



WELCOME

It was lovely to see so many people at the Early Years transition event last week. Sophie Dickinson, Trainee Educational Psychologist and Post-graduate Researcher, is looking for PVI professionals with experience of enhanced transitions in Summer 2025 for a one-hour interview as part of her research project in Halton. If you can help, please contact SXD889@student.bham.ac.uk – thank you in advance for your support

In other news, we are delighted to be recruiting another member of the team member to support our Home Learning Environment work. If you're interested, please get in touch



Best wishes
Sarah

JOIN OUR TEAM

Are you ready to make a difference?

As an Early Years and Best Start Home Learning Environment Officer, you'll drive Halton's Best Start in Life ambition—working with settings, families, and partners to strengthen home learning, support wellbeing, and improve school readiness.

For an informal chat about this role, please contact Sarah Campbell (Early Years Team Lead)

 sarah.campbell@halton.gov.uk

 07721183211



Join Halton's Early Years Team and help shape brighter futures.

As an Early Years and Best Start Home Learning Environment Officer, you'll play a key role in delivering Halton's Best Start in Life ambition—working alongside settings, families, and partners to:

- * Strengthen home learning environments
- * Support children and family wellbeing
- * Improve school readiness outcomes

 Make a real difference in children's lives from the very start.

 Interested? Take a look for more information and apply today.

[Early Years and Best Start Home Learning Environment Officer](#)

 **Closing date: 31st May 2026**

UPDATES

Best Start in Life for Every Child in Halton

We are committed to giving every child in Halton the best start in life by creating a high-quality, joined-up early years system supporting families from pregnancy to school.

This supports the national goal of 75% of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) by 2028 and reflects our shared belief that every child should have the opportunity to thrive. Find out more by [clicking here](#).

DfE Phase 3 School-Based Nurseries Capital Grant

The Department for Education has announced Phase 3 of the School-Based Nurseries Capital Grant.

Local Authority proposals must be submitted by **30th September 2026**.

If you are interested in developing a school-based nursery and would like to apply as part of this programme, please contact early.years@halton.gov.uk to arrange an initial discussion.

UKHSA Advice: Recently Vaccinated Children (Early Years)

The DfE and UKHSA have become aware that some settings are temporarily excluding children who have recently been vaccinated, even when they are well enough to attend. This practice is unnecessary and may have unintended consequences for children and early years settings.

Dr Mary Ramsay (UKHSA) states:

- "Vaccinations are vital... With measles outbreaks... it's more important than ever that children receive their routine immunisations on schedule."
- "There is absolutely no medical reason to exclude a vaccinated child... if they are feeling well."
- Exclusion could "discourage parents... and increase the risk of outbreaks."
- "If a parent... feels their child is well enough... they should be welcomed as normal."
- "There is no reason to exclude children who have been recently vaccinated, as vaccine viruses cannot spread to others."



Disability Access Funding (DAF)

Do you have children in your setting who may be eligible for Disability Access Funding (DAF)? To access DAF, parents must first apply for Disability Living Allowance (DLA), so it's important to check this has been completed. Make sure you are maximising all available funding to support children with SEND in your setting. Check your inbox for the latest updated document.

FEYE FUNDING

Support Families to Access Free Childcare

Help families make the most of their Free Early Education Entitlement by signposting them to the *Best Start in Life* website. The site includes a simple *Childcare Eligibility Checker*, where parents can enter their details to find out what support they are entitled to and how they can save money on childcare.

Encouraging families to check their eligibility ensures they don't miss out on valuable support. [Childcare Eligibility Checker - Best Start in Life](#)

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



NSPCC Talk PANTS Resources

NSPCC Learning has published a new series of *Talk PANTS* videos. This campaign helps keep children safe from sexual abuse and offers a range of resources for schools and early years settings to deliver age-appropriate learning. The new videos, funded by The Executive Office in Northern Ireland, include an introduction to *Talk PANTS*, alongside tailored content for children aged 3–5 and 7–11, as well as resources to support children with SEND.

[Access the resources here.](#)

REMINDER: DSL/DDSL Safeguarding Training Requirements

As previously communicated, updates from the DfE require all DSLs and DDSLs to complete training in line with *Annex C of the EYFS*. Please note that the Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership (HCSP) *Working Together Level 3* course does not fully cover these requirements, as it is a multi-agency programme rather than one specific to early years.

Settings must ensure that all DSLs and DDSLs complete training that is fully compliant with Annex C of the EYFS. Our in-house *Safeguarding Training for DSLs* meets all required

standards, with next academic year's dates to be released in early Autumn.

If choosing external training, it is the **setting's responsibility** to ensure it meets EYFS requirements.

TRAINING

Don't Miss Out – Upcoming Training Sessions

Don't miss the opportunity to book onto our upcoming training sessions, featuring fabulous guest speakers. Secure your place by booking via our online booking form.



BOOK TRAINING

Reception Network Meeting

It's fantastic to see so many Reception teachers keen to come together for our Reception Network Meeting on **Thursday 21st May (9.30-11.30)**

Please ensure your school is represented at this important session. You can book now using the following link [Reception Network Meeting – Fill out form](#)

SEND

Early Years SENCO Level 3 qualification - funded places available

This is an NCFE Level 3 Qualification for SENCOs in Early Years settings. All Early Years providers are required to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care, as set out in the [EYFS Framework](#). This qualification meets the requirements of the EYFS Framework providing Early Years SENCOs with the knowledge, understanding and skills to support children and their families. This programme is accredited and fully-funded by the DfE. Apply by **7th June** to begin the course in June. For more information [click here](#)

DID YOU KNOW...?



Missed the Ofsted session? Watch their recent Facebook Live event where the early years team responded to questions from practitioners. Topics discussed included updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, guidance around sleep-related queries, and what to expect from inspection timelines.

Supporting Families with Potty Training

Join this webinar on **19th May (12.00-12.45)** for Starting Reception – Supporting Families with Potty Training, a practical session for early years professionals. Find out how to support families with potty training, including managing sensitive conversations with confidence.

✨ You'll gain:

- ✓ Practical tips for engaging parents
- ✓ Strategies to overcome common challenges
- ✓ Ways to build positive partnerships

🔗 Register: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Can't attend live? Sign up to receive the recording.

SHARE WITH PARENTS



Child Safety Week (1–7 June)

Child Safety Week is a national campaign led by the Child Accident Prevention Trust to raise awareness and support families in keeping children safe. It focuses on simple, practical steps to manage risks without feeling overwhelmed, so children can grow, learn, and explore safely—free from serious harm. There are lots of helpful resources and information available on their website that you can share with parents. [Find out more](#)

Dingley's Promise SEND Parent Roundtables

Dingley's Promise parent engagement events have moved online, making it easier for families to take part. These sessions are for parents of children with SEND under 8 and will explore the SEND White Paper, giving families a chance to share views and experiences.

📅 Tuesday 12 May, 12–1pm

📅 Wednesday 13 May, 6–7pm

📅 Thursday 14 May, 6–7pm

Sign up via their website [Early Years Whitepaper Consultation Engagement Events](#)
[Tickets, Multiple dates](#) | [Eventbrite](#)

BOOK OF THE MONTH



Moments of Meaning by Dr Aaron Bradbury

Moments of Meaning encourages early years professionals to slow down and notice what really matters in children's play and learning. Through thoughtful reflection and practical examples, Dr Aaron Bradbury highlights the power of everyday interactions and supports practitioners to create rich, meaningful experiences that place relationships, curiosity and child-led learning at the heart of practice.

RESEARCH / READING



Do you work with babies?

Take a look at this thoughtful blog post from *The Baby Room*, which explores what an ideal baby room can look like in practice. It reflects on creating environments that genuinely support babies' development, wellbeing and relationships, while remaining realistic and responsive to everyday practice.

It's a valuable read for anyone working with babies, offering inspiration and prompts for reflection on provision, routines and interactions.

👉 Read the blog: <https://thebabyroom.blog/2026/03/24/baby-room-vision-building-an-ideal-baby-room/>

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



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