



EYQI Updates

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



Week beginning

18.05.2026

Upcoming training announcements

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 10th June 2026

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 10th June 2026

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

Network Meetings for Childminders

6:30pm – 8:00pm via Microsoft Teams 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday 17th June 2026

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

GREG BOTRILL – Drawing Club

9:00am – 12:30pm

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

We are delighted to announce that we have managed secure the wonderful GREG BOTRILL to come and deliver sessions to all St. Helens schools and Nurseries.

This has been made possible via DfE funding to improve Communication, Language and Literacy skills across the Early Years. We would therefore like to invite you to take up one FULLY FUNDED place on the following training - 4 Reception - Drawing Club - The progress children can make through Drawing Club across all areas of the curriculum is exceptional. Developed with Early Years principles in mind, Drawing Club is a fantastic place to start a child's experience of school 'Literacy'.

Supporting Children with Emotional Wellbeing

The sessions aim to offer practical advice around supporting children in the Early Years settings as well as supporting strategies in the home.

Tuesday 9th June 2026

9:30am – 12:00pm

For all training, click onto this Try Booking link to book your individual training sessions: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FDJU>

UPDATED Working Together for 2026

Unborn children included for the first time

The new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, which came into force in March 2026, includes dedicated guidance on supporting babies and unborn children for the first time.

Paragraphs 205 to 208 set out that while the legal position remains that rights begin at birth, practitioners should recognise the vulnerabilities of unborn children and the

importance of early, proactive assessment and planning. The guidance is explicit that practitioners should identify pre-birth risk factors early, undertake timely pre-birth assessments, and plan collaboratively across agencies before birth.

Working Together 2026 also now lists unborn children explicitly among those who may benefit from early help. Pre-birth support is referenced as appropriate where risk factors are known, and local protocols are expected to reflect the specific needs of unborn children where concerns exist. Where there are concerns that an unborn child is likely to suffer significant harm upon birth, practitioners should ensure prompt action under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, and consideration should be given to holding an initial child protection conference before the child is born.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

[Best Start in Life](#) [Steps for School campaign toolkit](#)

This toolkit helps Best Start in Life partners share the Steps for School social media campaign, with content designed to reach families across England whose children will be starting Reception. We know that preparing for school is a journey, and small everyday moments at home can help children build confidence, communication and independence over time. Here you'll find key messages, suggested framing, and ready-to-use content to support consistent, positive conversations across social media channels.

[BSiL campaign communications toolkit - Best Start in Life](#)

[Adult Learning St Helens](#)

We are currently recruiting for our **Level 2 Supporting Teaching and Learning** course, starting this September, and would really value your support in sharing this opportunity with individuals in our community.

This course is designed for adults aged 19+ who are interested in working in schools, particularly those who may be:

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- looking to move into employment
 - returning to learning
 - building confidence and new skills
 - interested in supporting children to learn and succeed
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It provides a recognised qualification, practical skills, and a pathway into roles such as Teaching Assistant or Learning Support Assistant

How you can support

We would be grateful if you could help promote the course by:

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- Sharing information with clients or service users
 - Displaying a flyer in your setting
 - Posting on social media or community noticeboard
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Many of our residents face barriers such as low confidence, gaps in employment, or limited qualifications. This course offers a **first step into education or work**, helping people build confidence and move towards sustainable employment.

Information Session

We are running an information session in July where potential learners can find out more and ask questions:

 6 July 2026

 10 am

 The Park Road Centre | St Helens | WA9 1HE

I have attached some further information but please don't hesitate to contact me or Teresa Slee (teresaslee@sthelens.gov.uk) if you would like to know more, or if you would like to make a referral.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create opportunities for local people and strengthen our communities.

[New guidance to strengthen transition practice getting children ready for reception](#)

The Department for Education has published [new reception transition guidance](#) to support children starting school and strengthen transition practice across early years and primary settings.

With September reception cohorts now confirmed, this is a key time for schools and early years educators to plan and deliver effective reception transition activities. The guidance sets out practical approaches to working in partnership with families, nurseries, childminders and schools.

