

Talking

Early Years and Childcare



Autumn 2022

Contents



[Welcome](#)

[New Team Members](#)

[Good News](#)

[Your News—Puddleducks](#)

[Your Stories—Halesfield Day Nursery](#)

[Your Stories—William Reynolds](#)

[Your Stories—Chipmunks Stirchley](#)

[Little Dragons Sensory Pod](#)

[Stirchley Stay and Play Group](#)

[Library Events— Winter Storytime](#)

[Library Events—Christmas Crafts and Stories](#)

[Meal Vouchers](#)

[Early Years Conference 2022](#)

[Happy Healthy Active Holidays](#)

[Recruitment Updates](#)

[Funding](#)

[Funding Headcount & Payment Timetable 2023/24](#)

[30 Hours Code Guide Sheet](#)

[Safeguarding](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Battery Safety Reminders](#)



Welcome!

Hello everyone, I hope that you are all feeling well and haven't succumbed to the many bugs of winter. As this is our final newsletter for 2022, I would like to thank you for your hard work over the last twelve months it has been another hard year with the ongoing impact of COVID-19, staffing and funding issues, we can only hope that 2023 is a little better.

As we are nearly there, on behalf of myself and the whole Early Years Team we wish you a Happy Christmas and look forwards to working with you in 2023.

Lisa



New Team Member!

Hello,

I would like to introduce myself; my name is Katie Spicer, and I am excited to join the Early Years Team as an Early Years and Childcare Consultant. I am a qualified primary school teacher and have been working in education and early years for 20 years.

I have had lots of experience in teaching and supporting nurseries in the early years. More recently I have been an Ofsted rated outstanding childminder and have set up and run an out of school club provision. I am looking forward to meeting you and supporting you to make a positive impact on the children in your Early Years setting.

Katie



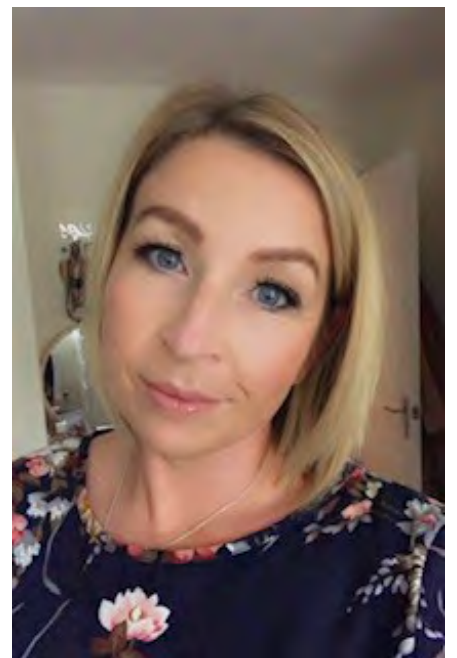
New Team Member!

Hello everyone, my name is Donna and I am the newest member of the Early Years and Childcare team, working as an Early Years Consultant.

I have worked within the early years sector for over 25 years, I'm passionate about all things early years and supporting our children with SEND. During my time, I have worked in both the private and maintained sector in various roles, with my latest role managing a busy school nursery. I have worked for a number of years as an assessor, training and supporting people as well as childminding when my own children were young. So, I appreciate and respect how hard you all work and can empathise with some of the demands you are under, but equally value the rewards and the fantastic position we are in, working with young children, watching them develop and grow and be able to celebrate their successes.

I hope to be able to meet lots of you at future training, meetings and visits to your settings and be able to support you within our wonderful Early Years sector.

Donna



Good News!



Congratulations following your inspections!

- Rachel Harrison
(Outstanding)
- Lindsay Wilson (Good)
- Jodi Stansfield (Outstanding)
- Ready Steady Go Nursery
(Good)
- Aqueduct After Hours (Good)
- Sharon Cresswell (Good)
- High Ercall Day Nursery
(Good)
- Paula Knight (Good)
- Claire Carroll (Good)
- Small Talk (Good)
- Little Chicks Pre-School
(Good)
- Zanda Dennis (Good)
- Doretta Evans (Good)
- Paul Steedman (Good)
- Samantha Steedman (Good)



Your News

We have taken on Puddleducks from committee to being run by myself and my daughter. I have managed the setting for 20+ years and my daughter attended many years ago. Since she has started a family and wanted to think about securing our future and ensuring the future of the group we decided to look into running it ourselves. We sought help from another local setting who had done the same and Louise Dutton was a great help. We are 7 months in and going well!

Marie



Your Stories



Children and staff at Halesfield have been celebrating their harvest festival this month. Lay reader Alan from St Andrews Church went into the nursery to talk with the children about the importance of Harvest, how God provides for us all and God's blessing for others. The children then sung some wonderful harvest songs and handed over their food collection for the Shifnal food bank- set up for the community at the church.

As a charity setting themselves, the nursery loves working with the community on important projects like these. Many people will be **benefiting from the parents' generosity and the children learnt some valuable life lessons too.**

Your Stories

At William Reynolds Primary School and Nursery, the school nurse visited the children in Early Years. She did a talk about the importance of handwashing to keep their hands germ free. Derek the dragon visited to show the children how to keep their teeth healthy.



Your Stories

Building important relationships with our local school

Chipmunks Stirchley visited Holmer Lake Primary School's Woodland Area with parents and children to explore, play & learn about nature.



The children were particularly impressed with the woodland cat! The children had the opportunity to build on skills such as problem solving, resilience and motivation. Holmer Lake provided us with some lovely hot chocolate and biscuits and we all had a great time.



Little Dragons Sensory Pod



Our newly established sensory pod is carefully designed to support and nurture children's individual needs, in a safe and calm environment where children can flourish. Through an array of hand-selected resources and intervention programmes this pod will make a difference to the children who attend Little Dragons.

Stay and Play Group

Stirchley Stay and Play is on every Monday,
9:30am—11:30am, during term time.

Join us at:

The Sambrook Centre,
Grange Avenue,
Stirchley
TF3 1FL
01952 567140

for a play and a chat in a fun, relaxed and friendly
environment.

Laura





It may be cold outside but there is a warm welcome at the libraries.

Join us for some seasonal stories.

Suitable for 4-11 years

Southwater Library Monday 19 December 2.30-3.30pm

Newport Library Wednesday 21 December 2-3pm

Book your free place online at

www.telford.gov.uk/libraries

or scan the QR code





Join us for cosy Christmas stories and an afternoon of festive crafts at Wellington Library!

Monday 19th December

Christmas Crafts - 1pm - 4pm

Christmas Stories - from 2pm

Tuesday 20th December

Christmas Crafts - 1pm - 4pm

Christmas Stories - from 2pm

Suitable for families with children aged 3-11.

Just drop in, no need to book.

Meal Vouchers

The government have provided the council with further funding via the Household Support Fund for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. We will be using part of this funding to provide further rounds of Holiday Food Vouchers to those in receipt of income-based Free School Meals, the Pupil Premium, Service Pupil Premium, Talking Twos and Early Years Pupil Premium for the following school holidays:

- £15 per pupil for the week of the October 2022 half-term holiday
- £15 per pupil per week for the two weeks of the Christmas 2022 holiday
- £15 per pupil for the week of the February 2023 half-term holiday
- £15 per pupil per week for the two weeks of the Easter 2023 holiday (probably paid combined with the February half-term holiday vouchers - like we did this year)

We will continue to send vouchers out directly by email to all parents / carers we hold an email address for.

Thank you very much for your support with providing us with your data which is invaluable in helping us to distribute the vouchers.

Meal Vouchers

Our communication to parents includes contact details if they experience any problems with the voucher, plus a link to a Frequently Asked Questions web page www.telford.gov.uk/fsmvoucher. In the unlikely event that a parent contacts you with a query regarding vouchers they have not received, please direct them to winterfunding.grant@telford.gov.uk. If the query instead relates to problems downloading or spending the voucher, please refer parents to our voucher provider Select Essentials. They can be contacted on 0800 587 2294 or by completing a form online at www.select-essentials.co.uk/ContactUs

The current funding we have been given ends on 31 March 2023, so at this stage we don't know if vouchers will be provided for any holidays beyond Easter 2023.

For more details on how we are distributing the Household Support Fund, including details of our application process for those experiencing severe financial difficulties, please visit www.telford.gov.uk/householdsupportfund. The Council has also created a Cost of Living webpage where help, support and advice can be found: www.telford.gov.uk/costofliving. Please feel free to share these links.

Early Years Conference 2022



We held two very successful conferences this year with some amazing speakers Penny and Anne-Marie Tassoni, Shonette Bason Wood and Sal Tongue our local story teller. Both were well attended and feedback was positive.



I am now looking for ideas for next year's conferences and would like your input to help select speakers. If you have taken ideas from our conferences and would like to share them in the next edition of the newsletter, please send them in to talkingchildcare@telford.gov.uk.





Happy Healthy Active Holidays (HHAH)

Can you provide activities for school children in reception to year 11 during the holidays?

Having launched in 2021, the Happy Healthy Active Holidays Programme aims to deliver happy, healthy and active holiday programmes for our children and young people in the borough on income related free school meals over the school holidays (Easter, Summer and Christmas). This programme has been made possible through an annual grant of £843,000 from the Department for Education (DfE) to Telford & Wrekin Council and has been confirmed to run until 2024.

My name is Mykala, and I am the Delivery Officer in our Happy Healthy Active Holidays team. I joined the programme in June 2022 and am passionate to continue to grow this project so that it can be both sustainable long-term and support our communities.

In order for us to reach as many of our children, young people and families as possible, we need to increase the provision within the borough to support our **communities where it's most needed. No matter how big or small the provision, we accept applications from schools, child care or community providers, and even volunteers – if you think you can put an offer in place or know someone who can, please do get in touch!**

It is a national government funded programme available for all local children and young people from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for income-related free school meals. Telford & Wrekin Council's Happy Healthy Active Holiday programme is an exciting programme that mixes positive, enriching, and engaging activities whilst ensuring that every child who attends has the opportunity to eat a healthy, nutritious meal.

This programme supports those children, young people and families who often miss out on organised out-of-school activities. Although they receive support for healthy **meals during school terms, that's not available during the holidays** – the very time when they are most likely to suffer additional pressures. At every activity the child is guaranteed to have a nutritious meal, safe space and opportunity to make friends.

During the Summer holidays 2022 we reached around 22% of our income related FSM children and young people. Whilst this was a growth compared to Summer 21, we still have room to grow and need your help in doing so to reach as many of our families as possible.

Working together, we can help children to:

- be safe;
- be active;
- take part in fun, engaging and enriching activities;
- eat healthily;
- understand the importance of healthy eating;
- and make friends.

The Happy Healthy and Active Holiday club programme is open for grant applications all year round. Organisations who want to run clubs during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays 2022 - 2024 can apply for funding.

If you're unable to put on a full programme of delivery but can support with aspects that meet part of the schemes criteria, we would still like to hear from you. You can get involved by becoming a Delivery Partner and help HHAH Providers with their activities.

[Find out about how to become a holiday Club Provider or Delivery Partner](#) for the HHAH programme in Telford and Wrekin.

If you are a parent/carer looking for information or how to book onto HHAH holiday activities please [visit the HHAH Telford website](#).

Use #HappyHealthyActive and #HAF2022 when posting on Facebook and Twitter.

If you have any queries please email us at holidayactivityhub@telford.gov.uk

Let's help our children and young people to have fun, be active, eat well and learn!

Recruitment



In an effort to help sustain the childcare market in Telford & Wrekin we are working on attending as many employment events/fairs and community engagement projects as possible. Here we are showcasing working in Early Years and Childcare as a career. Last newsletter we shared some photos from the first Early Years-specific event which was held in May. This event generated the following results:

- *Two candidates started at a setting*
- *Four apprenticeships offered*
- *Two potential new childminders supported*
- *Many more enquiries answered and useful networking*

We do understand that staffing is a pressure for all of you, which is why we are attending these events, but we would like you to consider what part you can play in this ongoing campaign. Even if you can only attend an event for a short time, this will enable us to demonstrate impact and engagement both with providers *and* potential candidates.

Upcoming Events

We will have events coming up in the new year, the biggest being the Apprenticeship Show on 16th March 2023. We will be having a stand there to promote Early Years and Childcare as a career. We would like a number of you come along to the stand with us (in shifts lasting an hour each) to speak to potential candidates about your experiences and businesses with a view to inspiring people. Please let us know if you can help.



We are also going to be holding a sector specific open day event in the new year (date tbc) where we will invite providers, training companies and other relevant sector members to come and speak to potential learners and employees. Could you find your next new team member here?

We also have a recruitment and training forum which meets regularly but to date attendance from Early Years settings has been very low, these meetings are generally on Teams and I do believe your insight into your recruitment and training challenges would be extremely beneficial to share with our forum members.

Recruitment

These are the dates of the next school events, if you can attend any of these, please can you let us know.

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Times</u>
07/12/2022	Thomas Telford School TF3 4NW	Year 9 World of Work	12-1:30pm
12/01/2023	St Matthews C of E Primary TF2 7PZ	Year 6 Guess My Job	1:15pm-2:15pm
06/01/2023	Holmer Lake Primary TF3 1LD	Year 6 Guess My Job	TBC
10/01/2023	Harlescott Junior School SY1 4QN	Year 6 Guess My Job	1:30-2:30pm
16/01/2023	St Georges Primary School TF2 9LJ	Year 6 Guess My Job	10:30-11:30
16/01/2023	Woodlands Primary School TF7 5HX	Year 6 Guess My Job	1:30-2:30pm
24/01/2023	Apley Wood Primary TF1 6FQ	Year 6 Guess My Job	TBC
27/01/2023	Charlton Secondary TF1 3FA	Year 10-12 Mock Interviews	TBC
06/02/2023	Meole Brace Primary SY3 9DW	Year 6 Guess My Job	1:30-2:30pm
02/03/2023	Holy Trinity Academy TF2 9SQ	Year 9 World of Work	TBC

Funding



As outlined in the email on 07/11/22, there will now be a charge for providers who do not submit their funding claims in the allotted period (see section 2.57 of your Provider Agreement). This does not include or refer to adjustments, rather the failure to submit funding at all. This term, over 18 providers forgot to submit their funding, even though for many of you this is over 70% of your income.

SPRING ESTIMATE SUBMISSION DATES are as follows

Portal opens – 21 November 2022

Portal closes – 27 November 2022

SPRING ACTUAL SUBMISSION DATES are as follows

Portal opens – 9 January 2023

Portal closes – 5 February 2023

Childcare Sufficiency Submission dates

Portal opens – 9 January 2023

Portal closes – 5 February 2023

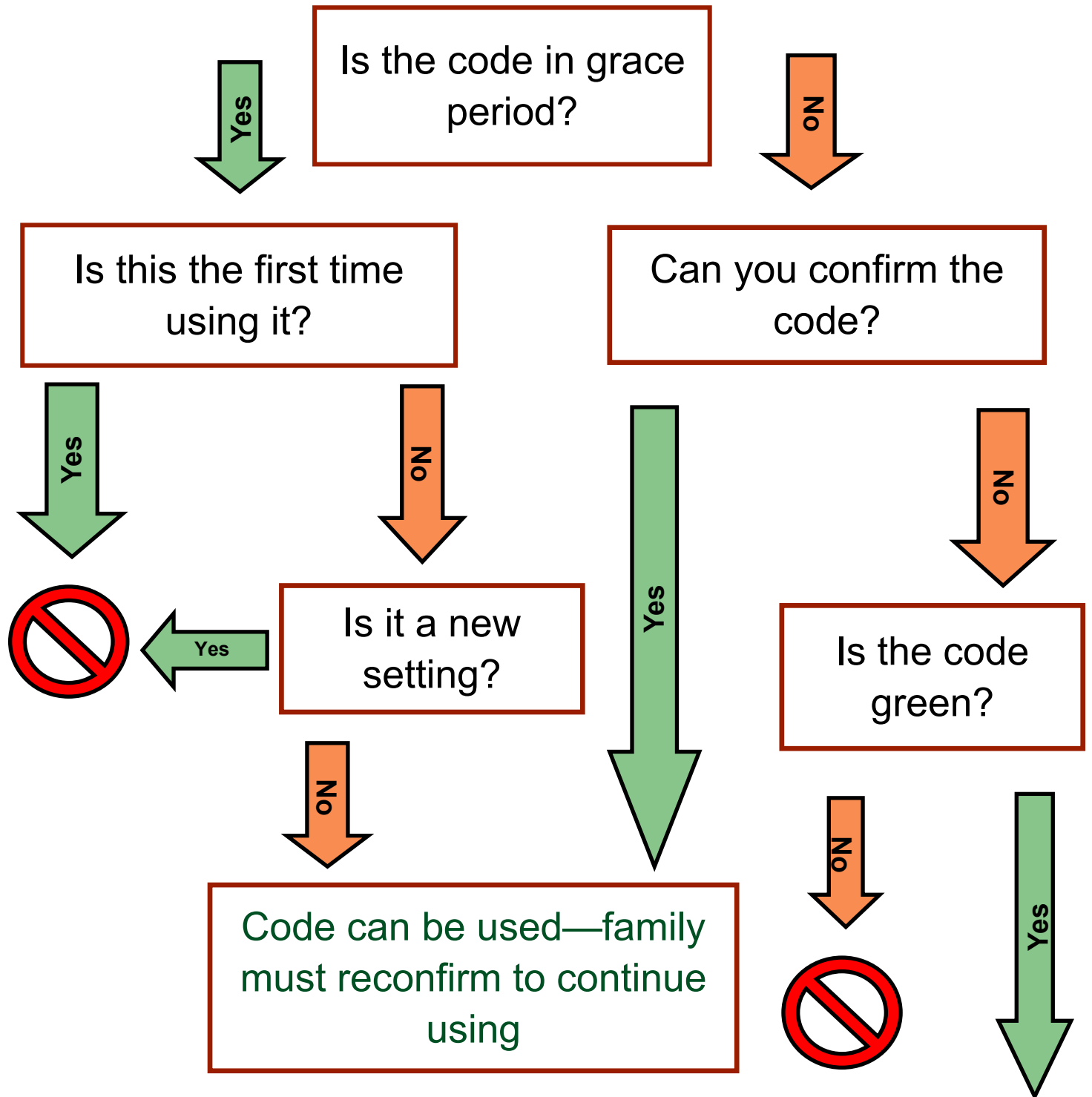
Telford & Wrekin Early Years Funding Headcount and Payment Timetable 2023/24

	Estimate number - Portal		Estimate payments	Actual number - Portal		Actual payment	Adjustments	
	Opens	Closes		Opens	Closes		Opens	Closes
Summer Term 2023 Count Day – 19 May 2023 Term length – 12 weeks	20 March	26 March	w/c 10 April w/c 15 May w/c 12 June	24 April	4 June	w/c 3 July	19 June	25 June
Autumn Term 2023 Count Day - 5 October 2023 Term length – 14 weeks	10 July	16 July	w/c 14 August w/c 11 September w/c 9 October	4 September	8 October	w/c 6 November	23 October	29 October
Spring Term 2024 Count Day – 18 January 2024 Term length – 12 weeks	20 November	26 November	w/c 11 December w/c 15 January w/c 12 February	8 January	11 February	w/c 4 March	19 February	25 February

Payments will look like 3 payments based on 75% of your estimate figures and 1 on your actual figures.

Please note these dates must be adhered to and providers failing to complete the information as requested can expect delays in receiving their payments.

30 hour codes



The code has not been renewed on time—validity start date will be after start of term. This code cannot be used until next term and family must reconfirm to continue using.

Safeguarding

RoSPA provide lots of useful information around Health & Safety. The following may be useful to share with your parents and carers. Information can be found at www.rosipa.com

Christmas is a time when your home is likely to be full of people, and it's in the excitement of the season that accidents can easily happen.

But one of the good things about Christmas is that there are typically more people around to supervise children and, with a little more care and forward planning, most accidents could be avoided.

Christmas Decorations and Novelties

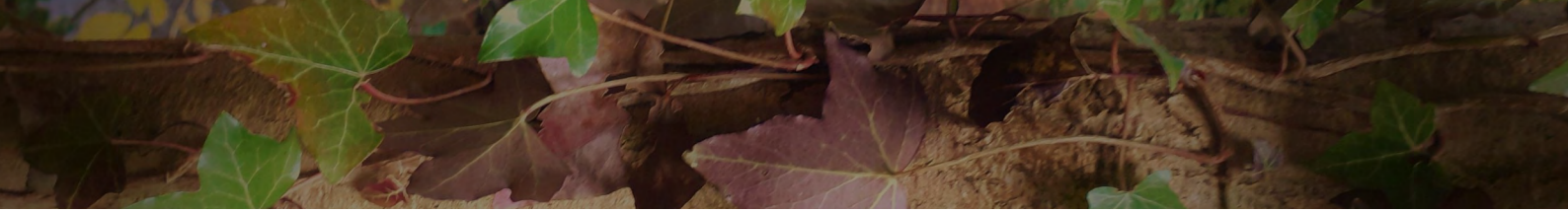


- Christmas decorations and novelties come in all shapes and sizes, and many of them look like toys and are attractive to children. But the **problem is, they don't adhere to the same safety standards as toys**, and so should not be given to children to play with.
- Children under 36 months are at the greatest risk, as the most common problem is decorations having parts that can easily be pulled off and put in the mouth, posing a choking risk.
- To ensure you know what you are buying, check the small print on labels. Phrases such as "this is a decoration, not a toy", "keep out of reach of children", or "for use as a decoration only" will mean the product does not adhere to toy safety standards.

