



WELCOME

Thank you to all who attended the launch of our Early Years Cluster last week. It was an inspiring day and a wonderful opportunity to network and focus on Early Years Education. It was lovely to hear our guest speaker Dr Aaron Bradbury, comment on 'what an Early Years community' we have here in Halton and remind us that the greatest resource you have is you!

It is an exciting time to get involved and be part of your local Early Years Cluster group. If you missed the launch, please don't worry, you can still join your local cluster by contacting early.years@halton.gov.uk and we will connect you.

Autumn has arrived, and we all know 'there's no such thing as bad weather in Early Years just unsuitable clothing' so happy leaf crunching and puddle splashing everyone 😊

Best wishes
Sarah





UPDATES

Want to know more about Thrive?

Thrive is running FREE 1 hour sessions (you only need to attend one) for any professionals from Halton who would like to understand a little more about the Thrive Approach and how this can be used to support the social and emotional needs of children and young people.

The session will include:

- a brief outline of the Thrive Approach
- an introduction to some key language
- how the assessments can be used within multi agency meetings and referrals
- helpful questions for professionals to ask

Please use the following links to book on your preferred session.

23rd October from 3.30pm-4.30pm:

[Booking Link Halton Professionals Awareness Session October 23rd](#)

21st November from 9.30am-10.30am:

[Booking Link Halton Professionals Awareness Session November 21st](#)

SEND improvement board

We are looking for Early Years representatives from our PVI and childcare sector to join the SEND strategic improvement board. If you are interested, please contact

early.years@halton.gov.uk

Want to know more about EHCP's?

Have all your questions answered Sue Paine is holding a drop-in session for Early Years providers on 15th November at Warrington Road Family Hub from 9.30am. Hope to see you there!

EHCP panel is held fortnightly, the next one is 24th October, then 7th November and so on.

Best start in life: a research review for early years

"Early education is too important to be left to chance. A high-quality Early Years curriculum is particularly important as not all children get the same start in life" (Ofsted;24)

Ofsted has published the final part in its series of 'Best start in life' research reviews relating to early years education. Please make some time to read it, the review raises some interesting points focusing on what progress looks like for

Need some business support

Childcare Works has lots of resources for settings around the expansion of the early education entitlements and wraparound provision. The HUB is

pre-school aged children in the 4 specific areas of learning
– literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, and
expressive arts and design.

For more information and to read the review, please click on
the button below.

being regularly
updated.
Please click the button
below to view the
information and
resources

Best Start in Life

Childcare Works



EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS

New childminder flexibilities coming in from 1 November

The Department for Education is introducing new flexibilities for childminders from 1 November to help more childminders join and stay in the profession. The new flexibilities will:

- Create a new category of childminder (childminder without domestic premises) who work entirely from non-domestic premises
- Increase, from 3 to 4, the total number of people that can work together under a childminder's registration (including the childminder)
- Give childminders and providers of childcare on domestic premises (CODPs) more flexibility, allowing them to spend more time operating outside of domestic premises, such as a community hall or school
- Increase the number of people needed for CODPs to operate from 4 or more, to 5 or more people providing care. Note: CODPs that were registered, or applied to register, before 1 November can continue operating with 4 or more people.

The department has published an article on the Foundation Years website to give an overview of the changes and answer main FAQs – see [Newsflash – New Flexibilities for Childminders - Foundation Years](#)

Are you recruiting?

The Financial Incentive
£1,000 welcome bonus
will be ending in
December 24 so if you
have been recruiting, or
have claims to submit,
please get them in asap,
to ensure payment will be
allocated to you.

Childcare Sufficiency Data – Reminder

Thank you to everyone who has provided their Autumn
Term Sufficiency Numbers. If you haven't yet submitted,
please could all EY settings and childminders record your
Autumn Term sufficiency numbers in the Sufficiency
section of the Provider Portal as soon as possible.
All this information will help us to plan for, and report on,
childcare sufficiency across Halton.
Please contact clare.rowlands@halton.gov.uk or see the
email sent on 25th September for more information.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership

[Partnership Briefings - Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

PB89 provides useful information about the ERASE tool (developed by St Helens) that helps professionals identify harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people. The Safeguarding Partnership are offering training sessions in October, November and December. Check out the briefing to find out how to book.

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

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

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

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

Date: Friday 8th November

Time: 8.30am-11.30am

Venue : DCBL Stadium

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>

The course will cover:

- * Behaviour is communication.
- * What do I bring to the room
- * Understanding the environment
- * Positive behaviour supports

This 3-hour workshop will be delivered by TEAM Teach global director Jonathan Newport.

To book on please use the link below
<https://forms.office.com/e/1M1Nzc8TKZ>

COME AND JOIN US!



Early Years Forum
23rd October 6.30-8.30pm

Last chance to book!

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 provider



Progress Check & Integrated Review

The progress check at age 2 is a statutory assessment in the EYFS. It plays an important role in early identification and working together with Health in the integrated review to help ensure there is action for every child. Join us to find out more about processes in Halton, including the new role of the lead practitioner for 2-year-olds, working with your linked health professional and new proformas and guidance on writing the check, to help ensure you are meeting statutory requirements.



4th November 2024
(18.30-20.00)



DIARY DATES



Riverside College

Widnes & Runcorn

Assessment Data Collections

All settings should have now received their templates for recording and submitting Ready for Reception and WellComm data. Please let Clare Rowlands know if you haven't received yours. Childminders – You will receive links to the Microsoft Forms shortly. The Autumn collection date for both is Friday 25th October 2024.

Thank you from Riverside College

Riverside College are holding a special 'Thank you' event for Early Years Providers for support in providing experience and opportunities for their Early Years Students. As a token of their appreciation, an afternoon tea event will take place on Wednesday 13th November 5.30pm - 7pm. Book on by 25th October by emailing Michelle.krause@riversidecollege.ac.uk to secure your place!

DON'T MISS OUT!

Funding for Free Equipment to Deliver Outdoor Learning

8th November

Early Years, Infant, Primary and Secondary school settings in England, Scotland and Wales can apply for up to £500 worth of free outdoor resources and two hours of professional outdoor training to deliver outdoor learning and play.

The funding is being made available through the Learning through Landscapes' Local School Nature Grant Programme and is funded by the players of People's Postcode Lottery.

There will be four funding rounds throughout the year which will support a total of 900 schools

<https://naturegrants.ltl.org.uk/guidance.php>

DID YOU KNOW.....?



Safer Sleeping Practices - A Guide for Early Years Educators

This vodcast explores a series of best practice questions discussing safer sleeping practices for Early Years educators to follow to keep babies and children safe in their settings.



HELP IS AT HAND FOR POTTY TRAINING

There are lots of resources and guidance available on the ERIC website to support parents, providers and schools with potty training.

A new e-learning for early years professionals can now be found on the website

<https://eric.org.uk/training-for-early-years-practitioners/>

This course has four modules, each lasting around 15 minutes. The modules explore the 3-step approach to potty training, adopted by ERIC, and how to apply it in practice. The maximum cost is £15 per person.

Working together with Parents

Eric also has great resources to share with your parents on the website including a poster to display [Potty training at nursery and school - ERIC](#) and a 3-part video series to explore the 3-step approach, to support children aged 0-5 into potty training. Guide, plans and resources to support the series can be found on the ERIC website

Share the Part 1 video – How to prepare for potty training



"You might be surprised how much you can do before your child stops using nappies"
(ERIC;2024)

GET READY FOR NURSERY RHYME NOVEMBER

Nursery rhyme week is 11th – 15th November.

We will be celebrating Nursery Rhymes throughout November. Research shows there has been an increase in iPads being used to share songs with young children but what children really want to do is sing with you!

So put your iPads to one side and join us with our rhyme challenge throughout Nursery Rhyme November - let's get Halton singing!

Here's one to get you warmed up!



SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS

Halloween Costume warning

Halton Trading Standards is warning consumers about the potential harm counterfeit costumes and cosmetics pose, due to the lack of safety testing these products go through. Fake Halloween makeup and contact lenses aren't safety tested can contain dangerous chemicals like mercury and lead. Don't risk a potential rash, burn or scarring with fake cosmetics and only shop with reputable sellers.

If you need advice on anything else, please contact the [Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline](#) or 0808 223 1133

SHOUT OUT!

Congratulations to all those who completed their EYPDP, the certificates have finally arrived!

Pictured Rosie and Emma from S4YC



Halton's "Aiming High" Education Awards 2025 will take place on **Thursday 23rd January 2025** at 18:00, hosted by Cronton 6th Form in their Playhouse Theatre. All school/setting leaders are invited (save the date!), along with all shortlisted nominees, as we announce the winners and celebrate the incredible achievements of our children, staff and communities.

There are 10 categories and nominations can be made via [our new website NOW!](#) Nominations are open until 1st December, after which we will announce the shortlisted nominees for each category.

The categories are:

- Children and Young People Awards:
- Outstanding Citizenship Award
- Incredible Achievement
- Sports & Culture Star (or Team) of the Year
- Inspirational Young Person of the Year
- Young Leader or Entrepreneur of the Year Award (Team or Individual)

Staff Awards:

- Lifetime Achievement Award (With supporting Long Service Awards)
- Team of the Year Award
- Inspirational Teacher of the Year
- Support Star of the Year
- Diversity, Collaboration and Inclusion Award (Group or Individual)

It would be lovely to have Early Years Education acknowledged as part of the awards. Feel free to share via newsletters/social media in order for as many families and community members to be able to nominate deserving winners from across Halton. A panel of judges will then review the shortlisted nominees to determine the winners. Good luck everyone and we can't wait to receive your nominations!



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