



WELCOME

As we come to the end of a very busy term, I wanted to thank everyone working in Early Years for all their hard work and dedication with our youngest children. It has been a pleasure to visit settings and schools this term and be part of the Early Years action here in Halton.

Don't miss out on our Spring Term training directory which will be out this week. We are delighted once again to deliver a mix of new quality opportunities to support continued professional development for your team. We have another inspiring speaker at our Spring Term Early Years Cluster, Hanen Teacher Talk A, Shine Therapy workshops, Inspiring baby and toddler rooms and much more.... make CPD your New Year resolution and book on to secure your place.

On behalf of the Early Years Team, I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are very much looking forward to working with you all in 2025

Best wishes
Sarah



UPDATES

Updated EYFS Profile handbook, including a change to the Speaking ELG

The Department for Education has published the updated [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) Profile handbook](#) to support Early Years practitioners to complete EYFS Profile assessments in line with statutory requirements. The EYFS Profile is an important statutory assessment of children's development at the end of the EYFS and must be completed for each child and submitted to the local authority no later than 30th June.

The update includes a change to allow a child's established or preferred mode of communication (including non-speaking communication, such as signing) to be used for all of the early learning goals (ELGs), including the Speaking ELG. In order to be judged as **expected**, children must demonstrate the criteria of the ELG. The mode of communication is the way a child chooses to communicate, not the language a child communicates in. Therefore, when using any mode of communication, the ELGs for the communication and language and literacy areas of learning must still be assessed in relation to the child's competency in English, or competency in British Sign Language.

Primary 2025 Applications

There are some parents who have yet to apply for their child's Reception place. The deadline is **15th January 2025**.

Can we therefore please request that you have one final push to remind parents of this important date?

Parents can apply online using the following link

<https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

Queries can be directed to schooladmissions@halton.gov.uk



EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS

Remind Parents to apply for their eligibility code

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

Parents can check what support they might be eligible for using the online eligibility checker on ChildcareChoices.gov.uk

This YouTube video from Early Years Educator Steff explains the application process in more detail



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Domestic Abuse

NSPCC Learning has published a [podcast](#) about the effects of domestic abuse on babies, children and young people. Domestic abuse figures in Halton are high, and they rise sharply at Christmas time. The podcast is a stark reminder of how detrimental it is for children to be exposed to domestic abuse. Safeguarding Network provide information about to help you spot the signs that children may be affected by domestic abuse. Read it [here](#).

Our model safeguarding policies for group-based provisions and childminders have been updated – Part B, The Prevent Duty (highlighted in blue). Please download the latest version [here](#)

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

Managing Allegations – The LADO Role

This 3-hour training session, delivered by Andrew Chisnall, gives a really useful insight into the role of the LADO, thresholds and what to do if an allegation is made against an adult that works with children.

The next sessions are **16th January 2025** and **11th March 2025** – 09.30 -12.30 at Runcorn Town Hall. Book via the training portal on Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership website.



TALK Visual Supports

This training module covers...

- The importance of using visual supports to aid speech, language and communication development.
- A range of visual supports and the benefits of using them in your Early Years setting.
- Reflecting on how to consistently use visual supports with all children in your Early Years setting.

To access this FREE training please contact tracey.lynch@halton.gov.uk

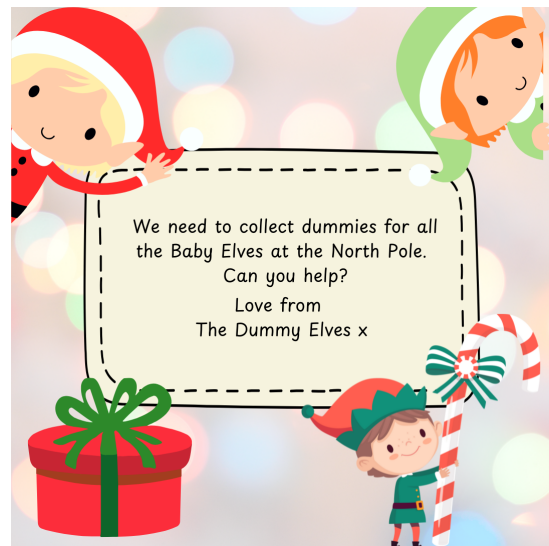
Pre-recorded training you can access at a time to suit you! Lots of training modules available to support speech, language and communication.

Please contact tracey.lynch@halton.gov.uk to receive the link to access all our pre-recording training modules

DID YOU KNOW...?

A dummy can be really helpful to comfort and settle babies in the first few months. However, when children use dummies too much or for too long it can affect their talking. Encouraging children to give up

their dummy can be really helpful to encourage more talking. Are you helping children to give up their dummies this Christmas? An email was sent last week with ideas to make sure the Dummy Elves are extra busy across Halton this year – if you haven't received yours please contact early.years@halton.gov.uk



DIARY DATES

Childminder Keeping in Touch

A chance to network and come along for an informal chat with members of the Early Years Team on **Monday 27th January (6.30-7.30pm)** at DCBL Stadium, Widnes. Limited places available so please book by emailing early.years@halton.gov.uk

The next **Education Subgroup** is on

Wednesday 15th January 2025.

If you have any issues that you would like us to raise at the meeting, please email jodie.wylie@halton.gov.uk or jenna.mcnally@halton.gov.uk by no later than **Monday 13th January 2025.**

READING / RESEARCH

A moment to ponder...Intentional Teaching. [Click here](#) to read an article by Caroline Vollans on intentional teaching and how intentional teaching works?

LET'S CELEBRATE!



The last 6 weeks have been full of stories, rhymes and activities at our PEEP Childminder sessions. Thank you to all the childminders and children that participated we hope you enjoyed the sessions as much as we did!

More dates will be available in the Spring Term so make sure you look out and book on as there are limited places available



Feedback

Loved getting new ideas on how to adapt stories, also learning of new stories I'd not read before. Lots of activities and ideas that I have already implemented in my setting.

Feedback

I enjoyed talking about the ways we make story telling more enjoyable with the children swapping ideas together and I enjoyed the chance to meet up with fellow Childminders



SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS

Recruitment in Early Years

Childcare Works have released a toolkit. [Click here](#) for the **Do Something Big Campaign Toolkit** to support you with recruitment and retention. There is also a dedicated job site for Early Years which is free to advertise your vacancies on [Find a job](#).

Click on the following link to watch a webinar by Childcare Choices **[Recruitment and Retention in Early Years and Wraparound Provision - childcareworks.org.uk](#)**



Please share the information below with your parents to help encourage new people into the Early Years sector. Parents considering becoming a childminder may be entitled to a start-up grant. [Apply for a childminder start-up grant - GOV.UK](#)

Please direct any parents interested in becoming a childminder to the early.years@halton.gov.uk for more information and advice to get started.



We need YOU!

The Department for Education have published a new blog detailing everything you need to know about how to become a childminder and where to apply.

Click the link below for more information.

[How to register as a childminder and receive a grant worth up to £1,200 – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)



For an informal chat about childminding and the support on offer from the Early Years Team please email early.years@halton.gov.uk



Make a real difference in your community

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