



WELCOME

Hopefully everyone is managing in this warm weather. It's set to be a little cooler this week, but please take a look at this guidance for tips on keeping safe in the heat in early years. [Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers an...](#)

A quick reminder for all those working with 2-year-olds to join us online on Tuesday evening with Tamsin Grimmer for one of my favourite subjects—talking all things two!

If you would like to get in touch with the team please contact us on
early.years@halton.gov.uk

Best wishes
Sarah

UPDATES

New Guidance: Excellence in Reception Teaching Framework

Please [click here](#) to see the latest guidance around the Excellence in Reception Teaching Framework – designed to strengthen high-quality practice in the Early Years and ensure every child gets the very best start to their learning journey.

This updated framework focuses on high-quality interactions and purposeful play, supported by skilled teaching, enabling environments, strong early communication and literacy foundations, and ongoing assessment to guide next steps.

Consultation on Early Years Teachers

A new consultation is now open on proposals to reform how early years teachers are trained and supported. The aim is to raise the quality of training, strengthen the professional status of the workforce, and ensure all children benefit from excellent

teaching—wherever they access early education. Have your say and help shape the future of early years teaching: [Shaping the future of early years teaching - GOV.UK](#)

Reminder – Data Collection

A quick reminder that the submission deadline for Ready for Reception and WellComm summer data was Friday 26th June.

Thank you to those who have already submitted your data; we appreciate your prompt responses. We kindly ask those who have not yet done so to send their submissions as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

FEYE FUNDING



REMINDER

The deadline to submit any adjustments for the summer term is **Friday 10th July 2026.**

Please ensure all updates are completed and submitted by this date

Estimated Hours for Autumn Term

The Provider Portal will be open between 6th -10th July to allow settings to submit your estimated hours for the Autumn Term.

Proposed Continuation of Monthly Payments

As part of the DfE Best Start in Life Strategy, a new grant condition has been introduced to accelerate the move towards more regular payments (i.e. from termly to monthly payments).

This change is intended to increase flexibility for providers and support cashflow management. In Halton, all providers have received Early Years Entitlements payments monthly since 2020. The LA's intention is to continue to pay all providers monthly.

Please email early.years@halton.gov.uk by 31st August 2026 to register any objections to the proposed continuation of a monthly payment schedule.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

Ofsted: How safeguarding and children's welfare and wellbeing underpin the September 2026 updates to early years inspections

Ofsted have announced that they have updated their early years inspection toolkit, coming into force from 1st September 2026, with the headline being that poor care practices may impact on whether safeguarding is graded 'met' or 'not met'. Inspectors will also place a clear focus on safer sleep at every inspection, alongside safer eating and weaning when evaluating children's welfare, wellbeing, and governance. Read Ofsted's blog to find out more [How safeguarding and children's welfare and wellbeing underpin the September 2026 updates to early years inspections – Ofsted: early years](#)

Practitioners may also be asked about local safeguarding priorities, as set out in the Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) business plan, available on their website by clicking [here](#).

SEND

SEND SURGERY DROP-IN SESSIONS

SAVE THE DATE

Join one of the online sessions
10.00-11.00 or 18:30-19.30

Monday 20th July
Monday 17th August
Monday 21st September
Monday 19th October
Monday 16th November
Monday 14th December



Join Our SEND Surgery Drop-In Sessions!

We're pleased to offer our SEND Surgery Drop-in Sessions, held on the **third Monday of every month**. Feel free to drop in at any time during the session to speak with our Early Years Intervention Officers, who will be available to:

- ✓ Answer your questions
- ✓ Provide advice
- ✓ Offer practical support

These sessions are open to all practitioners, including SENCOs, Deputies, Room Leaders, Practitioners, and Key Persons – everyone is welcome!

Please note: Microsoft Teams links will be sent from the Early Years inbox the week before each session.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FREE Safer Sleep Training for Early Years Settings

Realise Early Years has partnered with The Lullaby Trust to offer FREE safer sleep training to 1,000 early years professionals across England.

Give your team the knowledge and confidence to create safer sleep environments for babies in your care. This practical training provides clear, up-to-date guidance, specifically tailored for early years settings.

- ✓ One fully funded Safer Sleep training place available per nursery

[Find out more here](#)

DON'T MISS OUT!

Early Education Partnerships Grant

Funding is now available to support new partnerships between schools and local nurseries, helping children feel confident, prepared and supported as they start school. This grant will support projects that:

- ✓ Improve children's transition from early years into reception
- ✓ Strengthen partnerships between early years settings and schools, especially for SEND and disadvantaged children
- ✓ Promote collaboration, shared practice and joint professional development across the sector

🔗 Find out more and apply: <https://find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants/early-education-partnership-1>

DID YOU KNOW..?

Becoming a Childminder

Did you know there are **two routes to registration** for prospective childminders in England?

You can choose to register:

- ✓ Directly with **Ofsted**
- ✓ Through a **Childminder Agency (CMA)**

Visit GOV.UK for full guidance and to explore your options.

🔗 To view available CMAs, click here: [list of childminder agencies](#)

SHARE WITH PARENTS

Great British Summer Savings Scheme (25 June – 1 September 2026)

The new Great British Summer Savings Scheme is here to help families feel a little less stretched this summer.

Families can benefit from:

- ✓ Reduced VAT on days out, including attractions like soft play, adventure centres and theme parks
- ✓ Savings on children's tickets for theatres and cinemas
- ✓ Discounts on children's meals in restaurants
- ✓ FREE local bus travel throughout August for children aged 5–15 in England

HAF Summer Programme – Halton

Halton Borough Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is back this summer! Free activities and meals are available for children aged 4–16 on benefits-related Free School Meals, and up to 25 for those with SEND.

Expect a range of fun sessions including:

🎨 Arts & crafts | 🏀 Sports | 🎮 Gaming | 💻 Creative tech

Each session includes:

- ✓ At least 4 hours of activities
- ✓ A healthy nutritious meal
- ✓ Sessions available on a minimum of 4 days over the holidays

📍 Running across venues in Halton

This programme is funded by the Department for Education and delivered in partnership with Halton Borough Council. For families that are

 Find out more: [Summer Savings - Cost of Living Help.](#)

 Explore more: [Cost of Living Help - Cost of Living Help.](#)

not eligible for HAF some providers do offer paid places

 Book here: <https://eequ.org/haltonhaf>

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