



EYQI Updates

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

Week beginning 12.01.2026



Upcoming training announcements

New to EYFS- Starting Strong in Reception

An online event for all new to teaching in Reception class, .
An opportunity to ask questions, share practice, share ideas and problem solve by connecting with fellow educators

Monday 19th January 2026 4:00 – 5:00pm
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Portage Workshop

The Portage Workshop is an introduction to the Portage Approach to working with children with additional needs and their families. The workshop is suitable for anyone interested in finding out more about the Portage model, including early years practitioners, therapists and parents.

STAFF MUST ATTEND ALL 3 SESSIONS:

Session 1: Tuesday 20th January 2026
Session 2: Tuesday 27th January 2026
Session 3: Tuesday 3rd February 2026
9:30am – 4:00pm

The Bridge training room. Chester Lane Library WA9 4DE

Keep in Touch

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) 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, 2024- statutory guidance and Ofsted's inspection guidance.

30 minute slots

Tuesday 20th January 2026 (2:00 – 4:00pm)
Wednesday 25th February 2026 (10:00 -12:00pm)
Friday 20th March 2026 (10:00 -12:00pm)

To book your place please click the link below:

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

Baby Quality Improvement Network for childminders

These sessions are designed for childminders who care for babies and want to strengthen their professional practice while connecting with others in the sector. Key Details: Three-Part Training – Attendance at all sessions is required to complete the programme. Practical Tools – We'll be working through an audit book during the training, and every childminder who completes all sessions will receive their own copy to use in their setting. Collaborative Learning – Share ideas, gain fresh insights, and build confidence in delivering high-quality care for babies.

ALL 3 SESSIONS MUST BE ATTENDED TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING

6:30pm – 8:30pm
Session 1- Wednesday 21st January 2026
Session 2- Wednesday 25th February 2026
Session 3- Wednesday 18th March 2026

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Curriculum and teaching - Workshop.

Understanding Ofsted's Early Years inspection toolkit (Group-based providers) In preparation, please read and reflect on the Curriculum and teaching section of the Early Years Inspection Toolkit, pages 16-21. High-Quality Curriculum What does an ambitious, high-quality curriculum look like in an early years setting? How do we ensure that all children, regardless of background, have access to this curriculum?

Planning and Sequencing How can we design and implement educational programmes that follow the EYFS statutory framework? What strategies help create a coherent and sequential curriculum that builds on what children already know and can do? Meeting Diverse Needs How do we adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of: Disadvantaged children? Children with SEND? Children known to social care or facing barriers to learning and well-being? What practical examples or approaches have worked well in your setting?

Two sessions available on the day, (this is a repetition of the same session)

Thursday 22nd January 2026

10:15 – 11:15am and 1:15 – 2:15pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Improving practice and elevating environments through ECERS- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale.

AGES 3-5 Join us for 2 sessions of ECERS training, designed to support enriching and developing learning, interactions and environments for children aged 3-5. These practical sessions will teach you how to use these tools to evaluate and improve outcomes for your children and have a positive impact on the staff in your teams.

Book included.

BOTH SESSIONS MUST BE ATTENDED TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING

9:30am – 12:00 noon

Session 1- Wednesday 28th January 2026

Session 2- Wednesday 4th March 2026

Board Room, Forster House, Waterside, St Helens WA9 1UB

A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

The Children's Commissioner for England has released a guide for parents and carers to help manage children's digital lives. It covers common online challenges, promotes open conversations, and offers boundary-setting support, including a checklist and an activity pack for children.

['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives.](#)

Professional Workshop on Writing Preparation for Adulthood Outcomes in EHCPs

We are pleased to invite you to a focused and practical workshop designed for professionals involved in developing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). This session will explore how to write meaningful, person-centred outcomes that support young people's transition into adulthood.

Date: Thursday 5th March 2026

Time: 09:30 am- 12:30

Venue: Ruskin Drive

Workshop Focus: This interactive session will equip you with the tools and confidence to write effective EHCP outcomes aligned with the four key areas of Preparation for Adulthood:

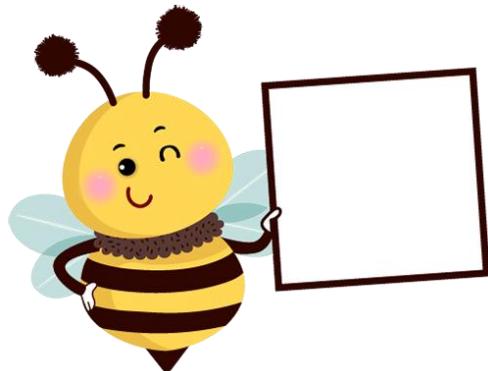
- Employment: Supporting aspirations for work, training, and volunteering
- Independent Living: Planning for housing, budgeting, and daily living skills
- Community Inclusion: Encouraging participation in society and building relationships
- Health: Promoting physical and emotional wellbeing into adult life

What You'll Gain:

- Practical guidance on outcome writing
- Real-world examples and case studies
- Opportunities to collaborate and share best practice
- Resources to support your ongoing work

Book your slot:

Please find below the booking link and the QR code for this event <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FPSX>



Talk PANTS impact survey Jan 2026

All Early Years providers and professionals play a vital role in helping children build the foundations of confidence, safety, and body autonomy — and you have showed an enthusiastic commitment to this cause.

Thank you!

We're inviting you to complete a 5 minute questionnaire exploring the impact of the NSPCC's Talk PANTS campaign in St Helens.

By sharing your experience, you'll help us understand what worked well and where further support may be needed.

Your voice will directly ensure Talk PANTS continues to make a meaningful difference.

Your contribution genuinely matters to us and the NSPCC who will see our results.

[Talk PANTS impact January 2026 – Fill in form](#)

It would be great if you can submit your response by FRIDAY 23rd Jan 2026.

Thank you to those who have already sent in their responses.

Average time taken 5 mins 43 seconds to complete

[HENRY Programme](#)

Free HENRY parenting programme starting on 27/1/26 at Grange Valley Learning Hub. 1-2.45pm, Wednesday's for 8 weeks. Creche available. Please could you share the flyer on your communication platform with your parents/carers with link to Eventbrite to book a place.



Education and Learning Newsletter

This week's newsletter-
[Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter](#)

Reminder: administer the reception baseline assessment to new pupils

Schools must register all pupils for the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within their first 6 weeks of starting reception. This includes any pupils who start school later in the academic year and have not already completed the assessment.

To register and complete the assessment with new pupils, please access the 'Assessment service: manage your school's assessments' and 'Assessment service: start an assessment' using [DfE Sign-in](#).

All staff involved in the administration of the RBA must keep any materials used secure and assessment content confidential at all times. Schools should continue to store the toy bears securely for reuse with future reception cohorts.

For more information:

watch our video on [managing pupils and administering assessments](#)

refer to our full [collection of RBA guidance](#)

Please also tell us about your experience of using the RBA services by completing our [RBA feedback survey](#).

EY HUB Network 11th FEB

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 11th February 2026

Meeting for Schools

Target Audience – Reception Teachers and EY leads

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Both sessions will include:

Manual Handling in Early Years training

Looking at bone development in young children.

Correct support techniques for the handling of young children.

When and how to support or develop independence in the handling of young children.

Possible injuries that could occur if incorrect techniques are used during the handling of young children.

When is a specific plan is needed to enable the safe handling of children with specific needs.

**All participants at the EY Hub network will receive a certificate for
Manual Handling Training**

Please click the link to book: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADL>

✿ LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE! ✿

FREE opportunity for Early Years settings in St Helens

We are excited to offer a limited number of places for settings in **St Helens** to access **Tales Toolkit**, an engaging storytelling resource that supports language, creativity and problem-solving through child-led story making.

If your nursery, preschool or childminding setting would like to take part, **please register your interest as soon as possible**. Places are extremely limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Register your interest ASAP

Don't miss the chance to bring high-quality, playful storytelling into your setting and boost children's communication and early literacy skills.

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch directly.

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

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