



WELCOME

We had another amazing day at our Early Years Cluster last week, thank you to everyone who was able to attend, it was lovely to be able to come together as a Halton Early Years community once again. Within the local cluster groups dates were being set to meet up again and WhatsApp groups being created to keep in touch. We can't wait to hear how you all get on!

If you missed the cluster, please get in touch with early.years@halton.gov.uk and we will put you in touch.

Keep checking Halton Early Years on Instagram and the TALK Halton Facebook page for some inspiration to celebrate National Storytelling Week and World Book Day, as colleagues from across Halton share their February favourite stories. Our Instagram followers Aaron Bradbury and Ben Kingsley-Hughes have got involved and shared their February Favourites, so look out for those!

For those of you lucky enough to have a half term, please enjoy a well-deserved break 😊

Best wishes
Sarah

EARLY YEARS CLUSTER

Feedback

Spring Early Years Cluster

Good to look with fresh eyes at some of the behaviours we see and the reason behind them. This links very well with Thrive and our practices as a Nurturing school.

Feedback

Spring Early Years Cluster

A great event for networking and the guest speaker was excellent! So much positivity. It's important we stay in contact with our clusters and arrange to meet to view other settings and schools





UPDATES

Improving the way Ofsted inspects education

Ofsted has opened a consultation to seeks your views on the proposed reforms to inspecting early years, state-funded schools (including maintained schools, academies and free schools), non-association independent schools, further education and skills and initial teacher education. [Click here](#) to have your say

This consultation closes at **11:59pm on 28th April 2025.**



Thrive is coming to Early Years in Halton very soon! In the meantime...

Thrive has launched a new **Level 5 Apprenticeship Thrive Wellbeing Leadership Apprenticeship**, funded through the Apprenticeship levy. You can register your interest here https://ccms.bpnsystems.net/applications/index.php?programme_id=130&programme_intake_id=659&apprenticeship=1 Alternatively you are very welcome to book an apprenticeship discovery call with on this link - <https://calendly.com/simone-pedley-thrive/thrive-level-5-apprenticeships-discovery-call>

Take a look at this case study showing the impact Thrive can have in Early Years <https://www.thriveapproach.com/news/training-unpicked-neuroscience-at-nursery>

CHILDCARE EXPANSION



Closing date for the submission of any adjustments for the Spring Term is **Friday 7th March 2025.**

Please could occupancy and vacancy information be updated for the Spring Term on the Provider Portal by

Friday 28th February 2025

Further information and guidance notes have been emailed to you.

Please contact Clare Rowlands if you need any more information.

Trying to promote childcare and new parents to your provision?

If you would like an Outdoor PVC banner for your school or Early Years setting please contact haltonfis@halton.gov.uk, and we can drop one off for you

A promotional banner for 'Childcare Choices'. On the left, a photograph shows a woman sitting on the floor with three young children, playing with colorful blocks. The banner has a yellow and green color scheme. Text on the banner includes: 'Get help that fits your family', 'Scan the QR code or search Childcare Choices to find out more', 'Childcare Choices' logo, a QR code, 'Trying to juggle work and childcare?', and contact information: 'If you live in Halton and you need help to apply, or want to know more about what the changes mean for you - visit your nearest Family Hub or email haltonfis@halton.gov.uk'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'HM Government', 'FamilyHub', and a 'Help for Households' button.

HM Government

FamilyHub

Help for Households

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



Department
for Education



NATIONAL
COUNTER TERRORISM
SECURITY OFFICE

Protective Preparedness for Education Settings

(Early Years, Schools & Further Education)

Webinar

26th February 2025 – 12:00 – 13:30

19th March 2025—16:00 - 17:30

The Department for Education (DfE) in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and National Protective Security Authority invite you to an Education relevant webinar.

The Dept. for Education 'Counter Terrorism Protect & Prepare Team' will provide you with an overview and update on the proposed 'Protection of Premises Bill', known as 'Martyn's Law', and its implications for the education sector.

You may wish to appraise yourself of this topic in advance by visiting the [Gov website](#).

This content may be subject to change as the bill progresses through parliament.

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) will also provide a briefing on how to consider terrorism protection and preparedness and provide an update on the implications an 'Insider Threat' can have on education settings.

If you are keen to learn how you can better protect your organisation, its staff, and the public from terrorism, please click the link below where you can sign up and access further details.

We hope you can make it!

NB: Both events will have the same content. There is no need to attend both unless you wish to.

26th February 2025 - Please click [here](#) to sign up to the event.

19th March 2025 - Please click [here](#) to sign up to the event.

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

Upcoming training - make sure you book on using the online booking form or click on the 'Book Training Now!' button below



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.



12th March 2025
18.30-20.00



Attachment 'Holding compassion in mind'

Dr Lyndsey Holt will be delivering this inspiring training session around attachment to make sense of children's experiences. The aim of the session will be to use a compassionate focused model to consider transitions, challenges, changes and relationships and how we can use this going forward in our workplaces.



**EARLY
YEARS
IN FOCUS**

**17th March 2025
17.30-19.30**

The poster features a vibrant background with a yellow-to-pink gradient and scattered pink and yellow dots. In the top left, a magnifying glass icon contains the text 'EARLY YEARS TRAINING'. The central focus is the 'Shine THERAPY' logo, with 'Shine' in a large, dark grey font and 'THERAPY' in a smaller, yellow, all-caps font. Below the logo, a paragraph of text is presented. At the bottom, a dark blue banner with yellow dots contains the dates and times for two sessions.

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

Shine
THERAPY

Following the amazing feedback from our Autumn Early Years Cluster regarding Shine Therapy we are delighted to offer 2 interactive workshops focussing on children's sensory needs and behaviours. Thanks to DBV funding we invite all our Early Years providers and Reception class practitioners to book onto one of the sessions.

4th March 2025 - 9.00-12.00
OR
21st March 2025 - 9.00-12.00

Book Training Now!

DIARY DATES

Local Offer Launch - Monday 24th March

We are now ready to launch our Digital Local Offer! This will take place at The Heath Business Centre **9-12 on Monday 24th March 2025**. We hope you will join us to learn more about it and also offer further feedback, improve the offer and add any other services which are not yet captured. Please book by getting in touch with mike.stapleton-chambers@halton.gov.uk

Free Behavioural Support Training by TEAM TEACH

Thursday 27th March 8.30am-11.30am (The Heath Conference Centre - Lecture Theatre)

Via the PEIA funding we are offering a 3 hour bespoke workshop delivered by TEAM TEACH around supporting behaviour especially around the Transition times. The course will cover:

- Understand behaviour is communication.
- What do I bring to the room
- Understanding the environment
- Positive Behaviour supports.

To book please use this link <https://forms.office.com/e/YHZscNM1Np>



Tourette's Action - Halton and Warrington Education Professionals and support staff

Webinar on 11th March (4.00 - 5.30pm)

Tourette's online training session is aimed at education professionals and support staff in nurseries, schools and colleges across Halton and Warrington, who would like to learn more about supporting students with Tourette syndrome in educational settings.

If you would like to join this fantastic webinar, please 'save the date' in your diaries, and share the date with anyone you know who may be interested.

The details of how to book a place on the webinar will be shared with you shortly.

INSPIRING ENVIRONMENTS



We were delighted to have Dr Mona Sakr leading our online workshop 'Elements of an Inspiring Environment for 2s and Under'. Mona talked about creating provocations that prioritise open-ended exploration and inspiration. We hope you came away feeling inspired and empowered to make a real difference for our youngest children.



What simple provocations
can you think of for babies
and toddlers to explore
this box?

INSPIRING ENVIRONMENTS

Are you a baby room educator or nursery manager? Are you extending your baby room or hoping to improve practice in the baby room?

The Nuffield-funded research team behind www.thebabyroom.blog are launching a **FREE** Saturday conference called '**Getting it right in the baby room**'. It'll be a day of inspiring speakers and engaging conversations all about the baby room, with lots of delicious food thrown in. They're coming to six cities around the country over the spring/summer: London, York, Norwich, Manchester, Falmouth and Bristol.

Places are limited so if you're interested and want to book a space, please head to:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/getting-it-right-in-the-baby-room-104394816931>

RESEARCH/READING

The shaping Us Framework - understanding the social and emotional skills

The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood has published a new framework aimed at improving awareness and knowledge of social and emotional skills, with the aim of creating a 'happier, healthier society'. It is designed to provide a universal and flexible way to talk about social and emotional skills from early childhood through to adulthood, recognising that social and emotional skills underpin all areas of development.

Read it here [Shaping-Us-Framework-Main-Report-for-Web-FINAL-3.pdf](#)

DID YOU KNOW..?

The Department for Education has published new toilet training guidance on the **Help for Early Years Providers** website. This will help educators understand how to support babies and young children with toilet training in early years settings. The guidance includes information and resources on:

- When to start toilet training
- How to toilet train
- Common toilet training challenges
- Supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- Working in partnership with parents and carers

You can read the guidance here: [Help for early years providers : Toilet training](#)

SHARE WITH PARENTS



Tourette's Action - Halton and Warrington Parent and Carer Webinar - 13th March (7.30 - 9.00pm)

Bespoke Tics and Tourette's online training session for parents and carers in Halton and Warrington, that will be delivered by Tourette's Action. Further details to follow

Halton Libraries

Exchange your World Book Day token at Halton Lea Library or Widnes Library any time from **Thursday 13th February to Saturday 22nd March**

There's also lots going on in the libraries during February half term, take a look by [clicking here](#)



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

Search



Talk Halton



Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF