



## WELCOME

Thank you for everyone who contributed to our February Favourites it was lovely to see such a variety of well-loved children's stories. I hope you were inspired to try out a new one 😊

It looks set to be another busy half term with a few important dates to save in your diary, including Early Years safeguarding reform briefings and Early Years SEND transition event - details below!

Help us keep everyone in the know by sharing our newsletter - members of your team can sign up using the subscribe button at the bottom of this newsletter

Best wishes  
Sarah

Contact the Early Years Team on [early.years@halton.gov.uk](mailto:early.years@halton.gov.uk)

## UPDATES

### **Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance Update**

In the autumn, Ministers announced the DfE's intention to review the charging section of the statutory guidance, to ensure the funded hours remain accessible and affordable for families who need them. The DfE has now updated the statutory guidance which can be accessed on the link below. Please read your 2025-2026 FEYE contract, in particular Section 16 – Charging, which has been updated, as per the DfE Statutory Guidance.

These changes apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare-2/early-education-and-childcare-applies-from-1-april-2024>

The changes made aim to protect parents from reported instances of very high additional charges or 'top-up fees' on top of their entitlement, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds where it makes the biggest difference. The updates should also help ensure greater clarity and consistency for parents, providers and local authorities.

A key emphasis is transparency in how the entitlements are passed on to parents, including that all costs should be clear to parents upfront and a greater clarification of what are considered 'consumables'. The guidance also reaffirms, in line with a recent High Court judgment, that whilst providers can charge for some extras these charges must not be mandatory.

Further information on the changes will be provided shortly. If you have any questions please contact [early.years@halton.gov.uk](mailto:early.years@halton.gov.uk)

### Education Strategy

You are invited to our Education Strategy afternoon on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March (1pm-4pm @ Halton Stadium).

Following the release of the Children and Young People Plan last year, we are now able to co-produce Halton's new education strategy which will outline our vision for the borough and how we will all work together to achieve the ambitions of the plan.

The afternoon will be led by Professor Janet Lord and will pave the way for our exit from being a Priority Education Investment Area and how we can build upon the successes and ensure we continue to work collaboratively across the sector.

It would be fantastic if you could join us for the afternoon, or if a representative could attend on your behalf, to ensure as many voices as possible can contribute to the production of the strategy. To confirm your attendance, please email [mike.stapleton-chambers@halton.gov.uk](mailto:mike.stapleton-chambers@halton.gov.uk) who will send you a calendar invite for the afternoon, or if you have already received the invite, please accept or decline so we can ensure there are sufficient refreshments and seats!

Thank you & we hope to see you there!

## CHILDCARE EXPANSION

Please note: the closing date for the submission of any adjustments for the Spring term is **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. The system will then close at midnight for adjustments.



If any children have the symbol next to their name on your Provider Portal and a grace period end date of **31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**, please run an eligibility check on the code to ensure the parents have re-confirmed. If they have not re-confirmed yet, please let the parents know they **MUST** re-confirm before **31<sup>st</sup> March**, otherwise the code will not be valid in the summer term.

**Don't forget – Summer Term starts on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025** so any new starters with a valid code can start on this date.

## SAFEGUARDING - BOOK NOW!!!!

**Important briefing about Safeguarding Reforms**

Please make sure that you make every effort to get booked on to one of our briefings this week about the upcoming EYFS safeguarding and welfare reforms.

**Important information will be shared about safeguarding training** moving forward, so please try to ensure that at least 1 person from your setting attends either briefing. All childminders are encouraged to attend to ensure you have all the up-to-date information.

Book your spot via the following link.

<https://forms.office.com/e/zEY1BXnC5>



LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

## 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.



**17th March 2025**  
**17.30-19.30**

The poster features a vibrant background with a yellow-to-pink gradient and a dark blue base with yellow polka dots. In the top left, a magnifying glass icon contains the text 'EARLY YEARS TRAINING'. The center features 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 centered. At the bottom, a dark blue banner with yellow polka dots displays the date and time in white text.

**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.

**21st March 2025 - 9.00-12.00**

Book Training Now!

## DIARY DATES

Early Years SEND transition event will be held on the **30<sup>th</sup> April** at the DCBL stadium

### Key dates

- \* Children find out school places **16/04/25**
- \* Please email names, dates of birth and the name of receiving school of the 3 -5 children you wish to discuss to [Mike.Stapleton-Chambers@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Stapleton-Chambers@halton.gov.uk) by **21/04/25**.
- \* Time slots will be sent **22/04/25** for Early Years providers to meet with Schools on the day.

# Tics and Tourette's Webinar

Online training for parents, carers and professionals in  
Halton and Warrington delivered by Tourettes Action.

## Monday 10th March

Health & Social Care professionals 10am – 11.30am

## Tuesday 11th March

Educational staff 4pm – 5.30pm

## Thursday 13th March

Parents and Carers – 7.30pm to 9pm

For more information about any of these events and to book,  
please visit the events section of Family Hub Online  
[www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/events](http://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/events)  
or scan the QR code.

**Tourettes**   
**action**

Proud to be working in partnership  
with Halton Family Hubs

To find your nearest Family Hub visit  
[www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk](http://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk)  
email: [familyhubs@halton.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubs@halton.gov.uk)



Please ensure you book via [www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/events](http://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/events) or scan the QR code  
above



Think Dads! Training, Microsoft Teams **13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (9.30-12.30)**. Get your tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/think-dads-online-training-tickets-1226089850749?aff=oddtcreator>

## 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](#)

## DON'T MISS OUT!

The Natasha Allergy Research Foundation has launched 'Allergy School', offering free resources to support staff in creating inclusive and safe environments for children with food allergies.

Settings may wish to utilise such resources alongside fulfilling their statutory duties to manage allergy risks in early years settings.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Take a look at this FREE webinar 'The Magic of Outdoor Learning for supporting Communication, Language, and Literacy'.



## CALLING ALL CHILDMINDERS

Childminders please take a few moments to complete our online Childminder Consultation. Please click on the button below to share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Childminder Consultation

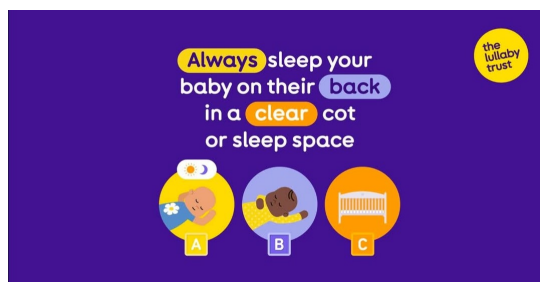


## SHARE WITH PARENTS



### Safer Sleep Week 2025

Greater awareness of safer sleep leads to a decrease in the numbers of babies dying. Sadly around four babies a week still die from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Help raise awareness of safer sleep advice with the parents/carers you work with.



For more information take a look at the website [Safer Sleep Week | The Lullaby Trust](#)

Subscribe

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

Search



Talk Halton



Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF