



EYQI Updates



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



Week beginning

31.8.26

As we reflect on the summer months, we hope that our children, families and colleagues have enjoyed opportunities to rest, recharge and connect.

We also want to recognise and thank all the dedicated practitioners who have supported children and families throughout the summer, providing consistency, care and continuing to deliver enriching learning experiences.

As we begin a new academic year, we look forward with optimism and excitement, ready to embrace new opportunities, nurture positive relationships, and work together to ensure every child has the very best start to the academic year ahead in St Helens.

EY Stronger Practice Hub fully funded, bespoke support for

Communication and Language

Group-based, school-based, PVI early years settings and childminders are all able to apply for support. This support is provided for one term only, up to a maximum of 3 days. In exceptional circumstances, this support may be extended. Settings will receive support in one area of learning at a time. (communication and language in this case)

Bespoke support is most likely to benefit settings/childminders that:

- have identified a specific area of practice they would like to strengthen
- are able to commit leadership and staff time to engage with coaching and reflection
- are seeking support that goes beyond attendance at training or CPD
- are willing to test and embed changes in practice over time

Please complete the Expression of Interest form below by Friday 2nd October 2026.

The support will begin around the middle of October. If you are successful in your application, we will contact you with further information. If the EYSPH is unable to provide support to your setting this term, your application will be retained and considered for future terms.

Early Years Learning Leads (EYLL) programme Application for bespoke support –

[Early Years Learning Leads \(EYLL\) programme Application for bespoke support](#)

Please contact Liverpool City Region Early Years Stronger Practice Hub on SpHubNW@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk if you have any further questions regarding the Early Years Learning Leads offer.

Upcoming training announcements

You should have received a separate email with the EYHUB training booklet, if you haven't received just yet it is attached to the email or you can find it on our website [Training - St Helens Borough Council](#)

Council for Disabled Children Webinar: The Essential Guide to Disability Duties in Early Years

Discover the legal obligations and practical strategies that support every child's right to an inclusive education.

There are separate training sessions for parents/carers and practitioners. Please ensure that you sign up for the correct one.

The training session will:

1. Summarise how the disability duties in the Equality Act apply in the early years
2. Consider how the definition of disability applies to young children
3. Help parents/carers understand what is expected of early years practitioners to make reasonable adjustments for early years children in accordance with the Equality Act
4. Support early years practitioners to understand how the Equality Act applies to their daily practice.

- Parents and carers sessions can be found [here](#).
- Practitioner sessions can be found [here](#).

Contact

A Range of Learning Opportunities for Parent / Carers and Practitioners

'Contact' has a range of free upcoming workshops running through to October, offering practical information and support for parent carers and practitioners working with children who have disabilities and / or additional needs, aged 0–5.

Please share the sessions below with families and colleagues who may find them useful. Some of the workshops are aimed at parent / carers and some at practitioners, so make sure you book the right one.

- [Building Positive Relationships with Parent Carers in Early Years \(Practitioners – 16/9/26\)](#)
- [Supporting Your Child's Speech, Language and Communication Skills \(0–5\) \(Parent / Carers – 16/9/26\)](#)
 - [Early Years Educational Support for Children with SEND \(Parent / Carers – 17/9/26\)](#)
 - [Understanding Your Child's Sensory Differences \(Parent / Carers – 22/9/26\)](#)
- [Supporting Your Child's Speech, Language and Communication Skills \(0-5\) \(Parent / Carers – 1/10/26\)](#)
 - [Supporting your Child's Social Communication Skills \(Parent / Carers – 6/10/26\)](#)
- [Building Positive Relationships with Parent / Carers in Early Years \(Practitioners – 7/10/26\)](#)
 - [Understanding and Managing Anxiety \(0–5\) \(Parent / Carers – 8/10/26\)](#)

Family Hub Navigators

Family Hub Navigators are here to support children and families in your setting. Our Navigators can visit schools and nurseries to offer a wide range of support, helping families to overcome challenges and promoting children's school readiness and progress towards achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD). Support available includes advice around sleep, toileting and parenting, assistance with referrals to other services, and tailored one-to-one support for families who may need additional help.

They are also happy to attend parents' evenings, settling-in sessions, and can arrange bespoke support sessions within your setting to meet the needs of your children and families. By working together, we can ensure families receive the right support at the right time.

Our Family Hub Navigators will be reaching out to your setting soon to introduce themselves and discuss how they can support your families. However, if you would like to arrange a visit or find out more in the meantime, please contact Eamonn O'Donnell at eamonn.odonnell@sthelens.gov.uk.

We would be delighted to discuss how we can work together to support your children and families

NHS Hand washing Poster

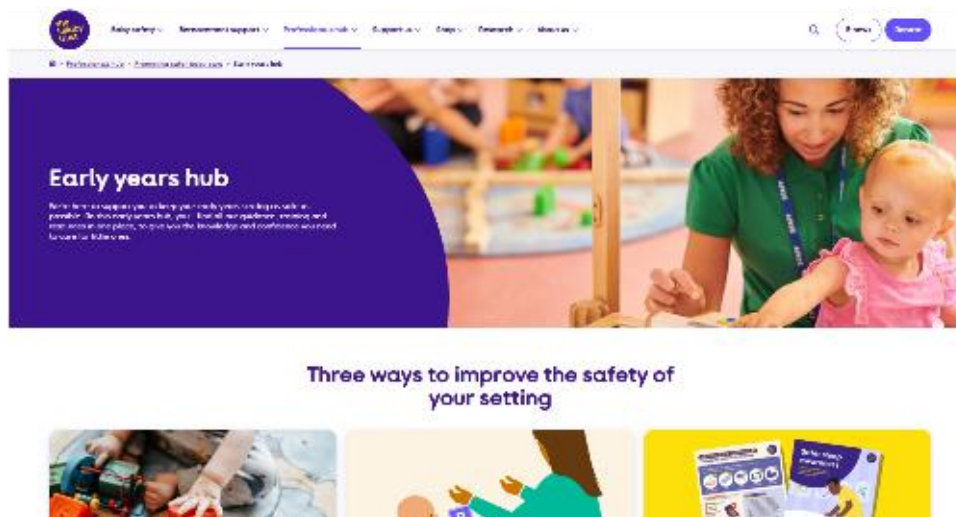


The Children's Hand Hygiene Poster is a child-friendly visual resource designed to encourage good handwashing habits. Using simple language and colourful imagery, it reminds children to wash their hands thoroughly to help remove germs and keep themselves and others healthy. The poster highlights key areas that are often missed during handwashing, including between fingers, under fingernails, thumbs and wrists, reinforcing the message that effective hand hygiene helps to “wash those bugs away” and reduce the spread of illness.

[ChildrensHandHygienePoster](#)

[The Lullaby Trust](#)

Brand new: Early years hub



As many of you are early years professionals, we want you to have the tools and knowledge you need to help keep babies and children safe.

That's why we've created a [brand new area on our website](#), especially for early years professionals. Here you can find tailored guidance and training. We've also created resources to download or purchase, including a full early years guide, a handy poster for your notice board or staff room, and an audit checklist to use regularly in your setting.

Every day, you work with care and dedication, often under pressure with limited resources. We hope this new [early years hub](#) will support you in your day-to-day work, guiding you on how to keep your settings as safe as possible. Please share with your networks.

[St Helens School Age Childcare Survey](#)

Please share our St Helens School Age Childcare Survey with the parents and carers attending your setting.

Their feedback will help us better understand local childcare needs and support future planning of school age childcare provision across the borough.

Please encourage families to complete the survey using the link below:
[School Age Childcare Sufficiency Survey for Parents and Carers – Fill in form](#)

See link for a poster to put up in your setting.

[St. Helens EYHUB Portal-EYQI - SAC Survey poster.pdf - All Documents](#)

New Childminder Groups

The Early Years Team is excited to introduce two new childminding groups, providing opportunities for children to socialise and play whilst childminders connect with colleagues and access informal support from the Early Years Team.

These sessions are designed to be relaxed, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone, giving children new experiences and childminders a valuable opportunity to network and share ideas

Haydock Library Sensory Room

Alternate Friday's 1:30pm - 2:30pm starting Friday 25th September 2026

This session may be particularly beneficial for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), providing opportunities to engage with sensory experiences in a safe, inclusive and supportive space. Whether children enjoy exploring sensory resources, watching the changing lights, sharing books or simply having a quieter place to relax, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Due to the small space, we are restricting bookings to two childminders per session.

If you would like to book on the group - email haydocklibrary@sthelens.gov.uk

Newton Le Willows Library and Children's Room

Alternate Thursdays 9:30am –11:00am starting Thursday 17TH September 2026

No need to book

Childminder Feedback Survey 2026



Fully Funded Mental Health First Aid Training

We are pleased to share an opportunity for staff working in Early Years settings and Foundation Stage teams to access Mental Health First Aider Training free of charge.

As part of our commitment to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of children, families, and staff, we strongly encourage all Early Years settings and every school with a Foundation Stage provision to consider nominating staff to attend.

This training comes at an exciting time as we work together to develop a borough-wide Early Years Emotional Health and Wellbeing Approach, based on the PERMA model recently introduced by the St Helens Educational Psychology Service. The PERMA framework focuses on:

- Positive Emotions
 - Engagement
 - Relationships
 - Meaning
- Accomplishment

By increasing our collective understanding of mental health and wellbeing, we can build a more consistent and proactive approach across the borough, ensuring that children, families and practitioners are supported to thrive.

Mental Health First Aider Training will equip participants with the knowledge and confidence to:

- Recognise the early signs of mental health difficulties.
- Provide initial support and guidance.
- Promote positive wellbeing within their setting.
- Signpost individuals to appropriate sources of support.

We hope as many settings and schools as possible will take advantage of this valuable opportunity and join us in shaping a shared vision for emotional wellbeing across St Helens.

If you would like to book a place or find out more information, please see the attached details

Places are limited, and an **Expression of Interest Form must be completed** and returned before bookings can be confirmed. The expression of interest form is sent as document attached to these updates.

We encourage you to register your interest as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Early Years SENCO training – fully funded training now available

As part of the government's Best Start in Life strategy, breaking down barriers to opportunity and improving early identification and support for children with SEND, the Department for Education is funding an additional 9,500 Early Years SENCO training places until March 2028.

You may be eligible for priority access if your setting is in a lower Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index ([IDACI](#)) area. These priority settings are typically allocated funded places faster.

While fully funded places are available to eligible applicants across all IDACI bands, we strongly encourage those in priority settings to apply as soon as possible to take advantage of this opportunity.

Recruitment is open now. For further information, including eligibility and to complete your application, please see [Early Years SENCO - Level 3 | Best Practice Network](#).

[Read more](#)

[Free DBS information sessions](#)

Are you making the most of the DBS Update Service? Our new guide explains how organisations can use status checks alongside wider safeguarding measures to **support informed recruitment and workforce decisions**.

Download our rapid read guide and discover:

- How the Update Service fits into safer recruitment and employment practices
- How frequently searches on the update service are carried out
- When and how to conduct a status check
- What to do when there has been a status change
- How to find further support

We've also updated the full [DBS Update Service guidance](#) on GOV.UK, providing clearer information on status checking, service limitations, and safer recruitment considerations.

To support the new guidance, **we are also holding 2 FREE information sessions** which can be booked via the below Eventbrite links:

- [Tuesday 15th September - 10am-11:30am](#) - Click to register
- [Thursday 15th October - 1pm-2pm](#) - Click to register

If you are unable to attend the sessions, **we will be holding information sessions as part of the DBS Annual Conference on 6th and 7th October 2026**. Information about how to book your FREE place will be sent out in early September.

Questions?

If you have any questions about these events, please email dbsregionaloutreach@dbs.gov.uk.

Please feel free to share this invitation with colleagues or networks who might benefit from attending.

We look forward to seeing you there and helping you strengthen your organisation's safeguarding practices.

Kind Regards,

DBS Regional Outreach Team

GOV.UK Reception Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a statutory assessment completed by children during their first six weeks in Reception. It provides a snapshot of each child's starting points when they begin primary school. It is carried out on a one-to-one basis, and focuses on early communication, language, literacy and mathematics skills through different activities. Children complete a series of activities on a tablet / screen. The assessment is not a test for children to pass or fail, and results are not shared with parents. It provides a starting point to measure the progress children make throughout primary school.

This web site shares key information, guidance and resources to support schools in administering the RBA, including assessment requirements, training materials, technical guidance and frequently asked questions.

The resources are designed to help school leaders and Reception teachers ensure the assessment is carried out consistently, fairly and in line with national requirements.

[Reception baseline assessment - GOV.UK](#)

Reception Baseline Assessment services

Schools need to access the 2 assessment services, using [DfE Sign-in](#), to administer the RBA:

- Assessment service: manage your school's assessments
- Assessment service: start an assessment

Contact us: If you have a question about the RBA and you can't find the answer in the guidance you can:

visit our [RBA help centre](#)
use our [virtual assistant](#)
[contact us](#) directly

Paying your annual fee: what you need to know

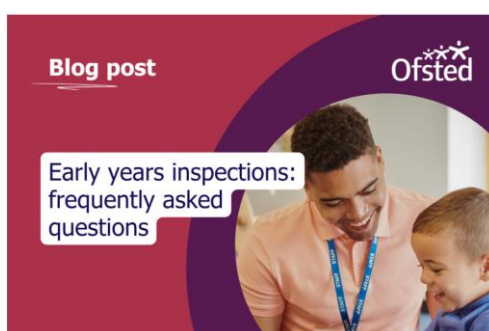
[Jayne Coward, Deputy Director for Early Years Regulatory Policy and Practice](#), 30 July 2026 -

[Early years](#), [Registration](#)

[Paying your annual fee: what you need to know – Ofsted: early years](#)

[CBeebies Champions](#)

Early years professionals can join free monthly [Champions Training sessions](#) to find out more about CBeebies Parenting and how you can use the information with families. Visit the [Professionals section](#) for resources to print and share, and [sign up](#) to the monthly newsletter for regular updates. If you want to contact the team directly for more information, please email CBeebiesparenting@bbc.co.uk



[Early years inspections: frequently asked questions – Ofsted: early years](#)

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

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