



WELCOME

Thanks to your valuable contributions through the Early Years Cluster, we're very nearly ready to launch some exciting new resources: 🌟 *The Myth-Busting Guide* for parents on getting ready for school and 🌟 Our *Transition Toolkit*. Keep an eye on your inbox—these will be arriving soon!

In the meantime, please continue to share our **Key Messages Posters** with parents and enjoy the **Musical Monday Challenge** as we continue to *Sing Our Way to School*. You'll find everything you need on our social media channels.

Help Us Spread the Word. It's come to our attention that some practitioners are still not receiving this newsletter. Please forward it to your team and encourage everyone to [sign up directly](#). Let's make sure no one misses out on the latest Early Years news, opportunities, and resources!

We're thrilled to share that *Shine Therapy* is back by popular demand—once again funded by DBV. Spaces are limited, so don't forget to book your place as soon as possible

Thank you for your continued support
Sarah

Follow us on Instagram @haltonyears and TALK Halton Facebook.
Contact us by email on early.years@halton.gov.uk

LET IT SHINE!

Back by popular demand!

We are delighted that Lisa from Shine Therapy will be delivering another session on Sensory Processing for those that have not yet managed to attend one of the previous sessions. Come along and be inspired on **Monday 30th June (1-4pm)**. [CLICK HERE](#) to book your place now

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days hours minutes seconds

UPDATES

Check an early years qualification service – available now!

Early years managers can now use the new [Check an early years qualification](#) digital service to quickly verify whether staff qualifications meet the requirements for staff:child ratios in England. The new service can be accessed at [HERE](#)

This free **GOV. UK** tool allows managers to check a qualification's approval status by entering key details such as:

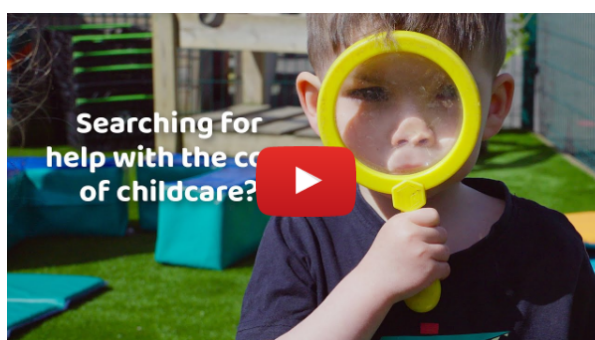
- * course start date
- * level
- * awarding organisation

At the end of the process, a clear outcome is provided, which can be printed for your records. If you need help using the service you can [contact DfE](#)

Childcare Codes

Families need to apply for their childcare code by **31st August** to start using the support from September.

For a step-by-step guide on how to apply, watch the video with Early Years Educator, Steff, explaining the process



DfE updates

The DfE have a new newsletter which will begin in early June. Subscribers will receive the latest announcements, information and news from the department on how they are reforming early years education and support childcare expansion. You can sign up by visiting the link below and clicking on the "Sign up to receive our provider e-mail updates" tile. www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/provider-guidance-and-resources

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

Early Years Curriculum with Julien Grenier

It is fantastic to see so many of you booked onto the upcoming webinar on **Friday 13th June**.

A great opportunity for Headteachers and EYFS Governors to attend, alongside Early Years staff.

There's not long to go so book now by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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 – 13.30-15.00

Have you booked your place?

We will also be joined by two more wonderful guest speakers in June. We urge all settings and schools to be represented at the sessions so you can share the information with your Early Years teams. Click on the images below to book your place



EARLY YEARS SENCOs

Have you booked onto one of our SENCo network clusters in June?

We urge all Early Years settings to be represented so you are up to date with all the changes that are happening including SEND Inclusion Funding (the replacement for Top Up Funding). It would be beneficial for all schools with Nursery children to attend. 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

SENIF (SEND Inclusion Funding) Panel

Please be aware that SEND Inclusion Funding panel is held monthly, this replaces the old Top Up Funding system. For more information and details on how to apply for funding please see [Early Years' Special Educational Needs inclusion Funding.\(SENIF\)](#) or email early.years@halton.gov.uk

EARLY YEARS EXPANSION

Applications open for 30 hours of government-funded childcare for September 2025



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

From September 2025 eligible working parents of children aged over 9 months to 4 years old will 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.childcarechoices.gov.uk

IMPORTANT To ensure you can claim the funding from September 2025 **APPLY NOW** for your code

Any applications received after 31st August 2025 will not be eligible in the Autumn Term

To be eligible for the funding from **September 2025**, both parts of the criteria below must be met:

- The child must be at least 9 months old **before 31st August 2025**; and
- Working parents must have applied and been issued with an eligibility code with a start date **before 31st August 2025**

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)



All eligible working parents of children who will be at least nine months old on or before 31 August can now apply for 30 hours of government-funded childcare for September 2025 through the government's childcare expansion. Parents can check their eligibility and apply at [Childcare Choices](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). Settings should be talking with parents currently receiving the 15-hour working parent entitlement to agree how many hours they will be using from September.

REMEMBER

If you have any adjustments for the summer term, please submit them as the child starts/leaves changes the number of hours claimed. **DO NOT** leave them until the last minute to submit

Childcare Information in Different Languages

Here is a link for the Childcare Choices information in different languages, which childcare providers may find useful to share with parents/carers [Campaign creatives](#) | [Childcare Choices](#)



SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



A NEW free resource to better protect children with food allergies has been created for nurseries, schools and out-of-school clubs as new research shows a lack of allergy awareness among teachers.

The free programme includes allergy training, first aid advice and a self-assessment tool for early years and school staff. There are also lesson plans and films for children to watch featuring puppet Arlo - a food-allergic armadillo, created by Sesame Street puppeteer Warrick Brownlow-Pike. You can access the [Allergy School Programme](#) here!

CHILDMINDERS

We recently emailed all Halton Childminders inviting you to a Childminder Keeping in Touch session on Monday 16th June (6.30-8.00pm). Have you sent your RSVP? We will be focussing on SEND in the Early Years, including Halton's SENIF Funding so make sure you book your place now by [CLICKING HERE](#)

RESEARCH AND READING



Baby-led planning: What is it and how do you do it?

Take a look at this blogpost by Dr Mona Sakr. There is a lot to consider and think through, including some easy ways to turn what you read into an action that can help to improve practice in your baby room. Read the blogpost by clicking on the link below

[Mastering Baby-Led Planning: Engage and Educate Infants](#)

DID YOU KNOW..?

Have you got a Climate Action Plan?

The [sustainability and climate change strategy for education](#) states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

Sustainability for Education are hosting webinars with FREE Early Years Specials on the 3rd and 4th June. For more information [CLICK HERE](#)



DON'T MISS OUT!

You're invited to attend our upcoming

ECLIPSE SUPPORT DROP-IN SESSIONS

Every Wednesday and Friday, 14:00 - 16:00

Microsoft Teams

Get Support:
Discuss case recording Queries
Dedicated time:
Access telephone support hosted by the Eclipse team at any point during 2-hour window
Quick Solutions
Check the Eclipse site for guidance and FAQs before attending
Terms of Reference see attached

Helpdesk Queries and System changes will not be discussed in the drop in session

New Eclipse drop-in sessions are now available! Click [here](#) to access the Teams invite

Partnership Briefing
Issue No: 106 May 2025
E-Mail: CYPsafeguardingPartnership@halton.gov.uk

Further dates added!

The demand for early help support in Halton is increasing, meaning professionals are busier than ever and we are all struggling with capacity.

To help support with this, a condensed early help assessment is being re-launched, which is easy to use while still assessing the needs of families, children and young people in Halton.

MAP training is not mandatory, but will provide you with the tools and skills to enable you, the practitioner to take part in the MAP (Multi-Agency Plan) process.

Who the course is aimed at?
The course is aimed at all professionals who work at Level 2 in Halton who may be involved with a MAP, this may be as the Navigator or as a contributor.

AIMS and Objectives:
By the end of the training you will have greater understanding & awareness around the following areas:

- Introduction into MAP
- Being asked to complete a MAP
- Being a Navigator
- Completing a MAP assessment
- MAP tools
- MAP reviews
- Closing a MAP
- Ongoing support

When & where?
Wednesday 4th June 2025 09:30-11:30 @ Kingsway Family Hub
or
Thursday 5th June 2025 14:00-16:00 @ Brookvale Family Hub

Extra MAP training sessions also available – see HSCP training calendar and portal to book.

SHARE WITH PARENTS

Speech and Language UK provide FREE talking with your toddler webinars for parents of children aged 12 months to 4 years. The sessions are led by an experienced speech and language therapist and provide activities and approaches to encourage development.

For more information or to book a session [CLICK 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.



Take a look at the FREE information and resources on
Halton's Communication Hub

Search



Talk Halton



Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF