



# EYQI Updates

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



**Week beginning**

**20.4.26**

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**Our Summer training booklet is now available on our website- [Early Years Hub - Information for Childcare Providers - St Helens Borough Council](#)**

## Upcoming training announcements

Early Years Chefs Network A practical and supportive session for early years chefs to share ideas, recipes, and good practice.

The network offers a space to discuss menu planning, nutrition, allergies, and mealtime approaches, while learning from peers and local experts. Ideal for anyone preparing food in early years settings who wants fresh ideas, shared solutions, and professional connection.

**Wednesday 6th May 2026**

**2:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

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.

**Wednesday 20th May 2026**

**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Via Microsoft teams**

For all training, click onto this Try Booking link to book your individual training sessions:

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

2. Any problems, please contact us at eyhub@sthelens.gov.u

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## [Next Steps Conference](#)

The Next Steps Conference is coming soon—please see the attached flyer for full details. Please note that the conference will be held at the new location of The Bridge Centre on Chester Lane. To arrange the timing of your visit, kindly contact The Bridge Centre directly to book.

Please see flyer attached for date and time

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## [Cradle to Career- Parr](#)

The Parr Cradle to Career Family Funday is a community event designed to bring together families and local services in one place, helping people understand what support, activities and opportunities are available to them locally.

As funded Cradle to Career partners, we all want to ensure that families (and the services supporting them) have a clear understanding of what is available to those living in Parr.

To support this and strengthen collaboration, the multi-agency team based in Parr is hosting a Family Funday at Parr Children's Centre.

We would love for you to be involved. If you're able to attend, it would be great if you could bring along relevant information about your service for families and professionals to take away.

Where possible, we also encourage you to offer taster sessions to showcase activities or support available for children and young people.

This is a fantastic opportunity to highlight your offer and connect with families and partners.

To book a stall, please email Ann Marie or Lorna Heesome

[lorna.heesome@homestartsthelens.org.uk](mailto:lorna.heesome@homestartsthelens.org.uk)

[annmarie.houghton@homestartsthelens.org.uk](mailto:annmarie.houghton@homestartsthelens.org.uk)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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## [ShREC Approach](#)

A conversation with Emilia: How I use the ShREC approach with a child who is non-verbal

Emilia is three years old and communicates by using sounds and gestures. She loves to climb in the garden and enjoys back and forth interactions with an adult. Emilia's play usually involves repetitive movements or actions.

Here is a conversation that Emilia and I had during a happy time in the garden. Throughout, I am guided by the [ShREC approach](#) and indicate which strategy I am using, and why.

Full article here:

[A conversation with Emilia: How I use the ShREC approach with a child who is non-verbal | Stronger Practice Hubs](#)

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## [Further advice on safer sleep from the Department for Education](#)

[This guidance](#), created in collaboration with the Lullaby Trust, provides advice to help early years providers create and maintain safer sleep environments for babies and young children in their care.

It includes information on:

Providing an appropriate sleep space for babies and children

Safe use of cots, mattresses, bedding and sleep bags

Supervising children while they are sleeping

What to do when babies and children fall asleep whilst travelling, managing their temperature, positioning and use of comforters.

The Department for Education has also published answers to [frequently asked questions](#) to help early years providers prepare for planned updates on safer sleep to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, expected to come into effect from September 2026.

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## [Nuffield Early Learning Intervention programme](#)

We're pleased that the [Nuffield Early Learning Intervention \(NELI\) programme](#) continues to be free for all state-funded schools to support reception-aged children who need extra help with their speech and language development. With funding for the programme confirmed until AY28/29, subject to further spending rounds, we encourage schools to build this programme into their future school improvement plans.

NELI is delivered over a 20-week period to build children's vocabulary, listening and storytelling skills through targeted small group and individual sessions and has been shown to make significant impact with those taking part making 4 months of additional progress on average, in oral language skills. This increases to 7 months for children on free school meals.

For further information and how to register visit <https://www.teachneli.org/>.

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## [Starting Reception](#)

Starting school is an exciting milestone. To help make the transition into Reception as smooth and positive as possible we encourage you to share the following resources from Starting Reception with parents and carers:

[Starting Reception website](#)

[Starting Reception Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Starting Reception is a free, practical online resource designed to support parents and carers in preparing their child for school. It offers simple activities, helpful advice and clear guidance on the key skills and routines that help children feel confident and ready for their first day.

Starting Reception have also provided guides for Potty Training and Children's Toothbrushing. Children being able to use the toilet independently and having healthy routines such as brushing their teeth is an important part of getting ready for starting school.

[Potty Training Guide website](#)

[Potty Training Guide \(Downloadable PDF\)](#)

[Children's Toothbrushing Guide website](#)

Resources and tools | EEF [Children's Toothbrushing Guide \(Downloadable PDF\)](#)

## [New Early Years Pupil Premium Planning Tool helps you plan your spending](#)

With the uplift of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) earlier this month, how can you make the most of this funding?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) have published a new four-step planning tool to help you make the best spending choices.

This planning tool introduces key findings from high-quality research to help you reduce the learning gap between children from lower-income backgrounds and others.

It will help you prioritise, plan, and reflect on what's working so you see the maximum impact from EYPP funds.

View and download the tool on the EEF website: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/pupil-premium/resources-tools>

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## [New QR codes for Ofsted inspection](#)

New QR code badges have been created for every school, college, training provider and early years setting, which link directly to their individual page on the Ofsted reports website. The Ofsted-branded badges can be displayed anywhere the provider wishes to promote their inspection outcomes, offering instant access to their full report.

[Ofsted launches new QR code badges for promoting inspection findings - GOV.UK](#)

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## [Preparing for school](#)

Starting school is an exciting milestone – for your child and for you. Find out how everyday moments at home can help your child feel confident and prepared, whatever stage they're at.

[Preparing for school - Best Start in Life](#)

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## [Help improve the 'Check an early years qualification' online service](#)

We are reaching out from the Department for Education (DfE) to ask for your support in sharing a survey with your early years contacts.

We are looking for early years professionals to give feedback on the ['Check an early years qualification' online service](#). Their insight will help us improve it.

### **What we need from you:**

- forward the [Survey Link](#) below to any relevant contacts,
  - if you have used the online service yourself, you are welcome to complete the survey too.
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If you have any questions, please contact the team at [research.early-years-quals@education.gov.uk](mailto:research.early-years-quals@education.gov.uk)

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## [Could NELI make a difference in your primary school?](#)

If you have children in Reception who are struggling with speech and language, there's a free programme that could make a real difference.

The Nuffield Early Learning Intervention (NELI) runs over 20 weeks, using targeted small group and individual sessions to build children's vocabulary, listening and storytelling skills. The results are impressive; independent evaluation has shown, on average, children make four months' additional progress in oral language skills. For pupils eligible for free school meals, that figure rises to seven months.

The good news is that funding has been confirmed until the 2028/29 academic year (subject to further spending rounds), giving you the confidence to plan ahead and embed NELI into your longer-term school improvement plans.

For further information and how to register visit <https://www.teachneli.org/>

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## [Education and Learning 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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