



WELCOME

What another fantastic year it has been for Halton Early Years!

On behalf of the Early Years Team, we would like to thank everyone working across our sector for all your hard work, dedication, and the difference you make for our youngest children each and every day.

We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break over the summer. For those finishing for the summer holiday, we look forward to welcoming you back in September. For those who, like us, will be working throughout the summer, we'll be busy preparing and planning to do it all again next academic year!

If you need to contact the team during the summer holidays, we would love to hear from you early.years@halton.gov.uk

Have a wonderful summer 😊

Best wishes

Sarah

UPDATES

Updated EYFS Statutory Framework

The updated EYFS Statutory Framework has been released this week, with all changes coming into effect from **September 2026**. Key updates include strengthened safer sleep guidance, new expectations around screen use, clearer safeguarding requirements, and a prohibition on banned dog breeds on childcare premises.

[Early years foundation stage statutory framework For group and school-based providers](#)

[Early years foundation stage statutory framework For childminders](#)

Funding Consultation

A consultation is open seeking views on proposals to reform the early years funding system for early years entitlements, this is open until **14th September**. More information can be found here [Changes to the funding system for early years entitlements - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-funding-system-for-early-years-entitlements)



Birth to 5 Matters

Have you seen that Birth to 5 Matters has been updated and is now available?

A full set of resources, guidance documents, and downloadable materials is now live on the Birth to 5 Matters website

<https://birthto5matters.org.uk/>

LET'S CELEBRATE!

What a year it's been!

It's been a busy year with so many wonderful moments to celebrate. From exciting achievements and special events to memorable experiences and milestones, we've had plenty to be proud of.

Click on the image to watch some of our highlights and celebrate the incredible journey we've shared together this year. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making it such a special year.



Thank you for inviting us!

We were delighted to be invited to Murdishaw West Preschool's Picnic Fun Day this week. It was wonderful to hear that so many children and families enjoyed spending quality time together and making special memories. As the preschool prepares for an exciting new chapter, we would like to wish Penny and the whole team every success as they embark on their new journey in September.

SAVE THE DATES!



We are busy putting the finishing touches to our Early Years Training Offer for 2026–2027, which will be shared with you in September.

In the meantime, please make a note of the SENCo Drop-In Sessions and Leadership Briefings and save these dates in your diary.

SUMMER OF PLAY CHALLENGE

Let's play together this summer!

This summer, we're encouraging families to take part in the Summer of Play Challenge – a fun way to spend quality time together while supporting children's learning and development through play. A PDF version of the challenge will be available for you to download from our [Halton Early Years Facebook](#) Group.

Don't forget to follow Halton Early Years on social media throughout the holidays. We'll be sharing lots of play ideas linked to the Characteristics of Effective Learning, along with tips and inspiration.

Let's make this a summer full of play, discovery and adventure!



Summer of Play Challenge

Join our Summer of Play Challenge and enjoy quality time together through simple, fun activities that support your child's learning and development.





Bubble Fun

Blow bubbles and see how many you can catch on your hands



Nature Hunt

Find 5 different natural objects, such as a leaf, flower, feather, pebble and stick



Muddy Chef

Make pretend cakes, soups and meals using mud, water and natural materials



Cloud Watch

Lie on a blanket and spot shapes in the clouds



Teddy Picnic

Have a teddy bears' picnic in the garden or park



Shadow Play

Draw around your shadow with chalk and see how it changes during the day



Bug Hunt

Look carefully for ladybirds, ants, bees, snails or butterflies



Water Play

Fill, pour, scoop and splash using cups, bowls and containers



Rainbow Hunt

Find something outdoors for every colour of the rainbow



Fairy Garden

Create a tiny garden using stones, leaves, sticks and flowers.

SAFEGUARDING

IMPORTANT CHANGE: Regulated Activity and DBS Checks for Volunteers 🚨

From 1st September 2026, the [Crime and Policing Act 2026 removes the supervision exemption from the definition of regulated activity](#). Previously, a volunteer supervised by a member of staff in regulated activity fell outside that definition, regardless of how often they were present. From 1 September, that exemption no longer applies.

Volunteers who teach, train, instruct, care for, or supervise children on more than 3 days in any 30-day period, or take part in any overnight stay between 2am and 6am, are now in regulated activity. These volunteers must have an enhanced DBS check that includes children's barred list information.

DfE Safer Sleep Guidance Update

The DfE has published guidance to help early years providers create and maintain safer sleep environments for babies and young children. Following requests from the sector, the DfE has clarified its position on floor beds, coracles and sleep pods with rigid or semi-rigid sides. Based on expert safe sleep advice, the Department recommends that these are only used for children aged over 12 months due to safety concerns for babies under 12 months.

Read more: [DfE SAFER SLEEP REQUIREMENTS – FAQ's](#)

DON'T MISS OUT - HAVE YOUR SAY!



Are you a manager working in the early years sector?
Would you like your voice to be heard and help shape discussions around recruitment and retention in the workforce?

We're inviting managers to join our Early Years Workforce Steering Group and contribute to important conversations that will help inform future planning and decision-making.

 **Meetings:** Once per term

 **Duration:** 1 hour

 **Format:** Microsoft Teams

If you'd like to be part of the group, please email: early.years@halton.gov.uk

SHARE WITH PARENTS



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

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