



# EYQI Updates



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



## Week beginning

5.1.26

**As we welcome 2026, it's an opportunity for us all to reaffirm our commitment not only to the learning and growth of the children in our care, but to the mental and emotional wellbeing of everyone—including ourselves**  
**Wishing you a happy and healthy 2026.**

## Upcoming training

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

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

## Drop-in Sessions - Funded Early Years Entitlements - Supporting you every step of the way

These informal sessions give you direct access to expert guidance and support, helping you feel confident and compliant in your delivery. We will offer online drop-in sessions via Microsoft Teams at key points during the term to provide help and support with any aspect of the entitlements. These sessions are an opportunity for Early Years Setting Managers, Proprietors, or other nominated staff to join and discuss any queries or concerns directly with Alison Naylor or a member of her team

Wednesday 11th February - 6.30 - 7.00pm

Friday 13th February – 10:00 - 10.30am

## Using Visuals in Early Years

This training has been produced and is delivered by the Specialist SEND Teacher and a Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist. The training can be used as an introduction to be using visuals with Early Years Children or a refresher. It is aimed for any practitioner supporting Early Years Children with a delay in their communication or children with social communication difficulties.

Tuesday 13th January

9.30am-11.30am

Virtual - Microsoft Teams

## Toddler Quality Toolkit

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. 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. Practitioners who complete the training will receive a copy of the Toddler Quality Book. One copy will be provided per school or setting.

Session 1- Friday 16th January 9:30 -12:00pm

Session 2- Friday 6th February 9:30 -12:00pm

Session 3- Friday 6th March 2026 9:30 -12:00pm

Venue: The Bridge training room.  
Chester Lane Library WA9 4DE

## New to EYFS- Starting Strong in Reception

A catch-up online event for all new to working in a Reception class.  
An opportunity to ask questions, share practice, ideas and problem solve by connecting with fellow educators

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

See more training opportunities later in the month / term here:

[Training - St Helens Borough Council](#)

## NSPCC Talk PANTS



## PANTOSAURUS needs your feedback!

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.

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

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

## Early Years Spring term activity. National Literacy Trust

### National Year of Reading 2026 is now live!



Reading in early years changes everything!

Hearing stories, songs and rhymes from infancy strengthens vital brain pathways, builds vocabulary and helps children develop the communication skills they rely on for life. These early literacy experiences lay the groundwork for future learning.

Sharing books and stories helps children make sense of emotions, explore new ideas and build secure relationships with the adults around them. When they are part of everyday life, children grow in confidence, become more curious and develop emotional resilience.

Get ready for the year ahead:

[Decide your level of involvement and sign up: Go All In or Dip In](#)

[Download our starter toolkit which includes a calendar and an all staff briefing presentation on the National Year of Reading](#)

[Sign up to our All-Phase Introduction Webinar on 15 Jan to kick start 2026](#)

**Let's make 2026 the year we put storytelling at the heart of early years learning and give every child the best start in life.**

[Get involved](#)

## Resources to help stories thrive in your setting

Whether you are an experienced practitioner or just starting out, you'll find inspirational ways to make books and stories part of your setting.



### Starter toolkit

Download our calendar and briefing presentation to ensure your early years setting is ready for the National Year of Reading in 2026.



### Introductory webinar

Attend our all-phase launch webinar for the National Year of Reading, featuring keynote speaker Professor Teresa Cremin.



### Early Years webinar

The first instalment in a series of termly professional development webinars focused on early years settings.

[Find out more](#)

[Find out more](#)

**St Helens Family Information Directory**

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## St Helens Family Information Service Online Directory

The **St Helens Family Directory** is available through the **St Helens Family Information Service Online Directory**, which helps parents and families find childcare, activities, and other services in St. Helens. You can access it through the official St Helens Council website. Additionally, the **St Helens Family Information Directory** provides a comprehensive list of family services in the area



## ADDvanced Solutions Community Network Spring 2026 Timetable

**In Case You Missed It: What's On Guide 2026**

What's On in Spring 2026 - ADDvanced Solutions Community Network

### Education and Learning Newsletter

#### Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter

From Sarah Platt, Acting Assistant Director,  
Education and Learning, St Helens Borough Council

### SEND Local Offer – Important Update

When updating your details in the new portal, please ensure you consider the  
**SEND Local Offer questions.**

This topic will be discussed at the **EYHUB** and during the **Early Years SENCO Network** meetings. This section will only become available to you once your webpage is approved. So, please amend that section with relevant information.

### Local Offer - Introduction for SENCOs

All settings, schools and childminders have been asked to upload their information to the new online directory [St Helens Family Information Directory | SEND Information Hub.](#)

This happens in two steps. You fill in basic information about your provision, then after you are classified as the educational setting and approved at the council level, you will be able to upload your SEND offer. I have attached a list of questions that will appear in your form to fill in.

As a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), your role is pivotal in ensuring that every child or young person receives the support they need to thrive.

The following questions have been designed to help you reflect honestly and comprehensively on your setting's current practice from the perspective of parent carers. They align with statutory requirements and best practice guidance for SEND provision.

It is an opportunity to share how effectively your setting identifies needs, provides tailored support, and engages families in the process. Parents and carers want clarity, transparency, and reassurance that their child's needs will be met. Your responses should therefore:

- **Be accurate and evidence-based:** Reflect what actually happens in your setting, not what is intended or aspirational.
- **Show empathy and accessibility:** Use language that is clear and parent-friendly, avoiding jargon.
- **Demonstrate accountability:** Explain roles, responsibilities, and processes so parents understand who does what and how decisions are made.
- **Highlight inclusivity and collaboration:** Show how you involve parents and children in planning and decision-making.

Each question focuses on a key area of SEND provision—from identification and curriculum adaptation to wellbeing, specialist support, and transition planning. Use the guidance prompts under each question to ensure your answers are detailed and practical. This will help build trust with families and strengthen your setting's Local Offer.

If you feel you'd like further guidance, the next SENCO Network in March will be focused on Inclusion as defined by Ofsted in their EY Toolkit and the SEND Local Offer. Check our Spring Term 2026 training to book a place. (EYHUB St Helens website).

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## School readiness drop-in

Helping your child feel ready for Primary School

**Friendly tips and advice to make this transition go as smoothly as possible:**

- Self-care
- Toileting
- Setting routines and boundaries
- Independence
- Mealtimes
- Oral health (dummies and bottles)
- Behaviour
- Speech and language support



### Sutton Family Hub

**Tuesday 13 January** - 10.00am - 12noon

**Tuesday 10 February** - 10.00am - 12noon

**Tuesday 10 March** - 10.00am - 12noon



**0-19+ Service St Helens**

www.wchc.nhs.uk/children | 0-19+ St Helens

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

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