

EARLY NEWS

Summer Term
Issue 30



Welcome to the latest issue of our Early Years Newsletter! As we move into the heart of summer, it's a great time for play, learning, and growth both indoors and outdoors.

In this edition, we highlight key updates such as the upcoming changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) coming into effect in September 2025, alongside important safeguarding training opportunities available this summer. We also shine a light on inspiring stories from our community, including Southport teachers who took a courageous leap to raise funds for charity, and celebrate National Play Day. As always, we aim to support you with the latest resources, and this time we've included a brand new podcast!

Enjoy the read!

Latest News

Unnecessary Exclusion of Recently Vaccinated Children

The Department for Education (DfE) and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) are reminding early years settings that children who have recently received vaccinations should not be excluded from attendance - provided they are well enough to take part. Some settings have introduced temporary exclusions after vaccination, but UKHSA advises this is unnecessary and may unintentionally discourage immunisation.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Director of Public Health Programmes at UKHSA, said:

"There is absolutely no medical reason to exclude a vaccinated child if they are feeling well. This practice risks undermining confidence in vaccines and could lead to preventable outbreaks in nurseries and schools."

Vaccines do not pose a risk to others, and settings play a vital role in supporting public health by maintaining inclusive, evidence-based attendance policies. The DfE and UKHSA encourage all settings to review their policies and help protect children, staff, and the wider community.



Latest Training & Guidance

Data Collection for New Early Years Entitlements – Summer & Autumn 2025

Local authorities are required to collect and submit data on the take-up of government-funded early years entitlements for eligible working parents of children aged 2 and under. This includes new entitlements rolling out from April 2024 and September 2025. Data will be used to determine funding allocations and support policy monitoring.

Key Points

- From September 2025, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years will be entitled to 30 funded hours of childcare per week.

Continued...

- Data will also be collected on children receiving additional support (formerly known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement) and children with SEND.
- Local authorities must work closely with early years providers, especially PVI settings, to ensure accurate termly data is submitted.

What's Required

Funding purposes - total number of children and entitlement hours for:

- Eligible working parents (2-year-olds and under-2s)
- Children in receipt of EYPP

Policy monitoring - total number of children:

- From families receiving additional support
- With SEND accessing funded hours

Key Dates

Summer term count week: w/c 9/6/25

- Submission deadline: 11/7/25

Autumn term count week: w/c 3/11/25

- Submission deadline: 5/12/25

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

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Latest Training & Guidance

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): Changes Coming September 2025 – Key Highlights

The Department for Education has announced key updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), effective from September 2025. Here's a snapshot of the most significant changes:

- **Safeguarding:** A paediatric first aider must be present during all meal and snack times.
- **Toileting & Privacy:** Providers must balance children's privacy with safeguarding needs during toileting and nappy changes.
- **Nutrition:** New DfE guidance supports healthy and balanced meals for children from birth to five.
- **Climate Action:** All settings must have a sustainability lead and a climate action plan by the end of 2025.
- **Expanded Entitlements:** Eligible working parents will receive 30 hours of funded childcare for children aged 9 months to 2 years.
- **EYFS Framework:** The updated framework includes clearer guidance tailored for different types of early years providers.
- **Staff Qualifications:** A new Experience-Based Route allows experienced practitioners to gain qualification recognition.
- **Ofsted Inspections:** The current grading will be replaced with a new report card to give a fuller picture of quality.

For a full breakdown of all changes, [click here](#) or scan the QR code.

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Latest Training & Guidance

Upcoming Safeguarding Training – Summer 2025

We're offering a series of safeguarding training sessions this summer, specifically for the private early years sector. Whether you need a refresher or you're stepping into a Designated Safeguarding Lead role, there's a session for you:

Monday 28 July | 10:00–11:00am
Safeguarding Reforms

Wednesday 7 August | 9:15–11:15am
Level 1 Safeguarding

Monday 12 & Tuesday 19 August
DSL 2-Day Training

[See more training & events](#)

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Government Sets Out Vision: Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

A new government paper, Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life, outlines plans to improve child development and ensure all children can thrive from the earliest years. Key actions include:

Better Family Support

High-quality services from pregnancy to age 5, supporting both parents and children.

Accessible Early Education

Making childcare easier and more affordable for families.

Raising Quality

Improving the education and care in early years settings, childminders, and reception classes.

The EYFS Early Learning Goals will remain the key measure of a child's development at the end of the early years phase.

The command papers were laid before Parliament on 7 July 2025.

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

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Latest Training & Guidance

Supporting Children, Families & Staff During a Community Trauma – One Year On

Throughout this last year, early years practitioners in Sefton have shown unwavering commitment, care, and compassion in supporting children, families, and colleagues.

As we approach one year since the tragic incident in Southport, we take a moment to reflect on the lasting impact it has had across our community. To further support your vital work, we are pleased to share two new webinars from Dr. Jennifer Nock, titled: Supporting Children, Families and Staff during a Community Trauma: One Year On.

- Part One revisits the Hobfoll Principles and explores how the Six Principles of Trauma-Informed Practice can guide longer-term responses.
- Part Two focuses on recognising trauma triggers, memories, and patterns of avoidance that may surface over time.

These sessions include sensitive content, and we have been advised that they come with a trigger warning. We would like to urge that all staff and settings who access these webinars do so with care, and that support is available for anyone who may need it.

Both webinars are now available through the Sefton Early Years Portal - [click here](#) or scan the QR code below to access.

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Latest Training & Guidance

Exciting New Podcast Episode: Exploring School Readiness

What does it really mean for a child to be "school ready"? What barriers are children and families facing, and how can we work together to close the readiness gap?

In the latest episode of Fundamentally Different, host Emma Lord is joined by local experts from Sefton to explore how strong partnerships and community-led approaches are helping improve school readiness on the ground.

Guests include:

- Louise Cheetham, Early Years Team Leader, Sefton Council
- Jen Teasdale, Early Years Service Manager, Sefton Council
- Helen Pruden, Operational Manager, Sefton Health Visiting Service, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

This is a great listen for anyone working with children and families in early years or preparing for transition to school.

Click [here](#) to listen to the episode or scan the QR code

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Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

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 visiting: www.sefton.gov.uk/wraparound

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Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

Celebrating National Play Day – Wednesday 6th August 2025

National Play Day returns on the first Wednesday of August - a day dedicated to championing the vital role of play in every child's life.

Play is central to how children learn, grow, and connect with the world around them. Whether it's through imaginative role play, messy exploration, or energetic outdoor games, play supports creativity, social development, emotional wellbeing, and physical health.

This year's theme continues to highlight the importance of creating safe, inclusive spaces where children can play freely and express themselves. Early years settings have a unique opportunity to embrace this celebration - whether through a special activity, themed outdoor play, or simply by sharing the joy of play with families.

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



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Summer Reading Challenge 2025 – “Story Garden”

The Summer Reading Challenge is back for 2025 with a brand-new theme: Story Garden. Created by The Reading Agency in partnership with libraries across the UK, this year's challenge invites children aged 4–11 to get reading, get outdoors, and get inspired by nature.

The challenge runs throughout the school summer holidays, and is a brilliant way to keep children reading for fun, supporting literacy skills and encouraging a love of books during the break.

How to take part:

- Children can sign up for free on the official Summer Reading Challenge website
- Visit one of Sefton's local libraries, where there's a huge selection of books to help get them started.

Children are encouraged to read any books they like - fiction, non-fiction, picture books, or audiobooks. As they read, they'll collect rewards, stickers, and gain access to fun activities, with a certificate and medal available for those who complete the challenge.

For more details or to get started, visit the Summer Reading Challenge website [here](#) or drop into your local Sefton library this summer.

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Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

Summer Fun at Kingsley & Co.

Kingsley & Co. in Bootle is having a fantastic summer of free events throughout the school holidays, perfect for children and families to enjoy together. From cracking clues in a Sherlock Holmes escape room, to getting hands-on in a slime-making session or book folding workshop, and even stepping back in time for a Viking Fun Day - there's something for everyone to enjoy. These creative and interactive activities are a brilliant way to support learning and play during the summer break.

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to visit the Kingsley & Co. website for more details

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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 embarking 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



Good News & Celebration

Southport Teachers Bravely Take the Plunge for Charity

In a huge show of courage and community spirit, two teachers from Farnborough Road Infant and Junior School in Southport - Jennifer Sephton and Adrian Antell - completed a 15,000ft skydive on Saturday 21 June 2025 to raise funds for the Elsie's Story Charitable Trust.

The trust was set up to honour the memory of Elsie Dot Stancombe, a former pupil who tragically lost her life last July. This daring jump was a powerful way to celebrate Elsie's vibrant spirit, remembered as "charismatic, determined ... with a sparkle in her eyes"

Jennifer said: "We are both so proud to be supporting Elsie's Story so that Elsie is remembered as the beautiful young person that she was. It was always a privilege to teach Elsie and be part of her learning journey at Farnborough. Elsie is our inspiration and we wanted to do something to honour her memory and celebrate her incredible spirit."

Adrian added: "We both want to inspire children to be brave, live their lives and grab every moment that they can. Without a doubt we were both going to be very scared when it came to jumping. But we knew Elsie would be absolutely overjoyed to know her teachers were doing a skydive for her."

Students even joined in too, taking part in a lively 'Break the Rules Day' and raising funds through dress-up and classroom fun. Their bravery has inspired the Southport community, and over 500 supporters have donated more than £18,000 towards Elsie's Story.

An unforgettable achievement for an exceptional cause - well done Jennifer and Adrian from everyone in Sefton!

To read more about the skydive, click [here](#) or scan the QR code



Reflect and Refresh

Support for Your Early Years Setting

As we approach the end of the academic year, it's a great time to reflect on your early years provision. Whether you're considering a redesign of your environment or feel your staff team could benefit from some targeted CPD, we're here to help. If there's a specific area where you would like support, please get in touch with our team to access our Bespoke Service by contacting one of the team.

Training Brochure

You should have received our latest training brochure in the past couple of weeks. If you haven't, please do contact us. We offer a wide range of exciting training sessions, projects, and conferences designed to enhance your practice.

Please note that some courses may not be available for booking on the portal until the end of July - so keep an eye out!



Poetry for the Soul

As the academic year draws to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate the achievements, growth, and joy we've shared together across our early years settings. New transitions can bring a mix of excitement and nerves - for children, families, and practitioners alike.

To mark the end of the school term, we end this edition of the newsletter with a short poem often shared with children at this time of year:

Moving Classes

The end has come too very quick – it's time to move along,
The final days of this school year have been and now are gone.
This year has been so wonderful; the time has gone so fast,
We've learnt so much; had so much fun – the time's just whizzed right past.

