



WELCOME

It's a musical month in Early Years as we sing our way through **Nursery Rhyme November** in celebration of World Nursery Rhyme Week.

Singing is an 'Early Years essential' to support children's communication and language and early literacy skills. So, **let's get Halton singing** 🎵

Keep an eye out for some song ideas and inspiration on our Instagram @HaltonEarlyYears and TALK Halton Facebook pages.

Contact the team on early.years@halton.gov.uk it's always lovely to hear from you

Best wishes
Sarah

UPDATES

School- Based Nursery Capital Grants

State-funded primary-phase schools are now able to apply to the DfE for up to £150,000 through the School-Based Nursery Capital Grant. The first stage of the grant will support up to 300 new or expanded nurseries across England. The funding can be used to upgrade spare space to create or expand on-site nurseries. These nurseries can be school run or delivered by PVI providers or Childminders. All applications are subject to eligibility and assessment criteria, more detailed information about School-Based Nursery Capital grants can be found [School-Based Nursery Capital Grant - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-based-nursery-capital-grants)

The DfE will be sharing updates with the LA on 6th November, after which we will update you on the process and collaboration needed with the local authority to align with our sufficiency analysis of early years childcare places. We are holding briefings on **Monday 25th November 9.30am** and **Tuesday 26th November 3.30pm**, please book on using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/YxbSCGJ0aS>

In the meantime, if you would like to have a discussion about School-Based nurseries please contact early.years@halton.gov.uk

Childcare funding for working Foster Carers (15 hours for 9 months+/30 hours for 3 year olds)

For more information on eligibility and the application process please click on the following link [Halton Virtual School: Early Years Funding](#)

If you have any queries, please contact Gemma Donaldson, Early Years Support Worker for the Virtual School gemma.donaldson@halton.gov.uk



EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS

Family Information Service

Needing to fill up more places? Have you updated your information on the Provider Portal? Make the most of our Public FIS Directory to promote your provision to prospective parents. [Synergy - Enquiry \(halton.gov.uk\)](#) for more information email haltonfis@halton.gov.uk

Please submit adjustments

Due to the expansion of childcare, each term the DfE are collecting additional data from Local Authorities regarding the numbers of children claiming their funded hours.

We need to submit the latest figures to the DfE in the next few weeks.

Therefore, if you have any adjustments which you have not submitted yet (starters/leavers/change in number of funded hours being claimed), please submit the adjustments, as soon as possible, so we have the most up to date figures to send to the DfE.

Applying for eligibility code

Please remind parents if they want to claim their funded hours from January 2025 (all age ranges), it is advisable that they apply for their eligibility code **NOW** via www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

All new codes need to have a start date before 31st December 2024 to be valid in the spring term.

Also, please remind parents who already have codes that it is really important that they re-confirm on time otherwise the code end date will expire and the code will therefore be no longer valid.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Update on Safeguarding consultation

The DfE recently published their response to the consultation on safeguarding and welfare requirements of the EYFS (you can read the response [here](#)). These reforms will come into effect on 1st September 2025, so we all need to ensure that we are ready to meet the requirements once they are in force. As a team, we are beginning to make plans around how we can provide support and information to the sector ahead of the reforms.



In the meantime, you can watch this vodcast from Foundation Years, which explains each of the reforms in further detail.

Among the reforms are changes to the **renewal period for safeguarding training** and a **requirement for a PFA trained staff member to be present in the room when children are eating**.

Please ensure that you are checking current safeguarding training for all staff is in date. The next 2 Basic Awareness in Safeguarding Children level 2 courses are on the following dates:

13th February 2025 (18.00 - 20.30 via Teams)

10th June 2025 (18.00 - 20.30 via Teams)

Please email jodie.wylie@halton.gov.uk to reserve a place.

A reminder for group-based provision that anyone who gained a level 2 or 3 qualification since **30th June 2016** must obtain a PFA qualification within three months of starting work in order to be included in the required staff:child ratios at level 2 or 3 in an early years setting. To continue to be included in the ratio requirement the certificate must be renewed every 3 years (EYFS 3.31)

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

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

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 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>

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

Date: Friday 8th November

Time: 8.30am-11.30am

Venue : DCBL Stadium

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!



**Understanding
and supporting
SEND in the EYs**

Please note that the time of the 'Understanding and Supporting SEND in the Early Years' training session has changed. The session is now **9.30-12.30**.

To book onto the session please [click here](#)

We would encourage all Halton practitioners to attend this training. The training will cover the role of the SENCo in Early Years settings, the graduated approach, SEN support paperwork and practical strategies to increase your confidence and knowledge in everyday practice.

**26th November 2024
9.30-12.30**



DIARY DATES

14-20th November Baby Week

Do you work in a baby room? Have you seen the wealth of resources available on Halton's Communication Hub? Take a look at our **TALK at Home Babies Pack** and share with parents/carers for ways to support early speech, language and communication development. Click on the image below to be access the resource



13th November – World Kindness Day

Take a look at the World Kindness Day Pack which has five fun activities for your class. It is designed to help children focus on kindness and also includes activities linked to this years' Anti-Bullying Week theme – *Choose Respect*. It is suitable for Key Stages 1 and 2 but you can adapt the activities for EYFS. Click the image below for more information



DID YOU KNOW...?



Nursery Rhyme November

Singing Nursery Rhymes is a great way to support early language development. Each day in November we will be sharing a rhyme/song for you to sing together so take a look at our Halton Early Years Instagram and TALK Halton Facebook page. Share with parents/carers too and let's get Halton singing!



DON'T MISS OUT!

Prevent Session delivered by the Prevent Education Officer from Liverpool City Council on Tuesday 19th November – limited spaces left!

See Partnership Briefing 83 for further details and booking information [Partnership Briefings - Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Also check out PB91 for information about Trauma Informed Safeguarding Sessions – aiming to help staff better understand the circumstances of adverse childhood experiences and the developmental impact of trauma, in terms of how this shapes thoughts, behaviours and relationships throughout life.

Early Years Conference for Childminders (Sefton Council)

Saturday 16th November 2024 10am - 1.00pm

Working in Partnership with Greg Bottrill '*Education done with children, not to them*'

The conference is £20 to attend and includes the training event, breakfast and refreshments.

To book a place please contact collette.williams@sefton.gov.uk

SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS

Frosty Forest Fun with the Gruffalo

[Gruffalo winter activity sheets | Forestry England](#) Enjoy a day of frosty fun in the forest, or at home with these Gruffalo inspired activities



Safer sleep in winter

Take a look at the information that has been compiled by the Lullaby Trust for things to consider for your baby and their sleep space during the colder months

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice/travel-and-weather/safer-sleep-winter/>

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