



WELCOME

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your team to help us get messages out to all practitioners working in Early Years. If you haven't already, please share with your team and ask them to subscribe using the button at the bottom of the newsletter.

Please ensure you click 'download pictures' at the top of the email to see the full newsletter

Best wishes
Sarah

UPDATES



EARLY YEARS INSTAGRAM

Have you seen our posts on Instagram? Let parents/carers and colleagues know that they can find us

@HaltonEarlyYears

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

Please check out this link [Partnership Briefings - Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) for the latest HSCP briefings. Briefing 83 provides details of a Prevent Duty session that DSLs may find useful.

DfE SEND Support

Take a look at the new DfE Early Years SEND assessment guidance and resources, developed by Dingley's Promise, that are now available on the [Help for Early Years Providers](#) platform. They have been created to support a child-centered, strengths-based approach to assessing children's needs and sharing their progress and learning with parents, carers and professionals.



EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS

The autumn term headcount closed on **23rd September**. The system is open for adjustments from **24th September until 29th November**



Promote all the childcare entitlements outside your setting, if you would like a PVC banner for your railings or fence then please contact haltonfis@halton.gov.uk

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

Take a look below at some of the training that is coming up in the next few weeks. For more information please refer to The Autumn Term training offer that has been emailed again this week.

We appreciate that it may be difficult to attend some of the daytime sessions, so please express your interest for particular sessions in the evening, and if there is demand for particular courses we will look to provide additional dates. Please send your expressions of interest to early.years@halton.gov.uk for consideration.



23rd September 2024 (9.30-11.00) - Introduction to AAC
24th September 2024 (13.30-15.30) - Early Years SENCo Workshop



1st October 2024 (13.00-14.30) Virtual session -DSL Meeting
2nd October 2024 (10.00-11.30) Virtual session - 2yr Progress & Integrated Review
2nd October 2024 (18.30-20.00) - Childminder DSL Meeting
7th October 2024 (9.30-11.00) - English as an Additional Language (Communicate SLT)
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

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

DON'T MISS OUT - COME AND JOIN US!

nasen
Helping Everyone Achieve
SEND Mini Conference

Calling all SENCOs

We have been lucky enough to be given our own Early Years section at the School SEND conference. Nasen will be discussing ordinarily available provision 'what's good for send is good for all children'. Please come along to help develop a shared understanding of everyday inclusive practice.

Date: 11th November

Time: 4pm-5pm
(SEND Market Place from 3pm)
Venue: The Heath Business Park

<https://forms.office.com/e/0NmRyDZMsE>

Free 3-hour De-escalation workshop (Team Teach)

Date: Friday 8th November
Time: 8.30am-11.30am
Venue : DCBL Stadium

<https://forms.office.com/e/1M1Nzc8TKZ>

DIARY DATES

Data collection dates for **Ready for Reception** and **WellComm**

Autumn Term - Friday 25th October 2024
Spring Term - Friday 14th February 2025
Summer Term - Friday 27th June 2025



DID YOU KNOW....?



Dingley's Promise - Sensory Circuits

Take a look at this short video to find out more about sensory circuits in the Early Years.

Fantastic FREE LEGO sets

The LEGO Group are donating 3,000 sets of Build Me Emotions DUPLO sets, designed to help children to explore their emotions in a playful way. The Build Me Emotions sets will be accompanied by virtual training tools that are being developed to support best practice across early years providers.

If you would like to register your interest in receiving a set, please contact LEGOearlychildhood@o365.corp.lego.com quoting your OFSTED Unique Reference Number/ Care Inspectorate Wales Registration number/Service Provider Number in Scotland/HSCT Childcare Provider Number (as applicable) in your email.

Availability is limited and it is expected that the sets will be allocated very quickly. Those providers who do receive a set will receive further details via email of the accompanying online training tools.

FURTHER UPDATES

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a Safety Alert to warn of the risks that water beads pose to children and vulnerable adults.

The Safety Alert advises that water beads should be kept away from children under five, and only used with older children or vulnerable adults under close supervision.

Water beads can expand up to 400 times when exposed to liquid. They are marketed for various purposes, including for use as toys and in crafting.

When swallowed, they expand and can block the gastrointestinal passage, potentially requiring surgery. They can also cause choking and have harmed children in the UK, with reports linking them to deaths overseas.

If it is suspected that a water bead has been swallowed, medical help should be sought immediately.

The Safety Alert can be found <https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-water-beads-psa7>.



Family Hub Conference

Early Years providers are encouraged to attend the Family Hub Conference on **Wednesday 2nd October** to find out what support is available in Halton for families with children under 5. Book your place now using this link

[Halton Booking \(haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk\)](https://haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk)

An update from the safer recruitment consortium and NSPCC on the retention of children's records:

Child protection records (where there has been no referral to or involvement with children's social care):

- Either the child's 25th birthday or the end of the academic year in which the child reached 25
- Settings need a policy on whether they will destroy records on the actual birthday or at the end of the academic year - if their policy is 25th birthday, they actually have to destroy them on the birthdate - 'end of academic year' is much easier for archiving purposes

Child protection records (where the child was referred to CSC or has had a social worker)

- 35 years from the date the child was removed from roll

Child protection records involving allegations against staff (unless found to be malicious or false):

- Until retirement age or for 10 years (whichever is the longest)

The 35 year timescale came from a court case involving Newcastle Council - court deemed 35 years an appropriate amount of time

However, the setting should not be keeping any child protection files - all should be transferred to the next setting/school at transition. The only record the setting can keep is a copy of the chronology and that would be for the maximum (25th birthday or for 35 years depending on whether there was CSC involvement). There are a couple of exceptions to this, e.g., if there is an ongoing court case or if the child protection file has to be posted to the new setting/school (in which case the original setting can keep a photocopy of the file until the new setting/school confirms receipt)



SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS

You will have received an email regarding food voucher from Matt Hancock. Please contact matt.hancock@halton.gov.uk for further information



Lets go potty

Eric's Let's go potty campaign has lots of information to support potty training children, including a 3 step approach to potty training and a poster to display in your setting. For more information please click on the following links

[Potty Training \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[About Let's Go Potty - ERIC](https://eric.org.uk/...)

<https://eric.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/A4-Poster-ERIC-Signposting.pdf>

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