



WELCOME

☀️ We love it when the spotlight shines on Early Years – and we're delighted to announce the details (below) for our Baby and Toddler Event, in November! This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and promote best practice for those working with our youngest children. We're also delighted to share that the wonderful Dingley's Promise will be delivering Early Years workshops at Halton's SEND Conference, where they'll be leading three inspiring workshops focused on the fundamentals of inclusion in early years, practical strategies and supporting transitions for children with SEND

We look forward to seeing you there 😊

Best wishes

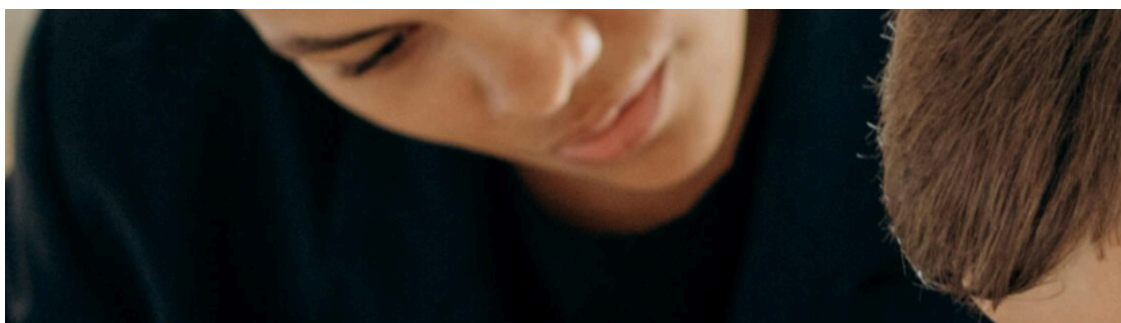
Sarah

Stay in touch with the team at early.years@halton.gov.uk

UPDATES

Childcare Works HUB – Support for Childminders

The Childcare Works HUB is a free online resource supporting childminders with guidance, toolkits, and case studies to help start, grow, and sustain childcare provision. Explore topics like business planning, inclusive practice, and partnership working. Take a look now.....



HUB Early Years - Information for Childminders

FEYE FUNDING

Family Information directory: Is your provider information up to date?

Please make sure your information is up to date on our Family Information directory. This is the tool we promote to parents when choosing a provider. You can update prices, contact details and other information on the provider portal, under the 'Forms' tab, make sure prospective parents can see your current information. Please email haltonfis@halton.gov.uk if you need any support.



Best Start in Life – New Parent Hub

The Childcare Choices website is now part of the **Best Start in Life** parent hub. This new platform brings together trusted information and support for families from pregnancy through to the early years, including guidance on how working parents can apply for their childcare funding code.

Anyone searching for *Childcare Choices* will be automatically redirected to the new site. Take a look www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/

TRAINING

The first two years of life are a critical window for brain development, emotional wellbeing, and lifelong learning. High-quality care and responsive interactions during this stage lay the foundation for future success.

With **Baby Week 2025** fast approaching, we're excited to share a series of inspiring workshops designed especially for baby and toddler practitioners. These sessions are packed with insights and practical strategies you won't want to miss!

👉 **Book your place now** using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/NmYsTbsCX0>



JOIN US FOR OUR BABY AND TODDLER EVENTS

This November, we're excited to host a series of sessions specially designed for practitioners working with babies and toddlers

Monday 17th November
1-4pm
DCBL Stadium

Baby and Toddler Essentials

An afternoon packed with all your baby and toddler essentials including information and advice on safer sleep, nutrition and weaning, toileting, dummies and high quality interactions

Wednesday 19th November
1-2.30pm
Online Session

High Impact/Low Prep Provocations

Join us for an inspiring afternoon led by **Dr. Mona Sakr**, exploring how simple, powerful provocations can spark creativity, independence, and physical development

Tuesday 25th November
10.00-11.30am
OR 6.30-8.00pm
Online Session

Two Year Progress Check and Integrated Review

The progress check at age 2 is a statutory assessment in the EYFS. It plays an important role in early identification. Join us to find out more about writing the check, to help ensure you are meeting statutory requirements.

Wednesday 26th November
1-3pm
Warrington Road
Family Hub

The Fascinating World of Baby Brains and Attachment

Are you curious about how babies' brains develop and how early relationships shape their emotional world? Join **Dr Lyndsey Holt** to explore the science of infant brain development and the importance of secure attachment.

Mark Making Matters: Laying the Foundations for Writing

Are you ready to explore how gross and fine motor skills impact children's early mark making and writing development? This session will dive into the physical development aspects of becoming a writer in the Early Years, and how you can support them on their journey. Leave with practical ideas you can implement straight away in your everyday practice.

[Book Now](#)



**INSPIRING
EXCELLENCE IN
EARLY YEARS**



**Mark Making Matters: Laying the
Foundations for Writing
4th November (9:00-12:00)**

SEND



SEND CONFERENCE

Dingley's Promise will be leading three fabulous Early Years workshops during the day

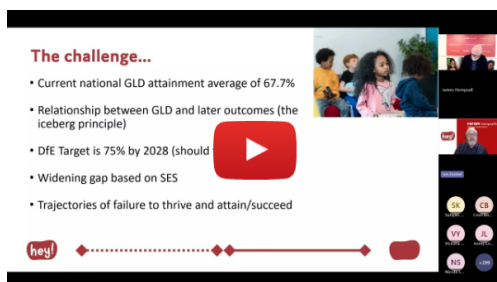
- **Fundamentals of Inclusion in the Early Years**
- **Practical Strategies**
- **Transitions for SEND**

18TH NOVEMBER 2025 (9.00-15.00)
HEATH BUSINESS PARK, RUNCORN

 **Dingley's Promise**
Transforming the Early Years for children with SEND

BOOK NOW

DID YOU KNOW..?



The challenge...

- Current national GLD attainment average of 67.7%
- Relationship between GLD and later outcomes (the iceberg principle)
- DfE Target is 75% by 2028 (should)
- Widening gap based on SES
- Trajectories of failure to thrive and attain/succeed

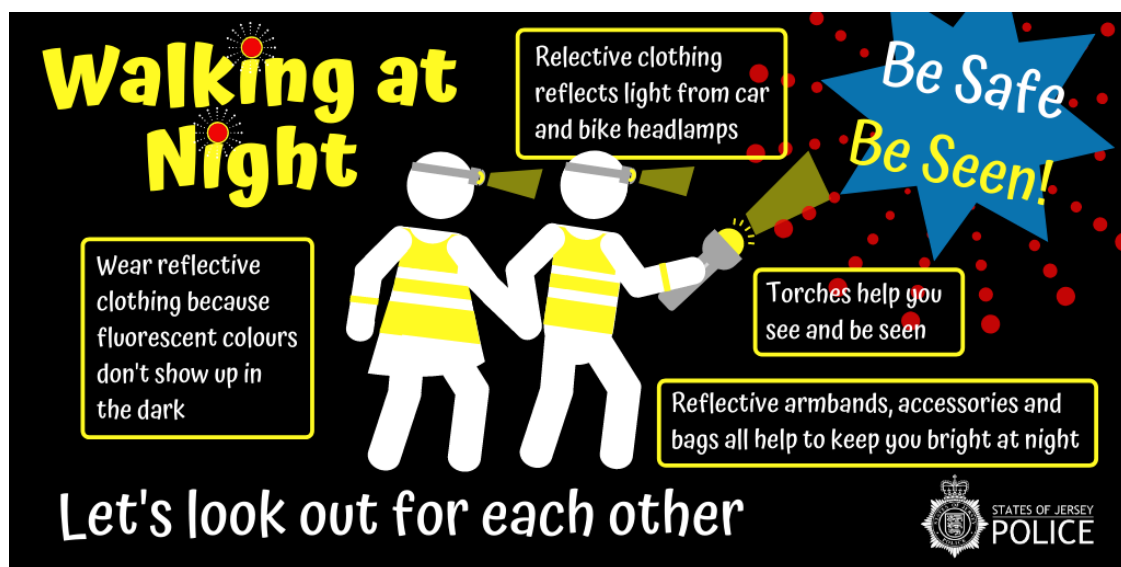
Raising GLD: What Works?

Jan Dubiel's recent webinar explored the new GLD targets, offering practical insights and highlighting key strategies to support children's development. He also shared common pitfalls to avoid and encouraged reflection on what really makes a difference.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

As the Dark Nights Draw In... Be Safe, Be Seen!

With the clocks going back and daylight hours getting shorter, it's the perfect time to remind everyone about the importance of visibility and road safety. Road Safety Week 2025 is a great opportunity to talk to children and families about how to stay safe on and around roads. Whether walking, cycling, or scooting, wearing bright or reflective clothing can make a big difference.



RESEARCH/READING

The latest Baby Room Report is out!

At Ark Start, we're excited to dive into the new resources designed to support nursery managers and their teams in reflecting, planning and leading high-quality practice in baby rooms. Read the report and explore the resources: [final_sakr-bonetti-halls-opening-the-door-to-the-baby-room.pdf](#)

FURTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Maths Champions

[Click here](#) to register your interest or scan the QR code above to complete the short Expression of Interest form. If you meet the criteria above you will then be sent the full registration materials.

Information Sessions

NDNA is hosting a series of information sessions led by expert Early Years Advisors. These sessions will outline the Maths Champions programme, eligibility criteria, and the commitment required. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive clear guidance on next steps.

* [Thursday 23rd October 15:30-16:00](#)

* [Tuesday 28th October 14:00-14:30](#)

* [Thursday 30th October 13:30-14:00](#)

* [Tuesday 4th November 11:00-11:30](#)

* [Thursday 6th November 14:00-14:30](#)

- * [Monday 10th November 15:00-15:30](#)
- * [Wednesday 12th November 16:00-16:30](#)
- * [Tuesday 18th November 14:00-14:30](#)
- * [Friday 21st November 10:00-10:30](#)
- * [Wednesday 26th November 10:00-10:30](#)
- * [Thursday 27th November 15:30-16:00](#)
- * [Thursday 4th December 14:00-14:30](#)
- * [Friday 5th December 10:00-10:30](#)
- * [Tuesday 9th December 11:00-11:30](#)
- * [Wednesday 10th December 15:30-16:00](#)

DID YOU KNOW..?

Tots Talking Referrals have changed

As of Monday 6th October, the referral process for Tots Talking changed to align with the current Peep referral process.

All referrals must be made using the Tots Talking referral form and completed forms should be sent to: taf.childrencentre@halton.gov.uk

LUNCH AND LEARN

Join us for a lunch and learn session where we'll share the outcomes and impact of the Early Talk Boost rollout across our settings. Discover how this initiative has supported children's speech and language development—and how we can continue the Early Talk Boost journey. Email early.years@halton.gov.uk to book on.

SHARE WITH PARENTS




Are you interested in enhancing father inclusive practice in your setting?

Do you want to find out more about how you can access **FREE** training to support Fathers / male carers to read with their child?



Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) is a simple, effective and sustainable, home-based reading programme that supports dads reading to their children and improves children's outcomes.

FRED in Action

- Child's vocabulary and phonics skills soared
- One Dad swapped plastic toys and sweets for books and built a home library instead

Research shows that children in families where fathers as well as mothers are actively and positively involved in supporting their children's education, and where reading and other literacy-based activities are valued, tend to do the best.

Access free training on
 Thursday 13 November 2025 6:30pm-8:30pm.
 email familyhubs@halton.gov.uk

New Therapeutic Writing Workshops – Share with Halton Mums!

Starting Wednesday 5th November for 5 weeks, from 10:00am to 11:30am at Kingsway Library, Widnes.

Through simple writing prompts and supportive conversation, we will explore experiences in a safe, welcoming space.

It's a lovely opportunity for mums to connect, reflect, and enjoy some creative time together.

No writing experience required!

Find out more and book your place:
haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/writing-workshop



www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk



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Halton's Communication Hub

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