



WELCOME

There's lots of fantastic things happening in Early Years!

We had a brilliant Summer Early Years Cluster Meeting, filled with valuable discussions and great sharing of good practice – thank you to everyone who joined us!

It was also a pleasure to spend time with our amazing childminders during National Childminding Week at our safeguarding training session.

Looking ahead – save the date!

We're excited to welcome **Dr. Julian Grenier**, who will be speaking about the Early Years curriculum. This is a must-attend event for Headteachers, Early Years Leads, teachers, and practitioners – a great opportunity to gain deeper insight into effective Early Years practice.

Keep an eye on our social media for our **Key Message Posters** to share with parents.

Enjoy your week and have fun in the sunshine! ☀️

Best wishes

Sarah

Email us - early.years@halton.gov.uk

Follow us on Instagram @HaltonEarlyYears and Facebook TALKHalton

EARLY YEARS CLUSTER

Feedback

Summer Early Years Cluster

Karen's session was really informative and the Cluster was a great opportunity to speak to other settings. I learnt lots about early literacy. We will go and re-audit our provision following the training

Feedback

Summer Early Years Cluster

Really enjoyed communicating with our cluster and the information shared about transitions. Looking forward to sharing the ideas for summer challenges



Early Years Cluster



Feedback

Summer Early Years Cluster

The guest speaker made me think about my approach to early reading and thinking about the best times to share a story. It was very useful to meet with cluster groups to think about the transition forms. It was great to share information.

Feedback

Summer Early Years Cluster

Great opportunity to network with other colleagues in our local cluster group and to contribute ideas to the transition tool kit. The opportunity to share best practice is invaluable

There are several professional development opportunities available for your team to progress in their early years career. Funding is available to support some Early Years teacher training routes

Early Years Initial Teacher Training

For candidates applying through the graduate employment-based route: up to £14,000 - £7,000 for training providers to cover course fees, and up to £7,000 for employers to support trainees through costs such as supply cover or salary enhancements. [Click here](#) for more information

Experienced level 3 route

Unqualified early years staff working in settings will be able to undertake this route. Eligibility includes staff who hold either a full and relevant Level 2 qualification, a relevant Level 3 or above qualification to the care or education of children, or those with at least one year of experience working in early years.

Aspiring level 3 leaders

The National Professional Qualification for Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL) equips leaders with skills in organisational management, staff development, evidence-based teaching, and creating inclusive policies. [Click here](#) for more information

New funded undergraduate route to Early Years Teacher Status

The Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship (EYTDA), a new route to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) is open to Level 3 qualified staff with GCSEs in Mathematics, English, and Sciences. Course fees of up to £9,000 per year are covered by the employer's apprenticeship levy payments or co-funded between the employer and the DfE. [Click here](#) for more information

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

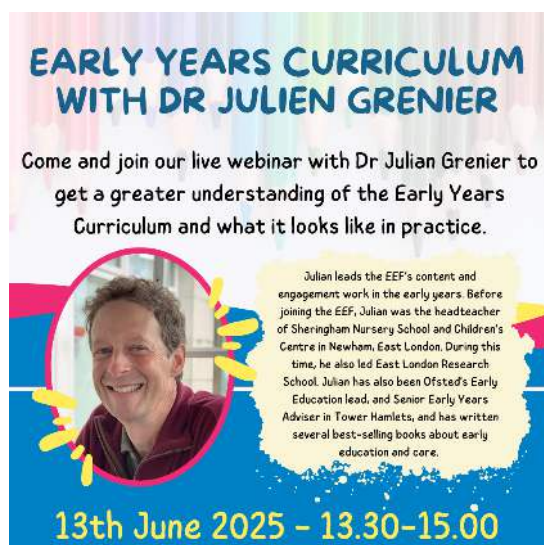
[Protective security and preparedness for education settings](#)

This non-statutory guidance has been updated to help education settings strengthen their preparedness for terrorism and major incidents. It sets out simple, cost-effective steps to safeguard learners, staff and volunteers through practical planning and a strong security culture. Click on the link above to access the updated guidance, along with editable templates, real-life examples and interactive resources.



NSPCC are calling for an urgent amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill to end the physical punishment of children in England. Sign our petition to end physical punishment – [Click here](#)

TRAINING WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS



Book Training Now!

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



If you were unable to hear Dr Karen Boardman at our recent Early Years Cluster don't worry, Karen has kindly offered to host an online session so you don't miss out. Book your place [HERE](#)



We know how popular the Shine Therapy training sessions are so if you want a place at the upcoming session on the 30th June [BOOK HERE NOW](#) to avoid disappointment

EARLY YEARS RECRUITMENT

Do Something Big campaign – advertising vacancies on Find A Job ahead of summer activity

The next wave of the [Do Something Big campaign](#) will run from 19 May-14 September 2025, encouraging more people to explore a fulfilling career in early years and childcare. Please keep an eye out for the new adverts and use the [available resources](#) in your own recruitment activity.

The campaign website also directs thousands of potential applicants to [Find A Job](#) every week and you can advertise your roles there for free, which will ensure they are seen by a large pool of candidates.

EARLY YEARS SENCOs

We would like ALL Early Years SENCOs to attend one of the Early Years SEND network sessions for an opportunity to discuss and consult on the new SENIF funding system. You can join us on **Monday 23rd June** (1-3pm at Warrington Road Family Hub) or **Wednesday 25th June** (1-3pm at Halton Lea Library) to find out more. Use the [online booking form](#) to book your place now

DfE announces fully funded Early Years SENCO training for 2025-26

Do you want to train for your Early Years SENCo qualification? There are limited funded places available through Best Practice Network. Applicants must hold a full and relevant level 3 Early Years qualification. Childminder applicants must hold either a full and relevant Early Years level 3 qualification or have a level 2 Early Years qualification but have fully completed at least one level 3 Early Years training module and have significant experience of working in Early Years.

Training will commence from June 2025 and recruitment is open now. For further information, and to complete your application, please click on the button below.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

SHARE WITH PARENTS

Thank you to everyone for sharing the key skills posters and social social media posts with parents and carers. You can access the key skills posters below and the key skills social media posts will continue on **Halton's Early Years Instagram** and our **TALK Halton Facebook** group throughout May and June.

 Starting school means meeting lots of new people and making new friends. Some things to help your child get ready include...



Sharing and taking turns



Talking about feelings



Singing songs and rhymes



Following simple instructions



Learning to listen and respond



Talking about experiences

 I can wash my hands after I have been to the toilet

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help your child's confidence when they start school

 I use cutlery (e.g. knife, fork, chopsticks) when eating

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help your child's confidence when they start school

LET'S CELEBRATE

Last week we celebrated Childminding Week 2025. We wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the amazing comments from recent Ofsted inspections about some of our wonderful Childminders here in Halton

Debbie Ginever - January 2025

"Children laugh and giggle as they learn and play with the childminder. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to tailor learning experiences to individual children. She continually considers how to extend activities to develop children's learning further."

Julie Langley - February 2025

"The childminder provides a warm, welcoming environment for children. She offers enthusiastic praise and helps children to build resilience and confidence in their own skills. Children thrive under her encouragement and dedication. The childminder has developed an ambitious curriculum, which promotes the unique needs and goals of every child"

Karen Carter - January 2025

"The childminder provides a warm and welcoming home-learning environment. She is calm in her approach, which helps children to feel settled and secure. Children enjoy the activities that the childminder plans"



Sarah Dayus - January 2025

"Children are settled and secure in the childminder's care. The childminder is aware of where there may be emerging gaps in children's learning and focuses her teaching on these areas. This supports children to make consistently good progress."

DIARY DATE

Department for Education Early Education and Childcare Provider Regional Roadshow

The Department for Education Early Education and Childcare Provider Regional Roadshows for group-based setting leaders and managers have returned for 2025. The North-West roadshow will take place on the **8th July** at The Midland, Manchester. This event is a great opportunity to engage with DfE to share your ideas, successes, concerns and challenges and help shape government's current and future early education and childcare policy.

You can register your interest for future regional roadshows, happening later in the year, via the [register your interests form](#).

FAMILY HUBS

"Dad Matters" is one of two commissioned Fatherhood services delivered through Halton Family Hubs, focussing on universal engagement, evidence-based education, offering peer support around dads' mental health, bonding and attachment and supporting partners, and connecting dads with local services.

For more information and to book a place please [click here](#)

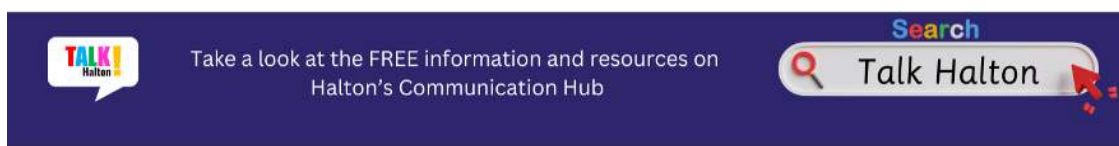


Do your parents/carers know about Halton's Online Family Hub? It's a great source of information and resources.

Share the following link www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk on your newsletters and social media platforms

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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