



WELCOME

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas 🎄 What a lovely treat it has been for our Early Years Team to share in the excitement and festivities when we have been out and about on our visits.

We've had an amazing term so far with plenty to celebrate from our Early Years Clusters to PEEP sessions and new training! We hope to share our Spring training calendar with you very soon!!!

To ensure that your emails are dealt with swiftly can I please ask you to email your enquiries to early.years@halton.gov.uk rather than to individual officers

Help us spread the Early Years word and forward this newsletter to your team so they can subscribe and also be in the know!

Thank you for your continued support
Best wishes
Sarah

UPDATES



Have your say

We are opening up consultations around current processes for top up funding and would welcome your feedback.

Please [click here](#) or scan the QR code to complete before
Monday 9th December.



EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS

Estimated Hours

The Provider Portal will be open between **9th-13th December** to

Remind Parents to apply for their eligibility code

Please remind parents if they want to claim their funded hours from January 2025, they **MUST**

allow you to submit your estimated hours for the spring term. Please check how old each child will be by **31st December** and make sure you insert the child in the correct age range on your estimates.

apply **NOW** via www.childcarechoices.gov.uk If they do not have a code with a start date before 31st December 2024, it will not be valid in January.

Please validate codes by running them through the Eligibility Checker and ensure the dates will still be valid in January.



Codes in grace period

If any eligibility codes are in the grace period (i.e. with the symbol next to the child's name on your headcount), please remind the parents that they **MUST** re-confirm **before 31st December 2024**, otherwise their code will not be valid in January.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Voice of the Child

NSPCC Learning has published a suite of resources exploring the importance of hearing and facilitating the voice of the child. The resources highlight how hearing the voice of the child helps professionals to understand children's experiences, identify risk factors and better meet their needs.

[How can we hear and facilitate the voice of the child?](#) [The voice of the child: expert insights](#)

The resources addressed to social workers, however the principles and advice is very relevant to early years practitioners.

Partnership Briefing

Check out the latest Partnership Briefing (PB92) [here](#) which shares information about the CSPR Panel's latest review and details about a webinar the Panel are hosting in January.

EARLY YEARS TRAINING



DON'T MISS OUT!

Holding Compassion in Mind

There were lots of great ideas shared at the 'Attachment – Holding a Compassionate Mind' session with Dr Lyndsey Holt last week. If you missed the session don't worry, Dr Lyndsey Holt will be delivering sessions again in the Spring Term – so keep an eye out for those dates!



Practitioners were keen to go away and read the story '**Love**' by **Corinne Averiss and Kirti Beautyman** which was recommended to help children understand their emotions. There were great discussions about creating opportunities for mindfulness for ourselves and the children we work with. If you have any recommendations please let us know, we would love to hear about them.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Early Years Alliance - Childminders

Early Years Alliance is holding a virtual Childminding Professional Networking Event, taking place at **7.15pm - 8.15pm on Wednesday 4 December**

These sessions are led by attendees and are intended for discussions on anything childminding-related.

During this new series of FREE virtual networking events, we'll discuss everything from:

- what to do when you get 'the call'
- how to deal with disputes with parents
- ways to create a positive childminding environment

- how to look after your own wellbeing
- ... and more!

DIARY DATES



Childminder Keeping in Touch

A chance to come along for an informal chat with members of the Early Years Team on **Wednesday 11th December (6.30-7.30pm)** at DCBL Stadium, Widnes. Limited places available so please book by emailing early.years@halton.gov.uk

READING / RESEARCH

Improving Outcomes for Boys

[Improving Outcomes for Boys - Elm Cottage \(Case Study\) - Bright Futures Early Years Hub](#)

Case study written by Elm Cottage PVI following on from the Improving Outcomes for Boys work with And Burt, really exemplifies how to embed high quality CPD into practice. You can also see some of the quick wins they put in to support the boys in their setting

FURTHER UPDATES



Have you **applied for or recently started a role working with children aged up to four**? The Department for Education would like to hear more about your job search.

[Click here](#) take a short 5-10 minute survey

Children's Dental Health

Listen to Prof. Zoe Marshman explain why improving children's oral health is important for Early Years Educators, with practical advice on ways to improve it.



The vodcast explores information on tooth decay, methods to prevent tooth decay, information on sugar consumption, toothbrushing and ways that Early Years educators can promote children's oral health

SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS



Downloadable Christmas activities for the whole family

Nothing says Christmas more than festive, family crafting. Download your free activity pack for some festive fun by [clicking here](#)

ICAN Sign

ICAN sign are sessions for preschool aged children and parents/carers. During the holidays, older siblings are welcome to join too. These are fun and interactive sessions where BSL signs are taught in a play based way. Learning BSL signs is both fun and a great way to support children's communication and language development. All families are welcome!

To book onto the session please contact ICAN@deafnessresourcecentre.org or telephone 01744 23887



Fun and interactive sessions for preschool children (under 5), their parents & carers to learn basic British Sign Language (BSL)

Kingsway Family Hub
Victoria Road, Widnes, WA8 7QY
Family Room

9.30am to 10.15am

Starting Monday 3rd March 2025 for 5 weeks

To book a place please contact:
E: ICAN@deafnessresourcecentre.org
T: 01744 23887

Deafness Resource Centre, 32-40 Dentons Green Lane, St Helens, WA10 2QB






Fun and interactive sessions for preschool children (under 5), their parents & carers to learn basic British Sign Language (BSL)

Halton Lodge Family Hub
Grangeway, Runcorn, Halton, WA7 5LU
Community Room

9.30am to 10.15am

Starting Monday 13th January 2025 for 6 weeks

To book a place please contact:
E: ICAN@deafnessresourcecentre.org
T: 01744 23887

Deafness Resource Centre, 32-40 Dentons Green Lane, St Helens, WA10 2QB




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