



WELCOME

Welcome back to everyone who enjoyed some time off over half-term. A quick reminder that our Spring Term Cluster is fast approaching on **25th March**. We're delighted to welcome Helen Battelley as our guest speaker. She'll be leading a session focused on physical development. If you follow her on social media, you may have seen her recent work with Jan Dubiel, exploring the relationship between movement and writing in the Early Years. Please make sure you've booked your place!

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

UPDATES

EYFS Vulnerable Children Transition Event – 6 May 2026

Our annual EYFS Vulnerable Children Transition Event will take place on **Wednesday 6th May 2026, 8.30am–12pm**, at The Heath Conference Centre, Runcorn. The event supports smoother transitions for children entering reception who may be vulnerable or have additional needs. ***Children with EHCPs are not included, as they are covered through annual reviews.***

We strongly urge all Early Years settings to take part. You'll have the opportunity to meet receiving schools/reception teachers and other professionals.

What we need from you:

please identify 3–5 children and email their name, date of birth, and receiving school to Mike Stapleton-Chambers by 24th April 2026. Please also complete the transition form for each child and bring it to the event, this has already been emailed to setting, contact early.years@halton.gov.uk if you need another copy emailing. Additional forms for other vulnerable children can be passed on to schools.

Key Dates

- * **15/04/26:** School place offers
- * Please send the 3-5 names, date of birth and name of the receiving school, of the children you wish to discuss to Mike.Stapleton-Chambers@halton.gov.uk by **24/04/26**.
- * **29/04/26:** Time slots sent to settings
- * **06/05/26:** Transition event

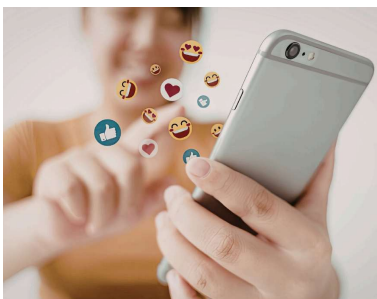
New Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship

A new government-funded Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship will support 400 early years staff to train as qualified teachers while continuing to earn. The programme is backed by a £3.2 million government grant and provides employers with £9,000 per apprentice per year for training costs, plus an additional £8,000 to help cover backfill, training and National Insurance—totalling up to £17,000 per apprentice. [Read more](#)

FEYE FUNDING

REMINDER: The closing date for submitting any outstanding adjustments for the Spring term is **Friday, 6th March 2026**. Please ensure all adjustments are completed and submitted by this deadline.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



Keeping Children Safe: Managing Internet-Linked Devices in Early Years Settings

Recent news stories have highlighted the urgent need for robust safeguards around technology use in early years environments. The EYFS states that safeguarding policies must outline “how mobile phones, cameras and other electronic devices with image-sharing capabilities are used in the setting.” But what does this look like in everyday practice?

To explore this further, take a look at the helpful guidance [Keeping children safe: Managing internet-linked devices in Early Years settings | HFL Education](#)

SEND

Outdoor Provision – Supporting Holistic Early Years Learning

Dingley’s Promise have published a helpful guide on the importance of outdoor learning within Early Years settings. The document highlights how outdoor environments offer rich opportunities for children to explore, regulate, problem-solve and develop across all seven areas of learning. The guide emphasises:

- Holistic development supported by outdoor exploration across the EYFS areas of learning.

- The role of open-ended, child-centred resources that encourage creativity, language, motor skills and social development—for example in areas such as the *mud kitchen*.
- The importance of engaging all seven senses, using varied textures, natural materials, sounds and scents to support regulation and enrich learning for all children, including those with SEND.

The PDF is full of practical ideas that settings can apply immediately to develop inspiring, inclusive and sensory-rich outdoor environments, take a look now [Outdoor Provision](#)

DID YOU KNOW..?



The Food Standards Agency understands that the recent infant formula recalls may be worrying for parents and carers. Their information page outlines which products are affected and what steps you should take.

Several batches from brands including Aptamil, Cow & Gate and SMA have been recalled. If you have formula at home, please check the batch code carefully, as affected products may still be in cupboards.

