



WELCOME

I hope you all had a lovely and restful bank holiday weekend.

As we step into a busy term filled with transitions and preparations for September, please take a moment to look at some of our resources and key message posters at the end of the newsletter – perfect for sharing with parents.

Get involved in our *Musical Monday* challenge as we *sing our way to school* throughout the summer term, look out for a new song each week on our Instagram and Facebook.

The countdown has begun, and we are fast approaching our Summer Term Early Years Cluster – I'm really looking forward to seeing you all there!

Best wishes

Sarah

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UPDATES

New Experience-Based Route for Early Years Staff

The Government has introduced an experience-based route for early years staff. Follow the link to find out more <https://zurl.co/gOqn1>



Would you like to become an Early Years Teacher?

If you have a degree in any subject, you can become a fully-qualified Early Years Teacher by completing Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT).

For more information please click on the following link

[Early Years Initial Teacher Training](#) | [Best Practice Network](#)

Research and analysis

Getting it right from the start: how early years practitioners work with babies and toddlers

Published 30 April 2025

A valuable read for early years professionals working with babies and toddlers.

A newly published Ofsted report entitled [“Getting it right from the start: how early years practitioners work with babies and toddlers”](#) offers a comprehensive examination of Early Years practice, focusing on children from birth to two years old. It assesses how practitioners implement the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework and provides insights into areas of strength and those requiring improvement.

CHILDCARE EXPANSION

The Provider Portal is now open for Summer headcounts.

It is Headcount Day on **Thursday 8th May**.

The Provider Portal closes at midnight on **12th May 2025** for headcounts and will then be open for adjustments from Tuesday 13th May.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

NSPCC Safeguarding Resources for Early Years

Talk PANTS aims to support parents, carers and professionals to help keep children safe from sexual abuse.

For Early Years settings, there is an activity plan and accompanying presentation designed for ages 3-4 that complement the Pantosaurus song and video. These resources can be accessed via the NSPCC learning website, here:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/pants-teaching>.

There's also a Talk PANTS webpage for parents/carers to support them to have age-appropriate discussions with children. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>.

Techosaurus

There's also a Talk PANTS webpage for parents/carers to support them to have age-appropriate discussions with children. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>.

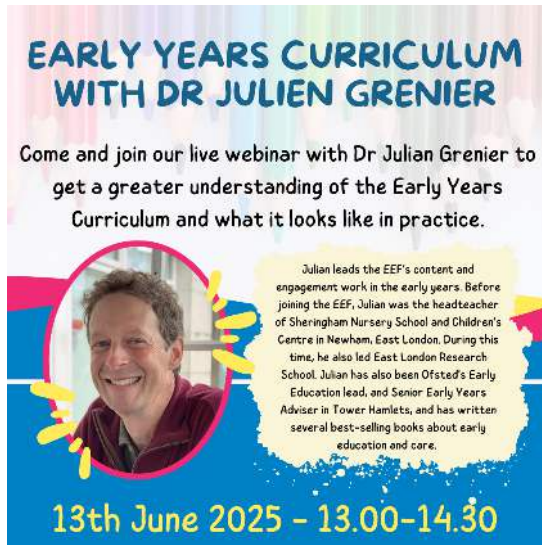


HSCP Agency Contact information

You can now access the most up to date HSCP agency contact details (e.g. Children's Social Care staffing structures) via the Partnership website. Click [here](#) to access the site. Please note, the information here is password protected from the public. Should you

need to access the contact information, please contact Jodie Wylie or Jenna McNally for the password.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM WITH DR JULIEN GRENIER

Come and join our live webinar with Dr Julian Grenier to get a greater understanding of the Early Years Curriculum and what it looks like in practice.

Julian leads the EEF's content and engagement work in the early years. Before joining the EEF, Julian was the headteacher of Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre in Newham, East London. During this time, he also led East London Research School. Julian has also been Ofsted's Early Education lead, and Senior Early Years Adviser in Tower Hamlets, and has written several best-selling books about early education and care.

