



## WELCOME

I hope you all enjoyed the sunshine last week, and that those of you who had half term were able to enjoy a well-earned break.

Before the holidays, we had a lovely morning with Reception teachers at the first of what will be many Reception network meetings. Thank you to everyone who attended—we're really looking forward to the sessions ahead.

As we move into the final half term of the year, we know how busy everyone will be with transitions. If you do need any support, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the team - [early.years@halton.gov.uk](mailto:early.years@halton.gov.uk)

Best wishes  
Sarah

## UPDATES

### **RISE Reception Quality Webinar Series – Summer 2026**

Following the strong engagement with last year's national programme, the RISE Reception webinar series returns for Summer 2026.

These sessions will focus on EYFS Profile assessment, transition into Reception, and high-quality provision, offering practical, evidence-based guidance aligned with the latest recommendations.

Wednesdays at 4pm:

- 10 June – *Mastering the EYFS Profile Assessment*
- 17 June – *Setting up for Reception Success*
- 24 June – *Supporting Smooth Transitions into Reception*

- ✓ Practical, relevant support for all Reception practitioners
- ✓ Register via the link and share with colleagues – all schools welcome!

To register for these webinars, please use this [link](#)

### **Asbestos in Consumer Products – Important Information**

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has published guidance on GOV.UK covering the safe disposal of products containing asbestos, along with key health information for businesses and consumers, including early years settings. [Guidance for consumers and businesses on consumer products containing asbestos](#)

➔ Early years settings should review the [List of contaminated products that are subject to recalls](#) and follow the guidance to ensure safe disposal if any items are identified.

⚠️ If you are concerned about a product that may contain asbestos but has not been recalled, contact the [Citizens Advice consumer service](#).

## SEND

### SEND Surgery ONLINE Drop-In Sessions

Join our upcoming SEND surgery drop-ins:

📅 Monday 15th June & Monday 20th July

🕒 10–11am or 6.30–7.30pm

💻 Sessions are held online to make it easier for more practitioners to attend

Each session will cover a monthly hot topic and give you the chance to ask questions and seek advice.

Book your place now by [clicking here](#)

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



Partnership Briefing  
Issue No: 137 May 2026  
E-Mail: [CPSSafeguardingPartnership@halton.gov.uk](mailto:CPSSafeguardingPartnership@halton.gov.uk)

### Supporting parents with learning difficulties & learning disabilities

Recent Learning reviews in Halton have identified the need to ensure good practice is adopted in **supporting parents with learning disabilities**. Indeed, practitioners often experience some difficulties supporting families affected by parental learning disability. If services fail to coordinate effectively, parents with learning disabilities are at risk of falling through the gap between the provision of services for children and the provision of services for adults.

A new page has been added to our [HSCP website](#) that helps distinguish between Learning Disability and Learning Difficulty. It also details the Practice Standards and Guidance, Key Messages and lists the links to various support services.



### ♥️ Supporting Parents with Learning Difficulties & Learning Disabilities

Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership has shared helpful guidance to support parents with learning difficulties and learning disabilities. Every parent deserves the right support to help them care for their children safely and confidently. By providing clear information, understanding individual needs, and working together, we can help families thrive.

Find out more and access support [here](#)

### Child Safety Week 2026 (1–7 June)

Child Safety Week from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) is approaching, and it's a great opportunity to raise awareness about keeping children safe at home, outdoors, and on the move. You can download the free display pack here to help get involved and spread the message [CSW-2026-display-pack-1.pdf](#)

## TRAINING

### 'Let's Get Confident With... Referrals'

We still have places available on this online session, led by a member of the iCART team:

📅 Wednesday 3rd June

🕒 6:00–7:00pm

Secure your place now using this link [Let's Get Confident with....iCART Referrals](#)

## BOOK TRAINING

### IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

✨ It's the final countdown! ✨

Have you secured your place at our Summer Early Years Cluster?

📅 Tuesday 9th June

🕒 9:30am – 3:30pm

Our Summer cluster will provide practical, evidence-informed ideas for shaping a curriculum and learning environment in which boys can thrive.

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days hours minutes seconds

### RECEPTION NETWORK MEETING

We had a fantastic turnout for our first Reception Network Meeting! The room was buzzing as practitioners engaged in rich professional dialogue around the Writing ELG, while also sharing ideas and good practice.

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We're delighted that Ruth Swailes will be supporting our Reception Network events next year—be sure to save the dates!

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### DON'T MISS OUT!

#### Saturday Play Conference – Online Event

Upcoming Saturday Play Conference, taking place online via Zoom:

📅 Saturday 13th June

🕒 9:30am – 12:30pm

Speakers:

- \* Dr Denise Wright – *The Importance of Play in the Early Years*
- \* Emma-Louise Scott – *Play and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities*
- \* Dr Diane Boyd – *Play and Sustainability*

Book your place using the following link [Play Conference Tickets | TryBooking United Kingdom](#)



### **Supporting Families with Potty Training – Webinar for Early Years Professionals**

*Starting Reception: Supporting Families with Potty Training*—a practical webinar for teachers and early years practitioners across nurseries, childminders, and family hubs.

Learn how to support families effectively, including handling sensitive conversations with confidence. Ideal for those supporting children transitioning into Reception or working closely with families.

 **8 June**

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

Can't attend live? Register to receive the recording.

## **DID YOU KNOW...?**

Something wonderful is on the horizon...

**On 10th July 2026, join in and celebrate Play Matters: Cardboard Box Day.**

A day for everyone who champions children's play – to pause, strip things back, and reconnect with what truly matters.

No pricey resources. No elaborate setups. Just cardboard boxes, simple materials, and the limitless imagination of children.

This day is all about celebrating the extraordinary possibilities hidden inside the simplest things – and bringing pure, unfiltered play back into our environments.

So start saving those boxes!



## **RESEARCH/ READING**

## Renewed Inspection Framework for Holiday Providers – What You Need to Know

Ofsted has published a new blog outlining how they inspect holiday provision under the renewed framework.

This update provides helpful insight into expectations, helping providers understand how to meet standards and deliver high-quality provision.

👉 Read more to stay informed and prepared [Renewed Inspection Framework for Holiday Providers: What You Need to Know](#)

## FURTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



### Supporting SEND & Inclusion with NELI

Discover how **NELI** can support early language development in primary and early years settings.

✅ 20-week programme with small group & 1:1 support

📈 +4 months progress on average (up to +7 for FSM pupils)

💡 Fully funded until 2028/29

A proven, practical approach to strengthening communication and improving outcomes for all children.

### Make a bigger difference in early years ✨

Taking part in an EEF research project is easier than you think—and can have a real impact on your practice, your team, and the children you support.

Five projects you can join:

#### Early Years (3–4s)

- *Early Skills for Life* – story and play-based activities to boost self-regulation
- *PECE* – coaching to support positive behaviour and responses
- *TWiTCH* – story sessions to build language and communication

#### Reception

- *Maths Through Picture Books* – small-group sessions to strengthen early maths
- *OxEd & NELI* – 20-week programme to develop oral language

Find out more [here](#)

## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

### Share Stories With Me

Sharing stories is one of the most powerful ways to support children's learning and development. From building language skills to sparking imagination, story time makes a big difference! Taking a few moments each day to read, look at pictures, and talk about stories together—it all helps children grow in confidence and communication.

Find helpful tips and ideas for parents and carers [here](#)

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