It supports early identification of children's needs and promotes high quality transition activities which will help children feel confident and ready to learn from the start of reception.

Schools, trusts and early years settings are encouraged to use this resource now to review and strengthen their transition arrangements, ensuring more children have a strong start in reception.

This guidance complements existing early years support and strengthens practice across the system.

Help families feel ready for September – MC Grammar's new '[Steps for School](#)' song is here to make preparing fun. Little steps at home make a big difference. Visit the Best Start in Life website to find out more: [Preparing for school - Best Start in Life](#)

DfE announces 9,500 fully funded Early Years SENCO training places from April 2026

As part of the government's Best Start in Life strategy, to break down barriers to opportunity and improve early identification and support for children with SEND, the Department for Education is very pleased to announce that Best Practice Network (BPN) has been selected as our delivery partner to provide an additional 9,500 Early Years SENCO training places from April 2026 until March 2028.

Training is available across England and is open to Early Years educators currently working as, or due to start working as, a Special Educational Needs Coordinator in their setting.

Early Education Minister Olivia Bailey MP said:

“Early years staff are vital to delivering high-quality support for children and making sure every child, especially those with additional needs, gets the best start in life.

That’s why we’re training 9,500 Early Years SENCOs, backing the sector with the expertise needed to identify SEND early and support children to thrive.

Best Practice Network has a strong track record of delivery, and this next phase will help us reach more settings across the country – particularly in the communities that need it most – so every child can get on and succeed.”

The first cohort of trainees commenced in April 2026 and recruitment is open for future cohorts now. For further information, including eligibility and to complete your application, please see [Early Years SENCO - Level 3 | Best Practice Network](#).

**Within our nurseries, one question comes up time and again:
how can we use Early Years Pupil Premium funding in a way
that genuinely closes learning gaps?**

Maybe you’re also grappling with the same question?

“After reflection, we realised the power of the Early Years Pupil Premium lies not in what we buy, but in what we do.”

In this blog for the Education Endowment Foundation, Nicola Cherry shares her experience of taking the time to reflect on what works and how it helped her settings make the most of their funding and

resources: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/strategy-when-using-the-early-years-pupil-premium>

St Helens Transition to Reception Class

As you prepare children for their transition to Reception, it is vital to build strong communication with the receiving schools. Liaising closely with Reception staff helps

ensure continuity in learning, care, and expectations for each child. Where possible, we encourage you not only to invite school staff into your setting, but also to ask whether you can attend school open days or arrange a visit yourselves—seeing the environment first-hand can greatly support your understanding of the routines, provision, and expectations your children will experience.

The Transition document attached to this newsletter is promoted across the council, and we strongly encourage all settings to use it consistently. Adopting this unified format will significantly improve the quality of information shared, strengthen data collection, and support more effective planning for children on entry to Reception. A shared approach across the council also supports more accurate baselining and enables earlier identification of needs, ultimately leading to more timely and targeted interventions.

[Education learning Newsletter](#)

[Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter](#)

[Support your practice with free Early Years Child Development training](#)

The Department for Education's [Early years child development training](#) is a **free, online** programme designed by early years experts to support practitioners working with **children from birth to reception**.

This flexible online training will help you to:

- Build and strengthen your child development knowledge
- Get practical advice and ideas to support children in your setting, including reception classes
 - Reflect on your practice and test your knowledge
- Learn from practical training videos filmed in early years and reception settings
 - Access modules in any order, at any time
- Download a certificate on completion of each module

The programme includes [8 modules](#), covering key areas such as:

- Brain development and how children learn
 - Personal, social and emotional development
 - Communication and language
 - Physical development
 - Mathematics
 - Effective curriculum and assessment
 - Supporting individual differences and needs
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The training has recently been updated to include:

- Additional videos and practical advice for supporting children in reception
 - Guidance on supporting the EYFS profile assessment
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 **Access the training:**

Visit the [Early years child development training](#) to register or sign-in if you already have an account.

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

Schools MS Teams Forum: [Here](#)

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