



WELCOME

Hello, we are very much looking forward to the launch of our Early Years Clusters on Wednesday. Thank you for all those who have booked onto attend, it promises to be a fantastic day and opportunity to focus on all things 'Early Years'.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Please remember to send all enquiries to our central inbox early.years@halton.gov.uk

Your continued support in sharing our newsletter with your team is also greatly appreciated - keep spreading the word!

Best wishes

Sarah

UPDATES



Progress Check at age 2

Thank you to those who joined us on our Progress check and integrated review session this week. We have had some lovely positive feedback of practical things you will take from the session. Accompanying resources will be emailed to you this week.

[Progress check at age two – Non-statutory guidance for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)



Take a look at this vodcast by Dr Julian Grenier about the Progress Check at 2

There is still time to book onto our next session on 4th November (6.30-8.00pm)



EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS



Childcare Sufficiency Data - Reminder

Please could all Early Years settings and childminders record your Autumn Term sufficiency numbers in the Sufficiency section of the Provider Portal by **Friday 11th October 2024**.

Encourage parents to claim their childcare entitlements and boost your settings places at the same time- email haltonfis@halton.gov.uk for your outside PVC banner.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Education Subgroup

Reminder that the next Education Subgroup meeting takes place on 16th October. If there are any issues that you want to be raised at the meeting, please let Jodie Wylie or Ali Walker-Turnbull know by 9th October.

Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership

Partnership Briefings - Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership

PB86 provides updated guidance for multi-agency practice standards when attending strategy meetings

EARLY YEARS TRAINING



8th October 2024 (18.00-20.30) Virtual session - Basic Awareness in Safeguarding Children Level 2

9th October 2024 (9.30-15.30) - Early Years Cluster

17th October 2024 (9.00-12.00) - Professional Development for Early Years - session 1

22nd October 2024 (9.30-11.00) - WellComm Training

22nd October 2024 (18.30-20.30) - Childminders Understanding and Supporting SEND in the Early Years

23rd October 2024 (18.30-20.30) - Early Years Forum



4th November 2024 (18.30-20.00) Virtual session - 2yr Progress & Integrated Review

6th November 2024 (9.30-11.30) - Early Years Communication Champions (WellComm Champions)

6th November 2024 (9.30-11.00) - PEEP for Childminders (Widnes) - Block of 6 sessions starts today

7th November 2024 (9.30-11.00) - PEEP for Childminders (Runcorn) - Block of 6 sessions starts today

7th November 2024 (18.30-20.00) - English as an Additional Language

13th November 2024 (15.30-17.00) - School Communication Champions (WellComm Champions)

Book Training

Training Code of Conduct

Your support is greatly appreciated in adhering to the training code of conduct and will enable us to continue to provide quality training opportunities

- Booking is essential so please book training through the school improvement site using the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/NddBnLBe76>
- When cancelling training you must give 48 hours' notice unless exceptional circumstances
- Continued non-attendance or short notice cancellations may result in penalties or future charges being applied

COME AND JOIN US!

Nasen Early Years mini conference

11th November 4-5pm

Nasen are holding a session at their conference just for Early Years providers and Reception practitioners. The session will centre on inclusive practice for all learners. There will be a focus on ordinarily available provision, awareness of inclusion by design and its application in the classroom, and assistive technology.

This session is suitable for all Early Years practitioners, Reception Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Childminders. A variety of market stalls will be open from 3pm, with the workshop starting after school at 4pm

To book on please use the link below
<https://forms.office.com/e/0NmRyDZMsE>



Early Years Forum

23rd October 6.30-8.30pm

Managers/leaders and Childminders come along to the Early Years Forum to hear the latest updates, and also have the opportunity to network and share good practice with other Early Years providers



DIARY DATES

Look Out for your Assessment Templates

Clare Rowlands will be emailing all settings with templates for recording and submitting Ready for Reception and WellComm data by 14th October.

The Autumn collection date for both is Friday 25th October 2024.



DON'T MISS OUT!

Your time to Shine: DfE comms opportunities

The DfE's '[Do something BIG](#)' campaign is seeking inspiring and standout real-life stories from early years professionals working in nurseries, pre-schools, before and after school clubs, or as childminders. Our goal is to champion the early years sector as part of our campaign and through DfE newsletters and social media channels. We want to hear from staff of all ages and backgrounds, showcasing that anyone, from any walk of life, can work in the sector and bring something unique and valuable to the role.

The DfE campaign team will work with the candidate depending on their story and agree where and how their story will be used to positively promote the great work they do and inspire others.

Please consider if you know anyone that may be willing to be involved and please share this message with your providers and networks. If anyone would like to be considered for a case study as part of this campaign, please ask them to email earlyyears.careers@education.gov.uk

DID YOU KNOW.....?

National Baking Week is on it's way! 14th-20th October



Baking helps promote all seven areas of the EYFS from developing skills, sensory experiences and learning about numbers. It is a fun way to develop vocabulary too. Have you got anything planned in your setting/school to celebrate?

FURTHER UPDATES

We have been advised by Communicate SLT CIC that they have had significant IT challenges over the last 2 weeks so you may have experienced difficulties when trying to book their training sessions. Please be advised that the training booking system is accessible using the following link [Events – Communicate SLT \(communicate-slt.org.uk\)](https://communicate-slt.org.uk)

A new training session has also been added to the training offer by Communicate so please take a look by clicking on the link above



Intensive Interaction Training

Date: 09 December 2024

Time: 09:30 – 11:00

Venue: Halton Lodge Family Hub, Halton Lodge Children's Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn, Halton, WA7 5LU





SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS

Talking about Potty Training - parent/carer event

10th October 7- 9 pm on Zoom

Eric is holding a Potty training webinar for parents and carers. The webinar will cover an evidence based 3 step approach to potty training and answer some commonly asked questions including:

- The best age for potty training and when to start
- The equipment you will need
- Potty refusal
- How to manage accidents

Parents can book on the link below:

[Talking about Potty Training - parent / carer event - ERIC](#)



Forestry England – Room on the Broom

Inspired by and featuring characters from Room on the Broom, download the autumn activities to bring sights, sounds and smells of the nature to life by [clicking here](#)

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.

Halton Local Offer



Message from Halton Practices to Schools

Health engagement is an Early Help service that works under the wider Team around the Family within Halton. We work closely with GP practices to ensure Early help is provided to patients who require it. Part of our role is to also work closely with all other services to ensure effective communication. As a result of this, it has been recently brought to our attention that there has been a miscommunication across services which has resulted in parents using letters from their GP's to state anxiety or a mental health concern for their child which is resulting in non attendance.

Health engagement have liaised closely with Practices to try and understand why this has been happening. GP's have made us aware of that sometimes parents come into practice stating that schools have suggested they go to their GP for proof of anxiousness etc. Some Clinicians have made us aware that parents say they have asked for a reduced timetable to help their child and they have been advised that proof from the GP is required in order to do this.

GP's have in the past provided this letter as they are under the belief school require it and they have limited information, however they are now aware that it is best to take a Halton wide approach to these issues and it is best practice to stop providing these letters unless there is a physical condition or injury preventing the child from attending school.

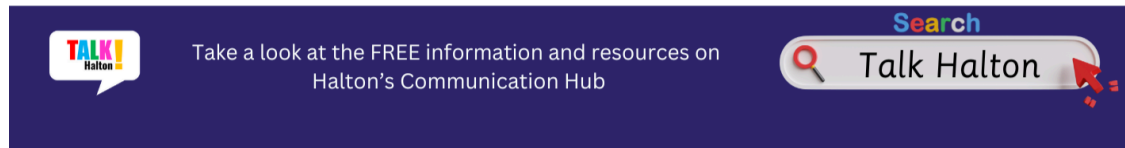
Discussing this concern with Education and Health professionals has highlighted a two way issue with communication and understanding of roles therefore we are raising this with both Practices and Education in the hope that we can work in partnership to ensure the best for children and young people without putting undue pressure on already busy teams.

We have agreed in Halton that a multi agency approach is needed to support formal diagnosis of a Mental Health concern and not just one professional can make this decision. Once a child is diagnosed with anxiety it is recorded formally in a medical letter by a specialist service, which is then usually shared by parents to schools as a reason for a child's non-attendance. These CYP are often already well known by school staff, educational psychology and other agencies as there are a lot of interventions and support that can be accessed within schools.

We would like to remind you to firstly consult with Educational psychology, MHST support and CAMHS before suggesting to parents that they take their children to the GP regarding mental health or neurodiversity concerns. The GP is often not best placed to support with these issues. CAMHS and Woodview referrals do not need to be completed by a GP and schools have a wealth of information that supports this process far more

effectively. School health are also there to support with some drops ins in school. If in doubt, please reach out to these services for advice and support first.

Regards,
Halton Practices



Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF