

EARLY NEWS

**Autumn Term
Issue 31**



Welcome to the latest issue of our Early Years Newsletter! As we step into a new academic year, it's a time of fresh starts, new faces, and renewed focus across our early years settings. From welcoming Reception starters and supporting smooth transitions, to raising awareness around key topics, this term is already shaping up to be a busy and purposeful one.

In this edition, we share important updates including the latest EYFS changes, new training opportunities, and a spotlight on inclusive practice. We also highlight upcoming awareness weeks, community events, and resources designed to support children, families, and professionals.

We hope you find this issue helpful and inspiring as you begin the new term.



Latest News

Ofsted publishes new Education Inspection Framework

Ofsted has published its updated Education Inspection Framework, which includes several changes affecting early years providers.

From 10th November 2025, early years settings will be inspected every 4 years instead of 6, and new providers will be inspected within 12–18 months of registration to make inspection reports more current. The framework has also been simplified, with fewer evaluation areas and updated guidance documents to support providers.

These changes follow sector feedback and aim to make inspections more consistent and timely. Ofsted will begin routine inspections under the new framework from 1st December 2025, but early years settings will be included from 10th November 2025.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code for more information and access to guidance documents.

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



Latest News

Maintained Nursery Schools Now Eligible for Capital Grant Funding

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that maintained nursery schools are now eligible to apply for School-based Nursery (SBN) Capital Grant Funding in phase 2 of the programme.

Applications open on 22 September 2025 and close on 11 December 2025. Schools can apply for up to £150,000 to create or expand nursery provision on existing school sites and unlike phase 1, using surplus space is no longer a requirement.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read the full details.



Fresh Book Picks from CLPE's Literacy Library

Each month, CLPE's Librarian Phoebe Demeger shares her top book recommendations from the Literacy Library, and this month's list includes some fantastic titles for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, right through to Key Stage 3.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see the full list of recommendations.



Have Your Say on Supported Living

Calling all parents and carers - if you or someone you care for is currently living in Supported Living, or you're thinking about it for the future, Sefton Council wants to hear from you. We're running short surveys to help shape the future of Adult Supported Living, and your views are really important.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read more and take the survey by 28th September.

If you'd prefer to share your views on the phone, call 0151 934 2888

Or, if you want a paper copy, email yourhomeyoursay@sefton.gov.uk

You can also call the number above to request a paper copy, or collect and return a paper survey at Sefton Carers Centre in Waterloo and The Life Rooms in Southport.



Latest Training & Guidance

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): Changes From 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

Explore the Sefton Early Years Resource Page

If you're looking for the latest news, resources and guidance to support your work with children aged 0–5, the Sefton Early Years Resource Page is designed to help practitioners easily access useful information across a range of key topics.

The page is organised into clear sections, each packed with documents, links and materials to support your continuous professional development, including updates from training and opportunities for further learning.

If you have any idea on how to enhance this page, please contact your Quality Improvement Officer.

Click [here](#) for more.

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New Best Start in Life Website Now Live

The new Best Start in Life website is now live, bringing together services and support for families from pregnancy through to the end of primary school. This new platform replaces Childcare Choices and offers a more comprehensive experience for parents, helping them find out what they're entitled to and how to access it.

Settings are encouraged to start using the Best Start in Life branding to help families recognise government-funded offers and services.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to visit and explore the new site.

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Latest Training & Guidance

Small Hazards, Big Harm – New Safety Campaign

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the dangers posed by small everyday items like button batteries and magnets, which can cause serious harm to young children.

The Small Hazards, Big Harm campaign includes updated resources, posters, and social media materials to help settings and families keep children safe.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to access the campaign resources.

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Supporting EAL Learners in Early Years and Classroom Settings

A new resource page by EAL specialist Hannah White highlights 10 useful online tools designed to support children learning English as an Additional Language (EAL). These resources aim to help practitioners create more inclusive learning environments by improving understanding and building confidence among EAL learners.

The site is particularly useful for teachers looking to integrate language support into everyday practice across both nurseries and primary settings.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to go to the website

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Latest Training & Guidance

Martyn's Law and Education Settings

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, known as Martyn's Law, became law on 3rd April 2025. It aims to improve public safety by requiring premises, including education settings, to have procedures in place to respond to potential terrorist threats.

On 1st September, the government issued new policy papers explaining how the law will apply to education settings, including early years providers. These outline what settings will need to do during the 24-month implementation period before the law comes into force.

Early years, primary, secondary, and further education settings will fall under the standard tier, regardless of capacity. This means they will need to have plans for evacuation, invacuation, lockdown, and communication, but no physical security measures are required.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read the latest policy papers.



Credit Card Module is Now Live

We're pleased to share that Early Years settings can now pay for training courses using credit or debit cards with the launch of a new payment module.

This option is currently available exclusively to Early Years providers and not yet extended to schools. However, there are plans to expand access in the future to include Academies and out-of-Sefton schools for training purposes.

Professionals with a Sample Nursery login can view the full article [here](#), or by scanning the QR code.

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Latest Training & Guidance

Data Collection for New Early Years Entitlements – 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 are 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

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

Supporting Communication in Early Years - Autumn Term Update

Sefton's Early Years Speech and Language Project is back with a packed programme of support, training, and resources to help settings create communication-rich environments for our youngest learners.

This term, we're excited to promote the Elklan Speech and Language Support for 0-3s course, with a highly regarded and accredited training opportunity for practitioners working with babies and toddlers. Delivered by Alder Hey's Community Speech and Language Therapy Service, the course offers:

- Three full-day face-to-face sessions (24 September, 5 November, 10 December)
- Practical strategies to support all children, especially those with speech, language and communication needs
- Accreditation options at Level 2 or Level 3 - with Level 3 supporting your setting to work towards the Communication Friendly Setting Award
- Engaging, evidence-based content linking theory with best practice.

Feedback from previous attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting increased confidence, practical ideas to implement, and a deeper understanding of early communication development. Please note, fees apply.

Explore the flyer and book your place [here](#)

See the latest updates to the Sefton Early Years Speech and Language Project, [here](#)
For more information on the project, please contact earlyyearsadvicelinesefton@alderhey.nhs.uk



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



Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month - September 2025

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM) is an international campaign held every September to raise awareness of cancers affecting children and young people aged 0–24. It's a dedicated time for us to highlight the bravery of young patients and the challenges faced by families, while also recognising the need for more research, funding, and support.

In early years settings, raising awareness and understanding can really help children and families affected by cancer to feel supported and included. You can show support by wearing gold, sharing awareness materials, or learning more about the signs and impact of childhood cancer.

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



Celebrating World Teachers' Day 2025

Get ready to celebrate World Teachers' Day on the 5th October! It's a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the incredible work teachers do every day, especially in early years settings, where the foundations for our lifelong learners are built.

This awareness day recognises the dedication that educators of all levels bring to their classrooms, and highlights the vital role they play in shaping children's futures. In early years, we recognise the role that teachers and practitioners play in helping children to develop key skills and confidence, their influence creating a lasting impact from the very start.

To get involved in World Teachers' Day, settings could:

- Host a small celebration or thank-you activity with children
- Create cards or drawings to show appreciation
- Share stories about what makes a great teacher

For more ideas and information about World Teachers' Day, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

National Poetry Day - Thursday 2nd October 2025

Another awareness day for your diaries is National Poetry Day! Poetry supports early language development, helps children express emotions and builds confidence with words. This year's theme is "Play", and the Forward Arts Foundation are encouraging schools and settings to explore poetry in fun and creative ways.

Early years settings can take part by reading poems aloud, making up simple rhymes with children, or inviting families to share their favourites. You could set up a poetry corner, run a themed story time, or create a group poem together. It's a great way to make poetry a part of everyday learning and to show how it can be playful and engaging.

For more about National Poetry Day, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



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Free 5-Week PEEP Course for Parents and Carers

Sefton Libraries and Active Sefton are teaming up to deliver a free 5-week PEEP Learning Together Programme, designed to support children's learning and development through fun, engaging workshops for parents and carers.

The sessions focus on five key areas of child development:

- Personal, social, and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Early literacy
- Early maths
- Health and physical development

Workshops are based on conversations and joint activities, helping families explore how everyday interactions can support children's progress.

Where: Netherton Activity Centre

When: Fridays, 10:30am–12pm, starting 26 September

Bonus: Free hot drink included!

We encourage all settings to share this programme with parents and carers.

To view more or to book a place, click [here](#), scan the QR code, or contact Netherton Library on 0151 525 0607.

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Upcoming Events / Awareness Weeks

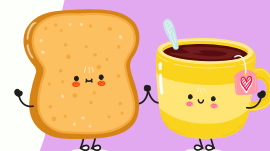
Tea & Toast at Sefton Family Hubs

Join our Family Hubs at their Tea & Toast drop-in sessions for a relaxed space to chat, connect, and share experiences.

These drop-ins offer a friendly environment to talk about the ups and downs of everyday life with others who understand, alongside supportive staff. Themes also link in with Health and Wellbeing Calendars and work with partner organisations to bring useful advice and support. All conversations are open, and parents/carers are invited to talk about whatever's on their mind.

Please share this with families in your setting – everyone is welcome, and no booking is needed. For more information, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.

LET'S
TALK!



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Good News & Celebration

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

As we venture into the new academic year, the journey continues! Since starting in 2020 a total of 38 schools and settings (and counting!) have completed, or are in the process of completing the Bronze level award with many going onto 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

Ready to Learn - A New School Year Begins!

A warm welcome to all the children who have started Reception this September across Sefton! This is a big milestone, and we wish every child and family the very best as they begin their school journey.

Starting school is a big step, and in Sefton we believe that being ready for school is a shared responsibility. It involves children who are confident and eager to learn, families who can help to support learning at home, and schools and early years settings that provide strong foundations and a welcoming environment. As part of a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency response, School Readiness covers integrated provision from pre-birth to five.

To support this, Sefton Council has developed the Ready to Learn approach, which includes the Six Steps to School Success. These steps focus on key areas like independence, resilience, and social skills to help children thrive from day one.

To see the Six Steps to School Success, click [here](#)

To see more on Ready to Learn in Sefton and to view our website, click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.

We encourage all settings to share the Ready to Learn guidance with families to support a smooth and positive transition into school.



Spotlight on SEND

SEND Parent/Carer Coffee Mornings

Sefton's SEND Coffee Mornings offer a welcoming and informal space for parents and carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities.

These sessions are designed to:

- Help families understand SEND processes and the support available in Sefton
- Provide opportunities to meet other parents and carers of children with SEND
- Connect families with professionals from services including:
 - Aiming High
 - Autism and Complex Needs Team (delivering toileting and sleep workshops across venues during the academic year)
 - Early Help
 - Sefton Parent Carers

All children are welcome to attend, and no booking is required. These sessions are a valuable way for families to access advice, share experiences, and feel supported.

We encourage all professionals working with children and families to share these coffee mornings with parents and carers in your setting.

For more information, please contact Lauren.Wilding@sefton.gov.uk

See below for when and where.

North Sefton	Central Sefton	South Sefton
Southport	Maghull	Seaforth
Linaker Family Hub, PR8 5DQ 10am-12pm	Hudson Family Hub, L31 5LE 10am-12pm	South Sefton Adult Education Centre, L21 1 EZ 10am-12pm
7 th November 2025 9 th March 2026 19 th June 2026	10 th October 2025 2 nd February 2026 22 nd May 2026	12 th September 2025 12 th January 2026 16 th April 2026

Dyslexia Awareness Week - 6th - 12th October 2025

The British Dyslexia Association aims to raise awareness of dyslexia and challenge common misconceptions. It's a chance to highlight the importance of understanding how dyslexia affects learning and to promote inclusive practices across all settings. Early years professionals play a key role in recognising early signs, supporting children's individual needs, and working with families to build confidence and resilience.

This year's theme is "Dyslexia: Raising the Volume".

Sign up for updates from the British Dyslexia Association [here](#) or scan the QR code.

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Reflect and Refresh

Looking Ahead & Support for Your Early Years Setting

As we begin a new academic year, it's a great time to reflect on the opportunities ahead for our children, families, and early years professionals across Sefton. From celebrating new Reception starters and supporting transitions through the Ready to Learn approach, to raising awareness around key topics like dyslexia, SEND, and wraparound care, this term is already full of exciting new opportunities for schools and settings.

We've shared a range of updates, resources, and events in this edition, all designed to support inclusive, high-quality early years provision. Whether you're planning new activities, exploring CPD opportunities, or simply looking to connect families with the right support, we're here to help.

If there's a specific area where you would like guidance or support, please get in touch with our team.



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

Poetry for the Soul

To mark the end of this newsletter, we would like to share this short poem about new starts and new friends:

Make New Friends

Look at all of these new faces,
Sitting here in their special spaces.
So many people I get to meet,
So many friends I get to greet.
We smile, laugh, and play all day,
Making new friends is the best way.

See more poems [here](#)

