



WELCOME

I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to represent the Early Years sector at recent meetings and events. We are very grateful for your time and the valuable contributions you've made.

For those who have expressed interest in joining the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) panel, we'll be in touch shortly with further details.

As we settle into the new academic year, have you had a chance to connect with your local cluster this term? This might be a good time to share how the term has started for you. If you would like support in connecting with your cluster, please get in touch early.years@halton.gov.uk

Best wishes
Sarah

UPDATES



Early Years Immunisation Education Session

📅 4th December | 🕒 9:30–11:00 AM

📍 Heath Business and Technical Park,
Runcorn

🔗 Book your FREE place

<https://statics.teams.cdn.office.net/evergreen-assets/safelinks/2/atp-safelinks.html>

A free, non-clinical session for early years providers to:

- * Build confidence in conversations with parents and carers
- * Understand the importance of the childhood immunisation schedule
- * Learn your role in supporting public health
- * Explore event stands with resources for early years children

FEYE FUNDING

FEYE Adjustments – Don't Leave It Too Late!

A quick reminder to submit your FEYE adjustments promptly whenever a child starts or leaves your setting.

🕒 Please don't wait until the last minute

Publishing Costs of Chargeable Extras – New Requirement by January 2026

To support transparency and informed parental choice, early years providers must publish details of any chargeable extras on their own website, or via the local authority's Family Information Service if no website is available.

These details must be:

- * Clear, current, and easily accessible
- * Include specific charges for all extras
- * Outline the pattern of hours available for funded entitlements

The DFE recommended template has been included in your funding contract, please contact Haltonfis@halton.gov.uk if you would like to do this use Halton Family Information Service. Childminders and providers caring for 10 children or fewer are exempt.

Full implementation is expected by **January 2026**.

Reminder: 2-Year-Old Codes in Halton

Families in Halton receiving additional government support will now be issued new 2-year-old codes consisting of six characters, typically a mix of letters and numbers.

✅ Parent Responsibility:

Parents must present this code to the setting before their child starts. They will receive a confirmation email or can provide a screenshot from their online portal as proof of entitlement.

Setting Responsibility:

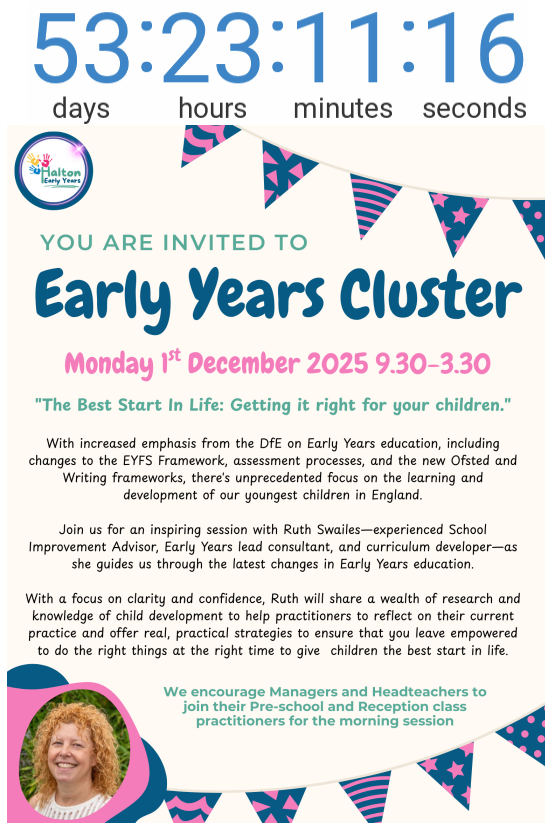
Settings must enter the code into the Provider Portal when adding new starters in the term following the child's second birthday.

Need Help?

If you experience any issues with the codes, please contact:

haltonfis@halton.gov.uk

TRAINING



53:23:11:16
days hours minutes seconds



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Early Years Cluster

Monday 1st December 2025 9.30-3.30

"The Best Start In Life: Getting it right for your children."

With increased emphasis from the DfE on Early Years education, including changes to the EYFS Framework, assessment processes, and the new Ofsted and Writing frameworks, there's unprecedented focus on the learning and development of our youngest children in England.

Join us for an inspiring session with Ruth Swailes—experienced School Improvement Advisor, Early Years lead consultant, and curriculum developer—as she guides us through the latest changes in Early Years education.

With a focus on clarity and confidence, Ruth will share a wealth of research and knowledge of child development to help practitioners to reflect on their current practice and offer real, practical strategies to ensure that you leave empowered to do the right things at the right time to give children the best start in life.

 We encourage Managers and Headteachers to join their Pre-school and Reception class practitioners for the morning session

Booking is essential, you can book now by [clicking here](#)



Thrive Approach in the Early Years

16th October 2025
10.00-11.30
OR
18.30-20.00



Come along to learn more about the Thrive Approach and how it can be used in your setting to support children's social and emotional development.

[Book Training](#)

SEND

Requesting Support from the Early Years Team

If you would like to apply for SENIF, or require support from the team with WellComm, or Thrive, please [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your request

New Blog by Early Years Consultant Sue Asquith

Discover how children experience and respond to sensory input, and how early years settings can better support sensory differences. A valuable read for anyone committed to inclusive practice in the early years.

 Read the blog <https://zurl.co/ITiaB>

An Introduction to Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD)

 Choose a date: 11th November or 2nd December

 Time: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

 Delivered by ADDvanced Solutions

[BOOK NOW](#)

This engaging session will introduce you to the 8 senses and their roles in everyday life. You'll learn to:

- * Identify sensory processing difficulties
- * Explore practical strategies to support children experiencing these challenges

Perfect for early years professionals looking to deepen their understanding and improve support for children with sensory needs.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Understanding Ofsted's Renewed Education Inspection Framework

 Effective from November 2025

In early September 2025, Ofsted published its renewed Education Inspection Framework, outlining updated inspection principles and grading criteria for registered early years settings.



To support providers, Ofsted is hosted a series of webinars explaining:

- * How the renewed framework was designed
- * Key changes and new evaluation areas
- * The inspection toolkit
- * What inspections will look and feel like
- * What happens during and after inspection

DID YOU KNOW..?

Early Years Climate Action Plans – Have You Done Yours?

All early years settings are encouraged to develop a Climate Action Plan as part of the Department for Education's sustainability strategy.

By 2025, every setting should have:

- * A nominated sustainability lead
- * A clear, practical Climate Action Plan tailored to their environment and community

Read more: [Interview with Diane Boyd on Climate Action Plans](#)

DfE Guidance: [Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action Plans in Education](#)

EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM

Share your experiences and help shape the future of the Early Years Pupil Premium

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is inviting early years settings to take part in a short survey about their experiences of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

Your insights will directly inform future policymaking and help shape how EYPP funding is used to support children from lower-income families.

- * The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete
- * Responses are anonymous and confidential
- * At the end, you can choose to take part in a follow-up online interview (with a £50 thank you)
- * Deadline: 24 October 2025

Take part here: <https://www.iffresearch.com/EYPP3>

For further information please email EYPPDecisionsSurvey@IFFresearch.co.uk

How Ofsted Inspects EYPP – What Providers Need to Know

Ofsted highlights the importance of supporting disadvantaged children, stating: “If you get it right for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, you get it right for everyone.”

Want to understand how Ofsted evaluates the use of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) during inspections? Read their blog here [How we look at the use of Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\) in our inspections of early years settings – Ofsted: early years](#)

Halton’s website offers helpful guidance and downloadable booklets to support your use of both EYPP and Disability Access Funding (DAF).

👉 Click below to access the documents



EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM (EYPP) GUIDANCE



Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND)



Disability Access Fund Early Years Policy (effective from 1st April 2025)



SEND Local Offer for Halton

CLUSTER CORNER



I can put my coat on
by myself, ready to go
and have fun outside

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will
help your child's confidence when they start school

Zip It, Flip It, Try It Yourself!

As the colder weather sets in, it's the perfect time to encourage children to put on their coats independently.

Supporting self-help skills like dressing not only builds confidence but also promotes fine motor development and independence.

Let's celebrate every "I did it myself!" moment this season!

SHARE WITH PARENTS

Halton Family Hub Baby Shower

 **Friday 17 October** |  **9.30am – 12.00pm** - Drop-in – no booking needed

 **Brookvale Family Hub, Woodhatch Road, Runcorn, WA7 6BJ**

Expectant and new parents, carers, grandparents and partners are invited to explore:

Pregnancy, labour & feeding

* Baby development & emotional wellbeing

* Parenting support & practical demos (nappy changing, bathing, safe sleep)

* Support for dads

Connect with local services and get trusted advice in a welcoming space.

Halton Family Hubs offer free support for families with children aged 0–19 (or up to 25 with SEND).

Full details on the [Halton Family Hub website](#)

HHEYS HIGHLIGHTS



Halton Healthy Early Years Status

We offer parent sessions on topics like healthy teeth, behaviour, lunchboxes, fussy eating, sleep, and screen time.

Hosting a coffee morning or stay and play? Scan the QR code to request a session!



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Halton's Communication Hub

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Talk Halton



Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF