

EARLY NEWS

Summer Term
Issue 29



Welcome to the newest issue of our summer newsletter! As we head into the final part of the academic year, and with the sunshine and longer days upon us, summer is a wonderful time in early years - full of opportunities for outdoor learning, play, and connection.

In this edition, we're sharing reflections on our successful Transition Event, updates on training and guidance including the EYFS Profile and protective security measures, and a new consultation on EYFS floor space requirements. You'll also find information on upcoming events like the National Week of Play and Infant Mental Health Awareness Week, as well as celebrations of local achievements.

We're also thrilled to spotlight some powerful stories and resources, including a new podcast, poetry, and a feature on oracy development at Linaker Primary.



Latest News: Events

Transition Event Brings Professionals Together

Last month, our Early Years team were busy hosting our Transition Event for professionals to share vital information about children moving from nursery to primary school in September.

The event offered space and time to talk freely about the developmental needs and interests of the children who may be transitioning to different nurseries or starting reception class.

Over 90 schools and settings attended the Transition Event with over 120 professionals dedicating their time to ensure successful transitions. The Early Years SEND team were also on hand to discuss the enhanced transitions for children with SEND to make sure every child in Sefton has a great experience on the next stage of their educational adventure!

Great to see our Sefton schools, nurseries and settings working so closely together. See you next year!

Latest Training & Guidance

New Guidance: Protective security and preparedness for education settings

This non-statutory guidance provides advice to help educational settings be better prepared and able to respond to terrorism and other major incidents. It sets out practical steps to keep learners, staff and volunteers safe in the event of an incident through simple and cost-effective methods.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code for more information.

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EYFS Profile Assessment

The Department for Education (DfE) has released a publication to help guide teachers in completing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile assessment. This profile must be completed for each child in the final term of the academic year in which they turn 5.

While the EYFS Profile is usually completed by reception teachers, in some cases, other early years settings may need to carry out the assessment if it's not being done in the reception year. For the purpose of this document, 'teacher' refers to any early years practitioner, including childminders, who is working with the child and completing the EYFS Profile.

If you have a child in your school or setting who did not attend reception provision in Autumn 2024 and will be moving straight into Year One in Autumn 2025, and you have not yet completed the EYFS Profile, please reach out to Louise Cheetham at louise.cheetham@sefton.gov.uk.

Please note that EYFSP data must be submitted to the Local Authority by Friday 20th June 2025 5pm.

For more information, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below

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Latest Training & Guidance

Consultation on Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Floor Space Requirements

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on the current EYFS floor space requirements, which could have a significant impact on early years settings. Currently, providers must meet specific indoor space requirements per child, depending on age. However, the DfE is seeking feedback on whether 'free-flow' outdoor areas should be included in these space measurements for children aged two and above.

The consultation presents two options for how this could work, one with no cap on the number of children and one with a cap to prevent overcrowding. The government's preferred option is the latter.

This is a valuable opportunity for early years providers to have their say on potential changes. The consultation is open until 11 July 2025, and the DfE is expected to share their response by autumn 2025.

For full details of the consultation and how you can contribute, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.

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Latest Training & Guidance

New Podcast Alert: Tackling the Year 1 Cliff Face

For those of you who love a good podcast, we've got just the thing for you. This podcast explores continuous provision in year one and the positive impact this can have on teaching and learning AND children's (and adults!) wellbeing and happiness. This thought provoking podcast will support EYFS and Key Stage 1 colleagues to plan for progression within continuous provision and ensure a positive transition for all children.

Please share this wider within your teams and contact the EY team if you would like to discuss this approach further. [Click here](#) for the podcast or scan the QR code below

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Infant Mental Health Awareness Week

We are celebrating Infant Mental Health Awareness Week (9-15th June) with a range of fantastic webinars.

Monday 9th June

Achieving High Quality for Babies

Tuesday 10th June

Nurturing and Loving Interactions: The Power of Love by Tamsin Grimmer

Wednesday 11th June

A Walk in Their Shoes. A look at SEND from a parents perspective.

Friday 13th June

Who is Holding the Baby: Supporting Staff Wellbeing by Karen Treisman

For more information and to book on to any of the above sessions, [click here](#) or scan the QR code

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Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

National Week of Play - 30th June - 6th July

Join the Early Years Alliance in recognising the importance of play in every child's learning and development.

Sign up now for your FREE resource pack, packing with playful inspiration, and have it straight to your inbox at the start of Play Week in June.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code.

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Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

Early Years Recruitment & Careers Event

Do you know someone who would thrive in Early Years? We're hosting an Early Years Recruitment Event to showcase the exciting career opportunities across the sector - and we'd love your help in spreading the word. Whether it's a school or college leaver, someone looking for a career change, or a parent returning to work, this event is a brilliant starting point.

It's also a great opportunity for those already working in early years who may be looking for a new challenge, training, or a fresh start in a different role. Come along to explore live vacancies, apprenticeships, and CPD opportunities, take part in interactive activities, and hear from professionals about their career journeys.



When

Tuesday 1st July 2025

Young People (16-18):

12:00-3:00pm

Adults (18+): 3:00-7:00pm

Where

Sefton Adult Education
Centre, 53 Cambridge Rd,
Seaforth, Liverpool L21 1EZ

A Focus on the Wraparound Provision in Sefton

At Sefton Council, we're dedicated to promoting the wraparound care provision available in our area. We want to ensure that families are aware of the flexible care options offered by local providers, giving them the support they need for their children's learning and wellbeing.

We're asking all early years professionals to help spread the word. Please let families know about the wraparound care options available and point them in the right direction to find out more.

Families can learn about the wraparound care offer and search for a provider near them by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code.

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Spotlight on SEND

SEND Parent Carer Coffee Morning

Our Early Years SEND Team have been out and about in our community! We had some great discussions with families at our most recent coffee morning; helping families with little ones with SEND and giving them the support they need.

These sessions are designed to have all the professionals you need to speak to in one place; from our Inclusion consultants, to autism specialists, our Aiming High short breaks and activities team and more! It is important for us as professionals to reach out to our community and be as accessible as possible- nothing beats a face to face interaction!

We plan to run more of these over the summer months with a focus on specific issues running alongside our usual drop in. We plan to cover issues like toileting, sleep, communication and more. If you've got any ideas about issues that come up in your networks in the Early Years SEND space, get in touch and we can tailor a session to the need in Sefton. Contact jen.staunton@sefton.gov.uk with your ideas.

Good News & Celebration

Celebrating Oracy Development at Linaker Primary

We're excited to share an inspiring article written by Sarah Wilcox, one of Sefton's Early Years leads, highlighting how Linaker Primary School is developing Oracy through meaningful conversation in their Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This piece offers valuable insights into how fostering communication skills from an early age can support children's overall development and learning.

We're proud to see Sefton's practices being celebrated in Teach Primary Magazine, and this is a fantastic example of the innovative work happening in our own community.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to read!

You can read the full article on page 21 of the magazine.

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Good News & Celebration

Celebrating the Magic of Early Years Education

This lovely article by Julian Grenier is a great reminder of why our work in early years is so special. In the article, he shares the story of Jayda, a child he taught, and how something as simple as her “special book” from nursery became a real source of comfort and inspiration later in life.

Jayda’s story is a powerful example of how the little things we do – listening, noticing and caring – can have a huge impact on a child’s life.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to read Julian’s article.

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Working Together: Old Roan Nursery Expands with New Space to Support Growing Local Demand

Sefton Council were celebrating the continued success and expansion of Old Roan Pre School Nursery in Aintree last month which has now launched a brand-new space to create 12 new places for 0–2-year-olds. The nursery, which first opened in 2018 following the transformation of two unused classrooms at the back of Aintree community centre, was created to meet growing demand for early years provision in the area and generate vital income to support the adjoining community space.

Seven years on, Old Roan Nursery is thriving because of the passion and commitment from two local women and owners Julie Currie and Vicky Finley and staff at the pre school nursery. Support from early years funding has helped toward the cost.

Leader of Sefton Council, Cllr Marion Atkinson praised the success of the project:

“This is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when we invest in our communities and support early years development. Old Roan Nursery was born out of a clear local need, and not only has it gone from strength to strength, but it’s also helped sustain a much-loved community facility.”

“I’m incredibly proud to see this new space open and to know it will make a real difference to families in Aintree and beyond.”

www.sefton.gov.uk/early-years/



Good News & Celebration

Bronze, Silver and Gold: Trauma and Attachment Awards in Sefton

And so, the journey continues... It's hard to believe we're about to embark on the fifth year of running the Attachment and Trauma Sensitive Setting Award with schools and PVI settings. Since starting in 2020 a total of 38 schools and settings have completed, or are in the process of completing the Bronze level award with many going on to achieve the Silver and Gold award.

A key requirement of the award is that the whole school/setting community accesses a comprehensive training package and as a result we estimate that approximately 1,000 early years educators in Sefton have accessed the excellent training delivered by Dr Jenny Nock. Not only is this approach a valuable CPD opportunity but it also ensures that practice and support is consistent when supporting children and their families.

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As an Early Years Team we are in the process of developing an Attachment and Trauma Aware pathway of training and support. The pathway will include a range of training courses and resources which will aim to provide underpinning knowledge and understanding around the importance of:

- Attachment and loving relationships
- Early Brain Development
- ACE's and Trauma
- Self Regulation
- Staff Wellbeing

Contact Heather.pearce@sefton.gov.uk

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to for more



Poetry for the Soul

To close this edition, we've included a beautiful poem by Nicolette Sowden that reminds us of the simple, tender moments we share with the children we care for. It's a lovely reminder to appreciate the small, often overlooked things and to nurture those qualities.

May we raise children
Who love the unloved things –
The dandelion, the worms, and spiderlings.
Children who sense that the rose needs the thorn,
And run into rainswept days
The same way they turn towards the sun...
And when they're grown
And someone has to speak for those
Who have no voice
May they draw upon that wilder bond,
Those days of tending tender things
And be the ones.

