

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the newest member of our Early Years Team, Stefanie Ashall! Stef joined us last week and will be supporting providers with communication and language, as well as strengthening home learning links with families through partnership working with Health 0-19 and Family Hubs. Stef brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and I'm delighted she has joined our team. I'm sure you'll be meeting her very soon.

Don't forget, our Leadership Briefing is a must for all managers, childminders, DSLs and Early Years leads. We'll be sharing key updates from across the sector, so please jump online and join us at either the daytime or evening session.

Book your place here

I look forward to seeing you there! 😊

As always, for general enquiries, please contact the team at early.years@halton.gov.uk

Best wishes
Sarah

UPDATES

Early Years Qualifications List (EYQL) – New Online Format
The Department for Education has launched a new online Early Years Qualifications List (EYQL) on GOV.UK. The EYQL helps providers and practitioners check whether a qualification is recognised as 'full and relevant' for working within EYFS staff:child ratios in England.
Access the EYQL here

FEYE FUNDING

Autumn 2026 Headcount and Early Years Census

The Provider Portal opened on **14th September 2026**, allowing providers to begin preparing their Autumn Headcount submissions. The Headcount and Early Years Census Day will take place on **Thursday 1st October 2026**

EARLY YEARS TRAINING

With a wide range of training opportunities available this term, there really is something for everyone. Take a look through the brochure and make the most of the fantastic professional development on offer. It's wonderful to see such enthusiastic interest already, with booking forms flying in, so don't delay and book early to avoid missing out.



BOOK TRAINING NOW

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE UPDATES

Prevent in Education: Training for Early Years Foundation Stage Staff
The DfE has released new Prevent in Education training dates for 2026/27. This training will support Early Years Foundation Stage staff to understand their responsibilities and the importance of the Prevent duty.

Training dates:
* **7th December 2026** | 6:00pm to 7:15pm
* **26th January 2027** | 4:00pm to 5:15pm
* **4th May 2027** | 6:00pm to 7:15pm

To find out more and book a place, please **click here**

SEND

Has your Early Years SENCo booked onto our upcoming Role of the SENCo Workshop?
The Early Years SENCo plays a vital role in supporting children with additional needs to thrive. Whether you are new to the role or an experienced SENCo, our Early Years Team is

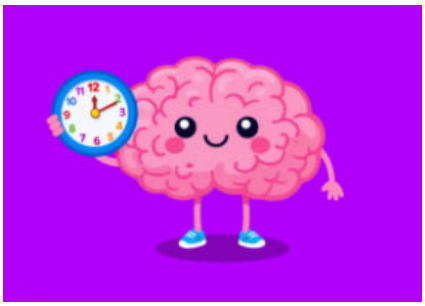
here to support you.

This practical workshop will build your confidence, strengthen your knowledge, and provide valuable guidance for your role. You'll also be introduced to our new Early Years SEND Survival Kit and discover the range of support and resources available to help you succeed.

🗓️ 7th October 2026, 9.30am to 3.30pm
📍 Halton Lea Library

BOOK NOW!

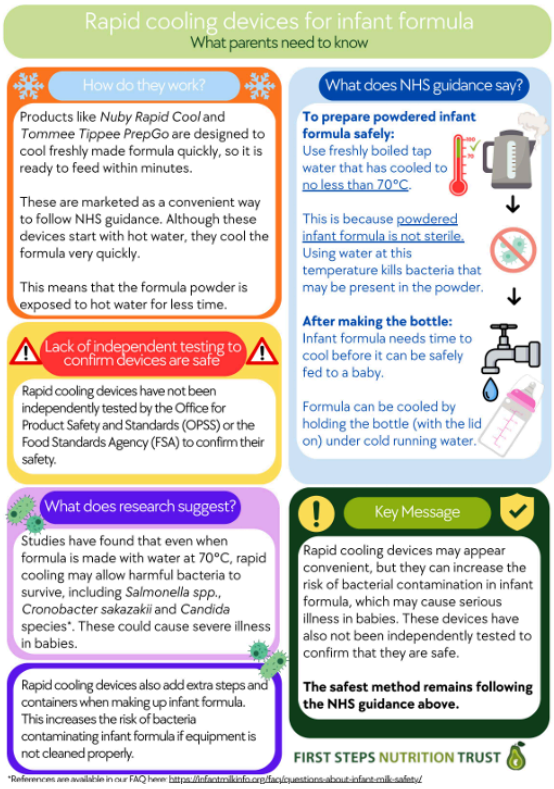
FURTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Free 1-Hour Screen Time CPD for Early Years Practitioners

Want to build your knowledge of screen use and its impact on young children? This free, online 1-hour CPD course is designed to help professionals better understand screen time and support children and families. **Find out more and enrol here**

DID YOU KNOW...?



Making Infant Milk Safely

Preparing infant milk safely is an important part of supporting babies' health and wellbeing. First Steps Nutrition Trust has produced a helpful resource with clear, practical guidance on making up infant formula safely, handling feeds correctly, and reducing the risk of infection.

Whether you're an Early Years practitioner, childminder, or supporting families with young babies, this is a useful resource to explore and share.

🔗 Find out more:
Making infant milk safely — First Steps Nutrition Trust

CALLING ALL RECEPTION TEACHERS

Reception Readiness Self Help Skills

As part of our ongoing work to support children's successful transition into school, we are gathering information about Reception children's self-help and independence skills. We would be very grateful if Reception teachers could complete the short questionnaire below as soon as possible:

🔗 https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/DkZJ6RDLJF

The questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and will help us gain a better understanding of children's Reception readiness across our local community. Thank you for your time and support. We really appreciate your contribution.

DON'T MISS OUT!



What a wonderful way to start the day!
On Wednesday we spent a lovely morning with Sarah at Moo Music, experiencing first-hand the magic that music can bring to babies, toddlers, young children and their parents/carers. It was fantastic to see so much fun, laughter and learning taking place through music, movement and interaction.

We're delighted that Sarah has kindly invited childminders and baby room practitioners to come along and experience the magic for themselves!

If you'd like to join one of the sessions taking place in November, please contact early.years@halton.gov.uk as soon as possible to reserve your place.
Please note that places are limited, so don't miss out!

SHARE WITH PARENTS



School Health Questionnaire
When a child reaches school age, the School Health Team will send a Health Questionnaire directly to parents/carers via mobile phone.

This important questionnaire helps the team understand a child's health and wellbeing, identify any needs at an early stage, and ensure the right support is available where needed. So please encourage parents to take a few minutes to complete it.

Flu and RSV Vaccinations Save Lives
UKHSA data from last winter showed the flu vaccine reduced GP visits by **52%** and hospital admissions by **68%** among children aged 2 to 17. The RSV vaccine also helped reduce intensive care admissions in babies under 6 months by **50%**.

Flu vaccinations are now available for 2 and 3-year-olds, children in clinical risk groups, and pregnant women. From 1st October, the programme will expand to include other eligible groups, including older adults, carers, care home residents, frontline health and social care workers, and those with certain long-term health conditions.

Find out more **here**

BOOK OF THE MONTH



A very unusual journey into play by Ben Kingston-Hughes

Play has the power to transform children's lives, supporting their neurological, emotional, and physical development. Combining play and neuroscience, this book makes complex ideas accessible through theory and practical examples. Drawing on over 30 years of experience, Ben presents a compelling argument that play is not an optional part of childhood but a vital developmental process that shapes wellbeing, behaviour, mental health, and lifelong outcomes.

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