



EYQI Updates

Lidia Wolos 01744 67 1051/mobile 07784360762

Gemma Oakes 01744 67 5397/07706991364

Kate Campbell 01744 671834

Amanda Quirk 01744 674175

EY Quality and Inclusion Team

EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk

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



Week beginning

2.2.26

Upcoming training announcements

EYHUB Network Meeting for Settings

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite

9:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday 11th February 2026

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

EYHUB Network Meeting for Schools

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Wednesday 11th February 2026

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

EYHUB Network Meetings for Childminders

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday 18th February 2026

via Microsoft Teams

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

St Helens EY SENCO Training

This training aims to explain what SEND is and summarises the legal requirements for early years settings. It will support you in working with children, parents and families. The training aims to demonstrate what effective practice for children with SEND in the early years might look like.

At the EY SENCO training we will look at: Early identification, St Helens SEND graduated response, working with parents. IEP/SEND Support writing, completing referrals, transition. Multi-agency working, applying for funding, working with parents, and supporting the home learning environment

Times - 9:30am – 12:30pm

Session 1: Tuesday 24th February 2026

Session 2: Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Session 3: Tuesday 10th March 2026

Session 4: Tuesday 17th March 2026

The Bridge training room. Chester Lane Library WA9 4DE

STAFF MUST ATTEND ALL 4 SESSIONS

Behaviour and Attitudes - 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 31-35

Two sessions available on the day, (this is a repetition of the same session)

Thursday 26th February 2026

10:15 – 11:15am and 1:15 -2:15pm

Virtual via Microsoft Teams



Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Play Conference

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub are offering a fully funded **Play Conference** on:

Tuesday 17th March 2026, 9.45am – 2.15pm

**At the Everton Nursery School and Family Centre
Spencer Street, Liverpool, L6 2WF**

This conference will provide opportunities to engage in dialogue and reflect on play, exploring shared meanings, knowledge, and insights about children and the possibilities created through play.

Speakers include:

Dr Denise Wright – The Importance of Play in the Early Years

Emma-Louise Scott – Play and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Dr Diane Boyd – Play and Sustainability

Audience: This event is open to all early years educators and is a chance to connect, learn, and leave with fresh ideas to champion play in your setting.

Please contact sphubNW@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk to reserve your funded place.



**Funded by
UK Government**

[Oral Health](#)

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 2026, 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](#)

Closure of the Childcare Works website

The Childcare Works website will be closing on 31 March 2026.

Childcare Works was awarded the delivery support contract by the Department for Education (DfE) in January 2024 to support the early years and wraparound expansion programmes. As you will be aware, the contract will be ending on 31 March 2026.

From the 1 April, most of the Childcare Works' resources will be made available to local authorities on **Knowledge Hub**. Resources will be transferred to an existing area within the **Early Years Expansion and Wraparound Programmes Group** site which many of you have access to. You may also wish to download any resources you need from Childcare Works before it closes on 31 March 2026.

In line with GDPR guidelines, your data (shared with us when you registered with Childcare Works) will be securely deleted with the closure of the website.

Please be assured that Childcare Works will continue to support you until the contract ends on the 31 March 2026, via the helpdesk and the Childcare Works advisors.

If you have any questions from 31 March please contact the DfE as follows:

- For Early Years, please contact your DfE regional lead.
- For Wraparound queries relating to the National Wraparound Programme grant, you should contact **finance.wraparound@education.gov.uk**

How to access Knowledge Hub

Existing Knowledge Hub Users

1. Go to **Early Years Expansion and Wraparound Programmes - Knowledge Hub**
2. Request access
3. Look out for an email from the Knowledge Hub confirming your registration

New Knowledge Hub Users

1. Go to **Sign up - Knowledge Hub** and enter your details
2. You'll receive an email to verify your email address. If you can't find the email, check Junk folders
3. Follow the instructions provided and contact **support@khub.net** if you have any issues.

Thank you for being part of the Childcare Works community



Our Nature Park Year

Plan your year of activities and achieve each step of your Nature Park journey with this handy **wall planner**.

We've selected key activities and focuses for each term to inspire you to get started, which you can tailor to fit your learners and your outdoor space.

More information on the Nature Park

[The National Education Nature Park: how to get involved – The Education Hub](#)



See website for the link to the free planner and other resources.

Celebrating Success Wraparound Programme Conference



More than 80 colleagues and partners came together at The BrewDog Stadium recently to celebrate the success of the Wraparound Programme in St Helens.

The event brought together teams from across the council and wider services, offering an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the programme and the positive outcomes it continues to deliver for children and families across the borough.

Attendees heard from two inspiring keynote speakers - Rebekah Jackson-Reece and Alice Sharp — who shared powerful insights into supporting families, building resilience, and strengthening practice. Their contributions were particularly well-received, with delegates praising both the

quality of the presentations and the relevance to work across St Helens.

The Wraparound Programme continues to play a vital role in providing early help, improving outcomes, and ensuring families receive the right support at the right time. The conference was a fantastic way to recognise everyone involved — and to reaffirm our ongoing ambition to make a real difference for children and families in St Helens

If you haven't already please can you take 2-3 mins to complete the evaluation your feedback matters. [Wraparound Childcare Conference Evaluation – Fill in form](#)

[Screen time guidance – call for evidence](#)

On Monday 2 February, the [Early Years Screen Time Advisory Group](#) launched a call for evidence to help shape new guidance on screen time and usage for early years (0 to 5-year-old) children. This is an opportunity to provide evidence that will be considered by the advisory group to inform the development of the new guidance.

We want to collect evidence from individuals and settings with a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

The call for evidence is open from 2 to 16 February – you can [find out more and submit evidence here](#).

[Ofsted inspection - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Since Ofsted published the renewed inspection framework on 9 September 2025, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-confirms-changes-to-education-inspection-and-unveils-new-look-report-cards>

they have delivered a wide range of online and face-to-face engagement sessions with early years settings to answer questions about the updated approach. Ofsted have now published the most frequently asked questions so you can see all the answers in one place: **Early years inspections: frequently asked questions – Ofsted: early years.**

<https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk/2026/01/23/early-years-inspections-frequently-asked-questions/>

These FAQs will be updated regularly as inspections continue, so do bookmark the page and check back for future changes.

If you would like to watch any of the Ofsted webinars, they are available on the YouTube playlist. You can view the early years playlists here: **Early years: registered providers** and **Early years: childminders**.

- [Early years: registered providers](#)
- [Early years: childminders](#)
- <https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk/2026/01/23/early-years-inspections-frequently-asked-questions/>

IASS – FREE SEND SUPPORT

ease find below the link to the Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) website. **St Helens IASS is a statutory service** that provides free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as to their parents and carers. The service aims to ensure that families are well-informed and able to participate fully and effectively in decisions regarding their child's education. The website includes detailed information about the support available, guidance for families, access to the self-referral process, and updates regarding local SEND drop-in sessions. The service can be accessed here: <https://iass.sthelens.gov.uk/>

Adult learning – NEWS!

We are pleased to share two upcoming **free learning opportunities** designed to support local adults who are interested in childcare, early years roles, or developing skills to support their own families. We would be grateful if you could promote these offers to your service users and networks.

1. Working with Children – Half-Day Workshop (Non-accredited)

Date: Monday 2 March 2026

Time: 9:30am–12:00pm

This short introductory workshop helps adults explore a range of childcare and education roles, including volunteering pathways. Learners will reflect on their personal skills, discover qualification routes, and create an action plan for next steps. No prior experience is required.

2. Entry Level 3 Award in Caring for a Child/Children (11 Weeks)

This accredited course supports adults to develop practical skills and knowledge in caring for babies and young children. It covers play, routines, health and safety, and confidence-building. It is ideal for parents, carers, or those considering work in early years. Learners will build the skills and knowledge they need to play with young children, establish good routines and develop knowledge on health and safety. This course is aimed at boosting confidence whilst learning new skills and learners can progress onto the Level 1 Award on completion.

The programme runs one full day per week for 11 weeks.

Both courses are **fully funded** for local adults aged 19+. For referrals or enquiries, please contact

Teresa.Slee@sthelens.gov.uk

Education and Learning Newsletter

Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter

Funded Early Years Qualification

We would like to share an exciting opportunity for settings and staff within the Liverpool City Region to access funded Early Years qualifications.

The qualifications offered are **Pearson's full and relevant Early Years Diplomas** for unqualified or partly qualified staff who are looking to upskill and gain a recognised qualification in the sector.

Further details are included in the attached leaflet.

Available qualifications: Pearson's Level 2 Early Years Practitioner Diploma

- Pearson's Level 3 Early Years Educator Diploma

These courses are ideal for staff who are already working or volunteering in an early years setting for a minimum of **16 hours (or 2.5 days) per week**.

Who can apply:

Aged 19+ and Living in the Liverpool area (by postcode)

Course details:

- Level 2 Early Years Practitioner – 9 months
 - Learners only need access to children aged **2–5**
- Level 3 Early Years Educator – 12 months
 - Learners must have access to children aged **0–5**

What's included in the training:

Accredited, full and relevant Early Years qualifications

- Monthly remote or face-to-face visits
- Flexible remote learning
- 1:1 dedicated trainer/assessor support
- Expert-led Early Years webinars
- Regular reviews with learners and line managers
- Assessments through professional discussion, written work and observations

Please note, this diploma route does not require off-the-job training, functional skills or an end-point assessment.

English qualifications can be achieved during the programme if needed.
Funding eligibility can vary depending on age and previous qualifications, but this will be checked during the sign-up process.

Anyone interested and willing to take on an individual for voluntary hours

Please contact kate.morris@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

If you have staff who may be interested, or would like to find out more,
please complete the **Expression of Interest form** below.

<https://realisetraining.com/level-2-and-level-3-early-years-diplomas>

[My Little Ears](#)

Our Glue Ear Awareness Course is now Live!

[Home - mylittleears.co.uk](http://mylittleears.co.uk)

[Take Course](#)

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

Schools MS Teams Forum: [Here](#)

EY Quality and Inclusion Team
Atlas House
PO Box 512
ST HELENS
WA10 9JX