



WELCOME

Easter is nearly here! – A couple of things to remember coming up straight after the Easter holidays.

It's that time of year again when children will receive their school offer on 16th April. To support parents with the key skills to practice before Reception, please remember to share the DFE Starting Reception document [Home - Starting Reception](#) which can be translated into 11 languages.

We also have our Early Years Vulnerable Learners Transition Event is coming up on 6th May 2026. Please send the names and dates of birth of the 3-4 children you wish to discuss, along with the name of the receiving school, to Mike.Stapleton-Chambers@halton.gov.uk by **24th April 26**.

Any childminders who would like advice or guidance should request support from the team on the following link [Early Years Providers: Request Support](#)

Wishing you all a lovely, relaxing Easter—and plenty of chocolate! 🍫🍌

Best wishes
Sarah

UPDATES

Digital Upskilling Support for Providers

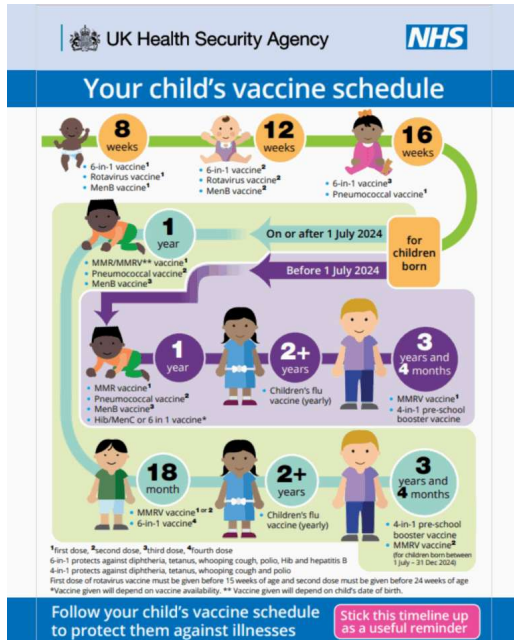
A new Microsoft 365 digital upskilling recording is now available to help providers build confidence with practical tasks in Excel, Microsoft Forms and Word. The session is organised into clear chapters, making it easy to jump straight to the content most relevant to you.

All external links referenced in the session are included as hyperlinks in the Vimeo description, and chapter markers have been added for quick and easy navigation. You can access both the recording and slide deck via the [HUB](#). Please share this valuable

training resource with your team: [Making the Most of Digital Tools for Early Years and Childcare Providers on Vimeo](#)

Update: Meningococcal Disease Outbreak in Kent and Medway

Children should continue attending early education settings as normal, unless parents are directly advised otherwise by the local health protection team. If families have not been contacted by the UK Health Security Agency, the risk to them remains low.



It is always important for parents and carers to make sure that children stay up to date with all their routine vaccinations, as these offer important protection against infectious disease outbreaks.

Parents and carers should also be aware and alert to the signs and symptoms of invasive meningococcal disease.

For more information, visit the **NHS website** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/>

FEYE FUNDING

Provider Portal – Keep Your Information Up to Date

Have you recently checked your details on the Synergy Provider Portal?

Please ensure your setting's information is current, that your prices are up to date for parents to view, and that you are visible on the FIS Directory. Visit the [Synergy - FIS Directory](#), and use the Forms tab to review and update your information, confirm your permissions, and make sure everything is clear and accurate for prospective parents and anyone making enquiries.

[Sign In - Synergy provider portal](#)

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



Benedict's Law Moves Forward

The Government has committed to introducing mandatory school allergy guidance under Benedict's Law. While aimed at schools, early years settings will also benefit from the good practice recommendations.

You can read more about Benedict's Law on the Anaphylaxis UK website: [Benedict's Law moves forward as Government commits to mandatory school allergy guidance](#)

[Anaphylaxis UK](#)

A reminder that Anaphylaxis UK also offers AllergyWise training specifically designed for Early Years settings. Further details are available here: [AllergyWise® for Early Years Settings – Online Allergy Training | Anaphylaxis UK](#)

TRAINING



Summer Term Training Offer Coming Soon

We're busy putting the final touches to our summer term training offer. Keep an eye on your inbox—full details will be shared shortly.



SEND



Dingley's Free Resource

Dingley's Promise has a range of free resources available to support educators working with children with SEND. You can explore and download them here:

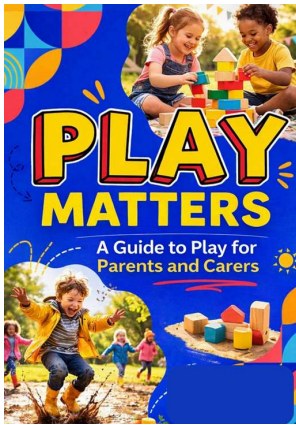
<https://dingley.org.uk/resources-for-educators/>

DID YOU KNOW...?

Early Years Providers Encouraged to Share Views on Mandatory CCTV

Early years providers and staff are invited to share their views with the Government's expert panel on the introduction of mandatory CCTV in settings. The feedback collected will help shape forthcoming Government guidance. You can read more about the panel and access the survey link in this Nursery World article: [Nursery World - Early years providers urged to share their views with Government's expert panel on mandatory CCTV](#)

SHARE WITH PARENTS



Aaron Bradbury – *Play Matters for Parents*

Aaron Bradbury has released the *Play Matters* guide for parents, offering accessible, practical information to help support children's play and development.

Click on the link below to download
[Play Matters parents guide Logo](#)



Share This Update Poster

Please share this update poster in your newsletters and across your social media platforms to help spread the message widely.

Free activities and food returns to Halton this Easter

Halton Borough Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme returns this Easter, offering free activities and healthy meals for:

- Children and young people aged 4–16 who receive benefits-related free school meals
- Young people up to 25 with SEND

33 local providers will run a wide range of activities, including arts and crafts, sports, outdoor adventures, gaming clubs, creative tech, and other enriching sessions.

Every child attending will receive, a minimum of four hours of enriching activities and a healthy, packed lunch - on at least four days over the holiday period.

Activities take place across Halton, with some sessions open to all school-aged children. Free packed lunches are available every weekday.

The programme is funded by the Department for Education and delivered with Halton Borough Council.

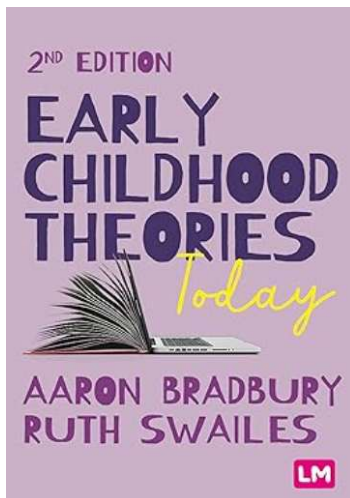
You can explore the full Easter timetable and reserve places online [here](#).

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Partou Willowdene Day Nursery and Pre-school in Widnes has been awarded the Halton Healthy Early Years Status (HHEYS) by Halton Borough Council in recognition of its commitment to exceeding expectations in key areas such as nutrition, physical activity, and emotional security. The HHEYS scheme celebrates early years settings that place children's health and wellbeing at the centre of their practice, with a strong emphasis on the vital role of partnership with families.



BOOK OF THE MONTH



Early Childhood Theories Today

Early Childhood Theories Today brings contemporary early childhood theories to life, clearly linking them to everyday practice. Aaron Bradbury and Ruth Swailes explore key thinkers and modern perspectives in an accessible, practical way—helping practitioners understand how theory shapes decision-making, interactions and learning environments. Reflective, relevant and rooted in high-quality, child-centred practice, this book supports early years professionals to deepen their thinking and strengthen their approach.

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



Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF