resources on
Halton's Communication Hub



Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF