



EYQI Updates

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

Week beginning 19.1.2026



Upcoming training announcements

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

⌚ Time: **9:30am – 12:00 noon**

📅 Date: **Session 1- Wednesday 28th January 2026**

📅 Date: **Session 2- Wednesday 4th March 2026**

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

Safeguarding Awareness for Practitioners Working in Early Years Settings and Childminders Safeguarding Awareness course aims to help learners understand their responsibilities for safeguarding children. It explains how to recognise and respond to abuse, how

to respond to a disclosure, and how to act upon concerns about the safety and welfare of children and young people, according to Statutory guidance EYFS 2025.

 Date: **Wednesday 28th January 2026**

 Time: **6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

Toddler Quality Toolkit for Childminders

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.

 Date: **Session 1 – Thursday 29th January 2026**

Session 2 – Thursday 19th February 2026

Session 3 – Thursday 5th March 2026

 Time: **6:30 – 8:00pm**

Achievement – 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 26-28. High-Quality Education and Readiness What does it mean for a setting to provide a high-quality education that prepares children for the next stage, including school? How do we ensure that all children—especially disadvantaged children, those with SEND, and those facing barriers—gain the necessary knowledge and skills for future success? Progress Across the EYFS Areas How do we measure and support children’s progress from their starting points across the 7 areas of learning and development? What strategies help children to “know more, remember more, and do more” in practice? Equity and Inclusion What approaches can we use to close gaps for children who are disadvantaged or have additional needs? How do we balance ambition with accessibility for every child?

 Date: **5th February 2026**

 Time: **10:15 – 11:15am and 1:15 – 2:15pm**

(This is a repetition of the same session only one session needs to be attended)

Baby Quality Inclusion Network

These sessions are designed for early years practitioners working with babies who want to strengthen their practice and share ideas with colleagues across the sector. What to expect: Three-Part Programme – Attendance at all sessions is essential to complete the training. Practical Resources – We will use an audit book throughout the sessions, and every setting that completes the programme will receive a copy to support ongoing quality improvement. Collaborative Learning – Gain fresh insights, exchange best practice, and build confidence in delivering exceptional care for babies.

 Date: **Session 1: Friday 6th February 2026 Session 2: Friday 20th February Session 3: Friday 6th March 2026 (All 3 sessions must be attended)**

⌚ Time: **9:30am – 12:00pm**

📍 Location: **Sutton Family Hub**

To book onto any of the above training sessions please go to [Training - St Helens Borough Council](#) and access the Spring term training booklet.

National Year of Reading

National Year of Reading Library Service Offer from Carole Leyland. Outreach Officer

I am part of the St Helens Libraries outreach team, we are so excited to be promoting this year as The National Year of Reading, and we want to go all in promoting the joy of reading in St Helens nursery settings.

As part of the year, we would love to hold a Read and Rhyme session in your nursery.

If you are interested, I would love to hear from you, if you have any special events coming up

Hope to hear from you soon and the promotion runs throughout the year

Thank you in anticipation

Community Hub South St Helens

Chester Lane Library

Tel 01744 677081

Community Hub North St Helens

Moss Bank Library

Tel 01744 676988

Oral Health Awareness

Hi All,

We have a number of requests for further oral health training. To make it as accessible as possible the training will take place on the **18th of February 2025, at 9:30am, online**, please see below for further details.

The Wellbeing Service have been commissioned to deliver increased support around oral health in St Helens, this includes:

- a training offer,

- working closely with identified settings in areas of most need
- and also providing oral health resources for St Helens children

Why is better oral health important?

Tooth decay is the most common reason for hospital admission in children aged six to 10, and children living in the most deprived communities are around 3.5 times more likely to have teeth extracted than those in the most affluent areas. On average 3 days of school are missed per year due to dental problems, which also can have significant impact on earning potential. Oral health and healthy teeth influence being able to eat a healthy diet to aid growth, speech development, and is key to social development and learning. Early habits of good oral hygiene need to be established to prevent these problems.

In St Helens, more than a third of our children aged 5 have visual tooth decay. The percentage of 5-year-olds with any experience of tooth decay is worse than the England average.

Training Offer

There have been training dates identified for all professionals and volunteers working directly with families. For those attending the training there will oral health packs available for families they are working with. The packs will include an easy read leaflet on caring for your child's teeth, tooth paste and toothbrush.

Please see below link to book on the training:

[Oral Health Awareness Training 18.02.26 - Online Tickets, Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

National Year of Reading schools and early years resources and toolkit

Your National Year of Reading toolkit

This comprehensive National Year of Reading Toolkit is designed to equip teachers and practitioners with key dates, information and assets that will help you inspire your pupils and implement plans to boost reading engagement effectively. Access the toolkit from the *download files* list on this page.

What the toolkit includes:

- Research digest: a deep dive on the research that's shaped the campaign.
- Reflection guides: phase-specific guides will help you begin your journey of reflection and growth.
- Brand toolkit: fun digital and printable asset to show your involvement.

- A briefing presentation: to help you introduce the National Year of Reading to your colleagues.
- Additional guidance: practical tools to support implementation.

[Schools And Early Years Settings Offer Toolkit & Resources | National Year Of Reading | National Literacy Trust](#)

[01. Supporting reading in the early years - FINAL.pdf](#)

New Ofsted report cards and grades video explainer for parents

We have heard from leaders that they would like support explaining our new grades and report cards to their parents. Our new [YouTube video](#) explainer has more information on exactly what Ofsted's new grades mean, including how we report on safeguarding. Early years settings may find this helpful when explaining their grades and report cards to parents

Watch the video here = <https://edua-zcmp.maillist-manage.eu/click/195f6ae4eae570b/195f6ae4eac86e0>

Webinar: How the National Education Nature Park works for Early Years



Do you work with children in their early years? Join us to find out how the Nature Park programme can support you with your everyday teaching and learning.

You'll learn what the National Education Nature Park is, how it's been tailored for early years settings and to meet early learning goals, and how to get started in your setting. In the meantime, check out the [guide to the Nature Park for early years](#)

Wednesday 4 February, 12.30-13.00

[Register here](#)

Education and Learning newsletter

[Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter](#)

EY HUB Network 11th February 2026

Network 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.

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

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