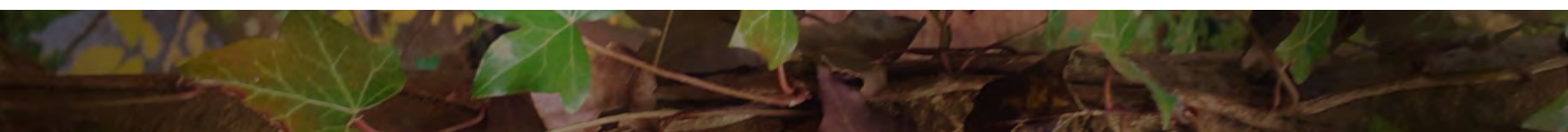


Christmas Safety Tips

- Make sure you buy children's gifts for the correct age group and from reputable retailers, and ensure they comply to [safety standards](#)
- Remember to buy batteries for toys that need them – that way you won't be tempted to remove batteries from smoke alarms
- Look out for small items that could pose a choking hazard to young children, such as [button batteries](#), which if not caught early, can do serious damage to the gastrointestinal system. Never leave these items lying around and make sure that children know not to put them in their mouths, ears or up their noses.
- Keep decorations and cards away from fires and other heat sources such as light fittings and don't leave burning candles unattended
- Remember, [Christmas novelties and decorations](#) are not toys and they do not have to comply with toy safety regulations - place them high up and out of reach of young hands



- Give yourself enough time to prepare and cook Christmas dinner to avoid accidents that come from rushing, and wipe up any spills quickly
- Have scissors handy to open packaging, so you're not tempted to use a knife, and have screwdrivers at the ready to assemble toys
- Beware of trailing cables and wires in the rush to connect new gadgets and appliances, and always read the instructions
- [Falls](#) are the most common accidents so try to keep clutter to a minimum and make sure stairs are well-lit and free from obstacles.
- Plan New Year fireworks parties well in advance and follow the [Firework Code](#)
- Do not drink and drive, and plan long journeys so you won't be driving tired.



Contacts

New Schedule
Autumn 2022 is
now available
[here](#)

Email details:

For all funding enquiries please use:

childcarefunding@telford.gov.uk

For all training/general enquiries please use:

talkingchildcare@telford.gov.uk

For all childminder enquiries please use:

talkingchildminders@telford.gov.uk

SEND request for involvement please use:

EarlyYearsSENDSupport@telford.gov.uk

Please don't forget the new request for involvement form and the new email address to send these to:

EarlyYearsSENDSupport@telford.gov.uk

You can also access via this link [here](#)

Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Discover everything you need to know about education, health and care services in your local area for children and young people with SEND 0-25yrs at...

www.telfordsend.org.uk



Button batteries - where are yours?

child accident prevention trust

+BIPBA-

British and Irish Toy and Hobby Association

Button batteries, particularly big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, can badly hurt or kill a small child within two hours, if they get stuck in the food pipe. Know where yours are, so you can keep your children safe.



Five top tips

- Hunt around your home for button batteries – in products as well as spare and 'flat' batteries.
- Keep products well out of children's reach if the battery compartment isn't secured.
- Store spare button batteries in sealed containers in a high cupboard.
- Remember that 'flat' or 'dead' batteries still hold enough power to badly hurt a child. So put them out of children's reach straight away and recycle them safely and as quickly as possible.
- **If you think your child has swallowed one, don't delay. Trust your instincts and take them to A&E straight away or call 999 for an ambulance. Don't let them eat or drink and don't make them sick.**

1. Fitness tracker
2. Remote control
3. Spare batteries
4. 3D glasses
5. Robot bug toy
6. Gaming headset
7. Car key
8. Key finder
9. Kitchen scales
10. Light up fidget spinner
11. Spare batteries

12. Bathroom scales
13. Spare batteries
14. Thermometer
15. Flat battery
16. Robo fish
17. Musical greeting card
18. Light-up yo-yo
19. Tea light
20. Light saber
21. Flashing wand

For more help



© capt.org.uk/button-batteries

© Child Accident Prevention Trust

