



# EYQI Updates

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<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/EarlyYearsHub>

**Week beginning 22/09/2025**



## Upcoming training announcement

### Early Years SENCO network

**Date:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September

**🕒 Time:** 9:30am- 12noon

**📍 Location:** The Bridge Centre

Supporting children with additional requirements The specific focus for each meeting will be sent out via email · To enable Early Years SENCOs to support pupils who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or Disability. · To ensure the right support is available for children at the right time and that staff have the tools to aid progression and self-evaluation. · To have national and regional updates and guest speakers from St Helens · To provide opportunities to evaluate own skills and knowledge. · To find ways to develop skills through networking.

### Wraparound Network Online event-

**Date:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September

**🕒 Time:** 10am-11:30am

**📍 Location:** Microsoft teams- network opportunities with other providers, online safety, recruitment and play matters. This new network is designed to support both experienced providers and those who are just beginning to explore the development of wraparound care within their settings. It is open to school-based and group-based providers alike, offering a collaborative space to share knowledge, build confidence, and navigate the journey of establishing or enhancing wraparound provision.

### **Toddler Quality Improvement network**

**Date:** ALL 3 SESSIONS MUST BE ATTENDED TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING Session 1- **Wednesday 1st October 2025 9.30am-1pm** Session 2- **Tuesday 4th November 2025 9.30am-1pm** Session 3- **Wednesday 26th November 2025**

🕒 **Time:** 9:30-1pm

📍 **Location:** Board Room, Forster House, Waterside, St Helens WA9 1UB

The significance of Early development is now well established and with the increase in provision for two-year-olds, this excellent Toolkit provides a helpful and valuable framework for practitioners to review current provision and build optimal quality practice for two-year-olds. The toolkit covers 4 sections: · Introduction · Activities · Audits & Resources (Leadership and management, environment, working in partnership and transitions) · Development Planning and impact. This toolkit requires all course attendees to be engaged and involved in sharing ideas and practices, All 3 sessions must be attended to complete the training. Practitioners who complete the training will receive a copy of the Toddler Quality Book. One copy will be provided per school or setting.

### **Ofsted Changes online for Childminders**

**Date:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

🕒 **Time:** 6:30pm-7:30pm

📍 **Location:** Microsoft teams

The new Ofsted inspection framework, effective from 2025, introduces several significant changes tailored to the early years sector. These updates aim to provide a more comprehensive and contextual evaluation of early years settings, ensuring that the unique needs of young children are met effectively

### **Ofsted Changes online for Group Based Settings (Private Providers)**

**Date:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

🕒 **Time:** 9:15-10:15am

📍 **Location:** Microsoft teams

The new Ofsted inspection framework, effective from 2025, introduces several significant changes tailored to the early years sector. These updates aim to provide a more comprehensive and contextual evaluation of early years settings, ensuring that the unique needs of young children are met effectively.

**To book training use the link-** <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FDJU>

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### **EYHub Day**

EYHUB Network Meeting for Settings Target audience – Nursery Managers, Nursery senior leaders and School nursery teachers The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite 9:00am – 12:00pm Wednesday 8th October 2025 Please click the link to book:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADM>

EYHUB Network Meeting for Schools

Target Audience – Reception Teachers

and EY leads

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite 1:00pm – 4:00pm Wednesday 8th October 2025 Please click the link to book:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADL>

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### DfE Early years reference template

Early years employment reference template  
Employee reference template for use by early years providers.

From:

Department for Education

Applies to England

Documents

[Early years employment reference template](#)

This form will help early years providers give references for current and former employees. It includes questions about the person's role, safeguarding history, and suitability to work with children.

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### Keep in touch Session- with Gemma Oakes

Keep in Touch is a monthly drop-in session designed to provide a safe and supportive space for discussions with settings.

These sessions offer an opportunity to: · Receive guidance and advice · Be signposted to appropriate support services.

Keep in touch is an opportunity for early years Settings' Managers or Proprietors or other nominated staff to come along and discuss any emerging concerns/ queries with Gemma Oakes (Early Years Development Officer- EYQI Team) and/or one of the Partnership Co-ordinators to gain early advice and support or to be signposted. Our aim is to help you feel confident and well-equipped to support the children and families in your care as required by the EYFS, 2025- statutory guidance and Ofsted's inspection guidance.

3 settings each session – to book your place please click the link below:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FDUK>

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### Tales Toolkit

As advertised in the summer term, we had 20 licenses available for the Tales Toolkit. Most of these have now been taken and places booked.

If you have already confirmed that you are taking a place but have not yet heard from Tales Toolkit, please contact them directly at **info@talestoolkit.com** to ensure your access is set up.

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### Early Talk Boost Training –Expression of Interest

Last summer term, our team collaborated with the Speech and Language Therapy team in St Helens to deliver Early Talk Boost training. Following positive feedback and discussions around the usefulness of the intervention and access to resources, we are looking to bring this training back.

We are aware that some schools already have the Early Talk Boost resources but only require the training. If you are interested in attending the next round of training, please email [EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk) to express your interest.

If you are a childminder and would be able to attend a couple of evening sessions, please let us know – we are considering offering online evening training specifically for childminders.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support!

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## Drawing Club

If you are **new to Drawing Club** or have **misplaced your links to the resources**, please get in touch with us at [EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk) and we'll be happy to support you.

### What is Drawing Club?

#### Drawing Club (Volume 1)

- Created by **Greg Bottrill**, a former Early Years Lead and Assistant Headteacher.
- Designed to **immerse children in storytelling** using picture books, tales, and animations.
- Focuses on:
  - **Fine motor skills**
  - **Vocabulary development**
  - **Imaginative thinking**
  - **Early writing**
- Ideal for **Reception and Year 1**, but adaptable for **Nursery** and **KS2 interventions**.
- Encourages teachers to **step away from rigid schemes** and instead embrace creativity and child-led exploration.
- Includes a "**magic button**" concept where children activate their drawings to spark imaginative adventures.
- Comes with **resources and pop-up training events**.
- More info: [Drawing Club on Can I Go And Play Now..?](#)

#### ✨ Drawing Club Volume 2

- A **follow-up** to the original Drawing Club, offering **new stories, ideas, and resources**.
- Continues the same ethos of **joyful, story-based learning**.
- Available through Greg's official site:  
[Drawing Club Volume 2](#)
- Ideal for educators who have already used Volume 1 and want to **expand their toolkit** with fresh content.

ST HELENS EARLY YEARS  
SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATHWAY



**LISTEN & TALK**

[St Helens Family Information Directory | The  
Early Years Speech & Language Pathway](#)

## **World Mental Health Day 2025**

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on 10 October.

Poor mental health is not inevitable, and World Mental Health Day is an opportunity for us all to talk about mental health and consider how, together, we can help everyone have better mental health.

This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is access to services - mental health in catastrophes and emergencies. The theme highlights the importance of people being able to protect their mental health whatever they're going through, because everyone deserves good mental health.

**See the attached spotlight document to use and share with your setting.**

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## **Education and Learning Weekly newsletter from St Helens Education and Learning Department**

Click on the link to view this weeks newsletter-

### **Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter**

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**PVI MS Teams Forum for private nurseries and childminders:** [Here](#)

**Schools MS Teams Forum:** [Here](#)

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