13th June 2025 - 13.00-14.30



Communication Champions

Calling all Communication Champions, Room Leaders and Early Years Teaching Assistants

We are delighted to be joined by a guest speaker for our Summer Communication Champions sessions, so book on to see how you can support Speech, Language and Communication

16th June 2025 (13.30-15.30)
DCBL Stadium

Book Training Now!

CLUSTER CORNER

Thank you to everyone that joined our 'Before we get to Reception' session recently. It was amazing that so many of you were able to jump online. We hope you are as excited as we are about creating Halton's Transition Toolkit 😊. Thank you for your thoughts and contributions so far, we really do value and appreciate your input.

We are trying to explore different ways of communicating with you as we know how precious your time is. With this in mind we have created three padlets to enable everyone to contribute your ideas and suggestions for our Transition Toolkits and resources. Please click on the images below to access the padlets and share your thoughts and ideas with us.

The first padlet will look at ideas to be included in our myth busting poster to be shared with parents/carers. Please click on the following link to add your contributions
<https://padlet.com/traceylynch3/before-we-get-to-reception-myths-ooyz37womh80pach>

We have also begun to consider how key skills can be supported in our settings and would love to hear how your ideas by clicking on the following link
<https://padlet.com/traceylynch3/how-can-we-support-the-development-of-key-skills-in-our-sett-prk4lkswmn68vuwa>

We would like to propose a 'Teddy Transition – Summer Challenges' for families to support development of key skills, please contribute your ideas by clicking on the following link <https://padlet.com/traceylynch3/before-we-get-to-reception-summer-challenge-w5g0jxu356fqw3ze>

EARLY YEARS SENCOS

There have been lots of changes, so we urge all Early Years SENCOs to come and join us to be part of the consultation on Halton's new funding system. Find out what the process entails and have discussions on using the funding effectively to meet the needs of children. Use the [online booking form](#) to book your place now



SHARE WITH PARENTS

Before we get to Reception

New skills take time to learn. Giving children lots of opportunities to practice at home will help develop a child's confidence and independence. We have created posters as part of our **Transition Toolkit**, for you to share parents/carers.

Look out for our social media posts on **Halton's Early Years Instagram** and our **TALK Halton Facebook** group throughout May and June. Please share the key skills messages with your parents/carers.



EARLY YEARS SOCIAL MEDIA



Musical Monday Challenge

Songs and rhymes are a great way to build confidence and support language development. So join us each Monday on Halton's Early Years Instagram and our TALK Halton Facebook group as we share one of our favourite songs/rhymes as we ***'Sing our way to school'***

EARLY YEARS RECRUITMENT

Some of your parents may be thinking of going back to work as their children start school in September.

Help us with recruitment into our Early Years sector by sharing information on your own social media platforms, and newsletters.

Do something BIG work with small children. For more information [click here](#)



Listen to Hayley, one of Halton's Childminders talk about why she loves being a Childminder



FURTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New Eclipse Drop-in sessions

The Eclipse support team are holding drop-in sessions every Wednesday and Friday from 14.00 - 16.00, hosted by a member of the Eclipse team. Practitioners are encouraged to attend these sessions for support with Eclipse issues relating to case recording. If you would like to join a drop-in session, please [click here](#)

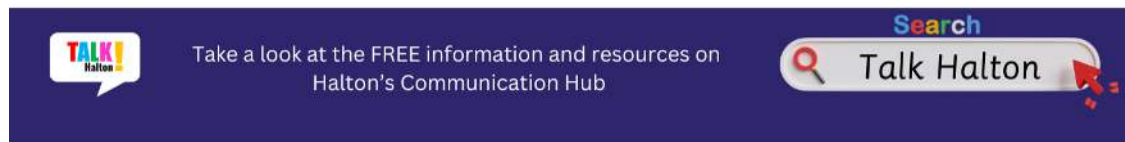


FREE recorded training sessions

Childcare Works has been working with NASEN to provide a suite of ten bitesize recorded information sessions to support wraparound providers with SEND and inclusive practice. You do not need to access all the sessions, just choose the ones most relevant for you. Take a look at what's on offer by [clicking here](#)

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.



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