



AUTUMN TRAINING PROGRAMME 2026

Professional Development for Early Years Practitioners



LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

WHEN? 30th September 2026 (10.00-11.30)
OR 30th September 2026 (18.30-20.00)

WHERE? ONLINE

WHO? Managers, Early Years Leaders and Childminders



Stay informed with key sector developments, including updates on safeguarding reforms and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) requirements.

Early Years Managers, Early Years Leads, and Childminders are encouraged to secure their place by completing our online booking form. A joining link will be sent to you once your registration has been confirmed.



RECEPTION NETWORK

WHEN? 1st October 2026 (9.30-12.30)

WHERE? The Heath Business Park, Runcorn

WHO? Reception Teachers and Headteachers



We are delighted to invite all Reception teachers to join us for our Autumn Term Reception Network. Led by Ruth Swailes, this session will focus on formative assessment and the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). We are also pleased to welcome Headteachers to attend alongside their Reception staff for the morning session. Reception staff are strongly encouraged to stay for the afternoon Early Years Cluster, where preschool colleagues will join us.



EARLY YEARS CLUSTER

WHEN? 1st October 2026 (13.00-15.30)

WHERE? The Heath Business Park, Runcorn

WHO? Reception and Preschool Practitioners



We are excited to share that Ruth Swailes will be leading our Early Years Cluster. Ruth's enthusiasm for early years, combined with her wealth of experience, makes this a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved.

More details will be coming soon, but please save the date in your diary and look out for further updates.



WellComm Early Years Toolkit

WHEN? 14th October 2026 (13.00-15.00) OR
ONLINE 22nd October 2026 (18.30-20.00)

WHERE? 14.10.2026 - The WELL Hub, Runcorn. 22.10.2026 - ONLINE

WHO? Early Years Practitioners



As you begin the new academic year, do you have any new practitioners who require WellComm training, or existing practitioners who would benefit from a refresher session to build their confidence? To provide greater flexibility, we are offering both a face-to-face and an online training session, giving practitioners more opportunities to book onto a session that best suits their needs.



Communication Champions

WHEN? 18th November 2026 (13.00-15.30)

WHERE? The WELL Hub, Runcorn

WHO? Communication Champions, Early Years Practitioners, Reception Teaching Assistants



Supporting children's communication and language is at the heart of effective EYFS practice. Join us as we explore high-quality interactions, celebrate good practice, and share simple, evidence-based strategies from Elklan and Hanen that can make a real difference in your setting.



ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

WHEN? 23rd September 2026 (13.00-15.00)

WHERE? The WELL Hub, Runcorn

WHO? Early Years Practitioners



This workshop is all about creating spaces where children can flourish. Discover how thoughtful indoor and outdoor environments can spark curiosity, build confidence, encourage independence and support learning through play. We'll explore the value of continuous provision, share inspiring ideas from practice, and provide practical tips you can use straight away in your setting.



LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR PHONICS

WHEN? 21st October 2026 (13.00-16.00) OR
ONLINE 2nd November (18.30-20.30)

WHERE? 21.10.26 - The WELL Hub, Runcorn
2.11.2026 ONLINE

WHO? Early Years Practitioners, Childminders



Back by popular demand! Join us for this interactive session as we explore the important question: What comes before phonics? Discover the key skills and experiences that lay the foundations for early reading, and take away practical ideas to support children's communication, language and literacy development before they start Reception. A must-attend session packed with inspiration and strategies you can use straight away.



BABY AND TODDLERS MUSIC AND SENSORY PLAY

WHEN? 30th November 2026 (18.30-20.00)

WHERE? ONLINE

WHO? Baby and Toddler Room Practitioners, Childminders



We're excited to welcome Helen Battelley to lead this session, exploring how music and sensory play support our youngest children's development. Discover how sound, rhythm, movement and sensory experiences nurture brain development, strengthen relationships and encourage early communication, laying strong foundations for physical, social and emotional growth.



WHEN? 9th November 2026 (13.00-13.45)

WHERE? Moo and a Brew, Widnes

WHO? Baby Room Leaders



Join Sarah from Moo Music for a session and experience the magic of music firsthand. Discover how music can captivate, engage and support babies' development, while gathering practical ideas and inspiration to use in your own setting.



Limited places so book your place early by contacting early.years@halton.gov.uk

WHEN? 16th November 2026 (13.00-13.45)

WHERE? Moo and a Brew, Widnes

WHO? Childminders



We're excited to share that Sarah from Moo Music is inviting childminders and the children in their care to join her for a bespoke music session. Discover how songs, rhythm and movement can engage young children, support their development, and inspire ideas you can use in your own practice. **Please note that places are limited and booking is essential.**



Unless otherwise stated, all bookings should be made using our **online booking form**. Please ensure you provide a valid email address when booking, as this will be used to send your calendar invitation and confirm your place. To book, simply click the "Book Now" button or scan the QR code to access the online booking form.





ROLE OF THE SENCO

WHEN? 8th October 2026 (10.00-15.30)

WHERE? Halton Lea Library, Runcorn

WHO? Early Years SENCOs



The Early Years SENCO plays a vital role in helping children with additional needs to thrive. Whether you are new to the role or an experienced SENCO, our Early Years Intervention Officers are here to support you. This training will build your confidence, strengthen your knowledge, and provide practical guidance for your work in the early years. Come along to learn more about our newly created Early Years SEND Survival Kit and discover the support and resources available to help you in your role.



SEND WORKSHOP

WHEN? 4th November (13.00-15.00)
23rd November (18.30-20.00)

WHERE? 4.11.2026 - The WELL Hub, Runcorn
23.11.2026 - ONLINE

WHO? Early Years SENCOs, Early Years Practitioners, Childminders



Our SEND Workshops are a great opportunity to develop your knowledge, skills, and confidence in supporting children with SEND. The first workshop will focus on the importance of the Graduated Approach and what this looks like in practice. We will also explore Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), helping you to better understand the process and your role in supporting children and families.



SEND SURGERY DROP-INS

Join our Early Years Team for our online SEND Drop-In Sessions. Stay up to date with SEND developments, discuss current topics, ask questions, and receive advice and support from the team. Whether you need guidance on a specific issue or simply want to connect with colleagues and hear the latest updates, you're welcome to join any session. No booking is required – simply click on the date below to access the Teams link and drop in at any time during the session

[21st September 2026 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[19th October 2026 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[16th November 2026 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[14th December 2026 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[18th January 2027 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[22nd February 2027 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[15th March 2027 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[19th April, 2027 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[17th May 2027 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[21st June 2027 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)

[19th July 2027 \(10.00-11.00\)](#)



We're delighted to share that ADDvanced Solutions are offering the following sessions this term. These popular sessions provide valuable advice, support and practical strategies for working with children and families. Places are limited, so we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

Course	Date	Time	Venue
Tantrums Versus Meltdowns	25.9.2026	12.00-14.30	DCBL Stadium
Emotions - What our body is telling us	7.10.2026	12.30-14.30	DCBL Stadium
Understanding and supporting behaviours that challenge	16.10.2026	9.30-12.00	DCBL Stadium

We're delighted to share that Shine Therapy are offering the following sessions this term. These sessions are always popular and provide valuable insights, practical strategies and expert support for practitioners. Book directly with Shine Therapy and be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

BOOK NOW



Course	Course Description	Date	Time	Venue
Introduction to Sensory Processing Differences and Challenges, and Introduction to Sensory Lifestyles	This session provides an introduction to sensory processing differences and their impact on children's learning, play and social interactions. Explore how sensory information is processed, why some children may be over- or under-responsive to sensory input, and discover practical strategies, including sensory lifestyles and sensory diets, to support children in everyday home and educational environments.	15.9.2026	9.00-16.00	DCBL Stadium
Blank Levels	This session introduces the Blank Levels of Questioning framework, which supports the development of language understanding and verbal reasoning. Learn how to identify a child's level of understanding, adapt language accordingly, and use practical strategies to support communication, comprehension and language development.	29.9.2026	9.00-12.30	DCBL Stadium
Sencory Circuits	This practical session explores how sensory circuits can support focus, self-regulation and readiness for learning. Learn how to create and deliver effective sensory circuits using simple resources and adaptable spaces, with plenty of practical ideas to support positive sensory experiences in school, outdoor and home environments.	13.10.2026	10.15-14.00	Halton Lea Library, Runcorn
Visuals for Understanding + Low Tec Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC)	This session introduces a range of visual supports and AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) approaches that can help children understand information, express themselves and engage more confidently in everyday activities. Explore practical tools and strategies, from visual timetables and prompts to communication boards and PECS, to support communication and language development in education settings.	3.11.2026	10.15-14.00	Halton Lea Library, Runcorn
Restrictive Eating and Mealtime Challenges	This session explores the reasons why some children experience restrictive or selective eating, including difficulties associated with ARFID (Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder). Learn about the sensory, emotional and developmental factors that influence eating behaviours, and discover practical strategies to support positive, pressure-free mealtimes and encourage a wider range of accepted foods.	17.11.2026	9.00-16.00	DCBL Stadium
Play	This session explores how play supports early communication, language and social development. Learn about the different stages of play and discover practical strategies to encourage skills such as turn-taking, listening, attention, emotional expression and social interaction.	1.12.2026	9.00-12.30	DCBL Stadium



SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE 2026

Professional Development for Early Years Practitioners



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR DSLs

This statutory training equips Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities, manage concerns effectively, and lead safeguarding practice within their setting.

Date	Time	Venue
6th October 2026	9.00-15.30	Runcorn Town Hall
21 st January 2027	9.00-15.30	DCBL Stadium
7 th June 2027	9.00-15.30	Runcorn Town Hall



DSL TRAINING FOR CHILDMINDERS

WHEN? 5th May 2027 (18.00-20.30)
12th May 2027 (18.00-20.30)

WHERE? DCBL Stadium, Widnes



This statutory training equips childminders with the knowledge and confidence to fulfil their role as Designated Safeguarding Lead. Learn about safeguarding responsibilities, recognising and responding to concerns, managing disclosures, recording and reporting procedures, information sharing, and maintaining a strong child-centred safeguarding culture.



SAFER RECRUITMENT TRAINING

WHEN? 13th April 2027 (9.00-15.30)

WHERE? Runcorn Town Hall

WHO? Nursery Managers, Deputy Managers, Owners, Committee Members



Develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make safer recruitment decisions, conduct effective interviews, complete appropriate pre-employment checks, and fulfil safeguarding responsibilities.

This training promotes best practice in recruitment and helps create a strong culture of safeguarding within your organisation.

Date	Time	Venue
21st September 2026	13.00-15.30	DCBL Stadium
4th November 2026	18.00-20.30	ONLINE
22nd February 2026	18.00-20.30	ONLINE
12th March 2026	13.00-15.30	WELL Hub, Runcorn
23rd June 2026	13.00-15.30	WELL Hub, Runcorn
5th July 2026	18.00-20.30	ONLINE

BASIC AWARENESS IN SAFEGAURDING CHILDREN

This statutory training provides a foundation in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. You will develop an understanding of your safeguarding responsibilities, learn to recognise the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect, and understand how to respond appropriately to concerns. The course also covers reporting procedures, information sharing, and the importance of maintaining a child-centred approach to help keep children safe, protected, and supported.



SCAN ME!