If you have an affected batch:

- Stop using it immediately
- Return it to the store for a replacement
- Switch to another batch or brand if needed
- If the formula was prescribed, speak to a pharmacist or doctor before making changes

For a full list of affected batches and more information on infant formula recalls:

www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/infant-formula-recalls

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Trauma-Sensitive Training – Upcoming Courses

Bookings are now open for several Trauma-Sensitive and Train-the-Trainer courses taking place this spring.

Upcoming dates:

- 3–5 March 2026 – *Train the Trainer* (Online)
Booking link: <https://wkf.ms/3MDdfb7>

- 16 March 2026 (Winsford) – *Trauma-Sensitive Training* (In-room)
Booking link: <https://wkf.ms/4alzBYp>
- 30 March 2026 (Crewe) – *Trauma-Sensitive Training* (In-room)
Booking link: <https://wkf.ms/4alb7hV>
- 31 March, 1 & 2 April 2026 – *Train the Trainer* (Online)
Booking link: <https://wkf.ms/4aYjHmW>

Trauma-Sensitive Training – 1 Day

A practical introduction to trauma, its impact, and trauma-informed practice for those working with adults, children and young people. Includes access to the Rock Pool Delegate Zone.

Click [here](#) for a detailed course overview.

SHARE WITH PARENTS

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
BEST START IN LIFE

HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS FOR CHILDREN OVER 9 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS OLD

Eligible working parents of children aged over 9 months to 4 year olds old may be able to claim 30 hours a week of funding towards their childcare costs

To find out if you qualify and apply for an eligibility code, go on-line to:
www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education

IMPORTANT To ensure you can claim the funding from April 2026, **APPLY NOW** for your code

Any applications received after 31st March 2026 will not be eligible in the summer term

To be eligible for the funding from **April 2026**, both parts of the criteria below must be met:

- The child must be at least 9 months old **before 31st March 2026**; and
- Working parents must have applied and been issued with an eligibility code with a start date **before 31st March 2026**

DON'T FORGET

Parents who have already applied and are eligible for 30 hours are reminded that they **MUST RE-CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY EVERY 3 MONTHS** by logging their Government Gateway account, otherwise the code will expire and become ineligible.

If you have any questions, speak to your childcare provider

ALL 3 or 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of childcare per week, from the term after the child's 3rd birthday (Parents DO NOT need to be working)

Childcare Funding: Apply Now

Working parents of children aged 9 months to 4 years may be eligible for 30 hours funded childcare.

Apply here:

www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education

To receive funding from April 2026, you must have an eligibility code by 31 March 2026.

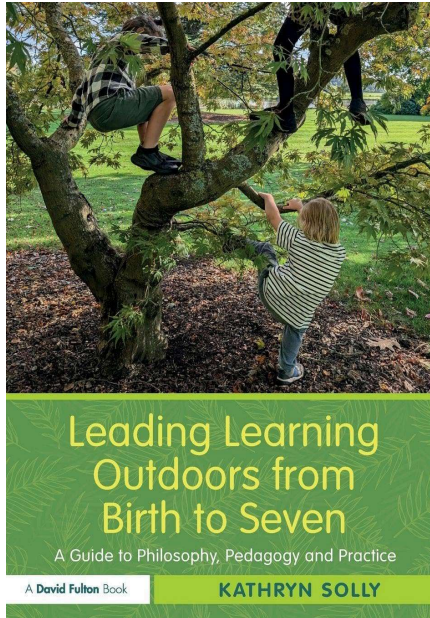
Parents must reconfirm eligibility every 3 months via their Government Gateway account.

Parent and Carers Newsletter

We're pleased to share the latest [Parent and Carers Newsletter](#) from Halton Borough Council, designed to keep families updated with important news, information and events from SEND services across Halton. To continue receiving future editions, you can sign up to the mailing list below:

<https://signup.es-mail.co.uk/Signup/a7125672ee19683656ed341c758c6fb3>

BOOK OF THE MONTH



Leading Learning Outdoors from Birth to Seven

Author: Kathryn Solly

A practical and inspiring resource for anyone supporting young children in the natural environment. Drawing on research, theory and real-life examples, it shows how outdoor learning can enhance children's development, wellbeing and engagement across all areas of the curriculum.

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