

Newsletter Autumn 2025



The Early Years and Childcare team would like to wish all schools, settings, HHAH providers and wraparound provisions a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

It has been a hard 12 months, but we have achieved so much with 935 babies, 1294 2-year-olds and 2158 3/4 year olds accessing funded childcare this term. This is all down to settings developing offers and meeting the needs of parents/ carers in the borough. A big thank you to all of our settings for making this possible.

Our wraparound provisions have been expanding to provide much needed care for children before and after school. The HHAH programme has been developing year on year to provide many holiday places for children to support families needs. Both will continue to grow in 2026 to support family's developing needs. We would like to say a big thank you for all your hard work in 2025 and that we look forward to working with you in 2026.

Lisa Seymour
Early Years and Childcare Team Leader

Your Coop Little Pioneers - Good

Busy Bees Day Nursery - Good

Claire Smith - Good

ABC Day Nursery Hadley - Outstanding

ABC Day Nursery Hollinswood - Outstanding

Tracy Kumar - Good

Simona Lorincz - Good



Your Stories!



Hadley Under & Over 5's

During the Autumn term, our children have been exploring the season of Harvest. We have investigated where our foods come from and how fresh fruit and vegetables grow at different times of the year, depending on the weather.

We discussed how communities across the world support one another by supplying foods grown in different countries to ensure we still get to enjoy our favourite fruits and vegetables throughout the year.

As part of our activities, we discussed how kindness and sharing food brings communities together and asked our children if they would like to help. They brought in items from home, and we passed these over to Erin Aston, who visited our setting from Telford Crisis Support.

Erin explained to our children how their donation would be taken to Telford Crisis Support and be included in deliveries made to people or groups in our community who would welcome kindness and support.

Little Seeds

Following their Ofsted Visit on Thursday 23rd October, Little Seeds have now officially opened their doors as of Monday 3rd November.

They've already been busy with plenty of exciting celebrations including Guy Fawkes Day, Remembrance Day and Children in Need alongside fun activities such as their home corner role-play, lots of story reading, outdoor play and circle times.

Little Seeds currently have availability for 3-5 year olds with 2 year old spaces coming soon. Funded hours accepted with no hidden fees! Contact them direct to arrange a show around and find out more!



Early Years Funding



Talking Early & Years Childcare

Funded Hours per Week

Eligible for Funded Hours

Click to check eligibility for 2-year-old receiving additional support funding

Hours*



[Check Eligibility](#)

TALKING 2s hours go in the first section "Funded Hours per week".

This is capped at 15 hours.

Expanded Funded Hours per Week

Eligible for Expanded Hours

Eligibility Code

Click to check eligibility for Working Family funding

Expanded Hours*



[Check Eligibility Code](#)

WORKING FAMILIES hours go in the second section "Expanded Funded Hours per week".

This is capped at 30 hours.

Total Funded Hours per Week

Total Funded:

If a family has BOTH codes, the first 15 need to be logged as funded hours, and the next 15 as expanded hours (in a similar way to universal and 30 hour funding codes have been for 3 and 4 year olds).

If a family is ONLY working families funded, all 30 hours need to be logged as Expanded Hours.



Childcare Choices has rebranded to Best Start in Life as of 1st September 2025.

Eligibility has remained the same for Working Families however 2yo's and 9mo - 2yo's can now claim 30 hours of funding a week.

Funding for 3&4yo's remains the same with 15 Universal funded hours and eligible working families can claim an additional 15 funded hours.

DAF Claims Reminder

Please remember to add a note for any of your children who have DAF or who are in care when submitting your actuals—without a note we will miss any funding claims for these children.

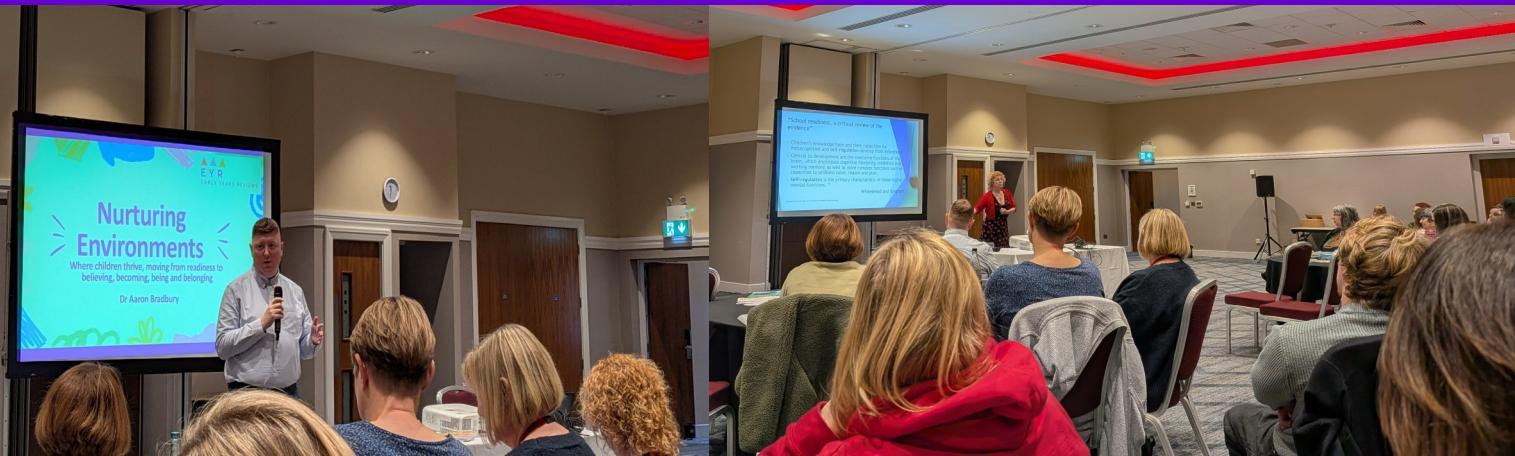
Outreach Work



Now that our team has expanded we've been doing more outreach work so that parents in our borough can check exactly what funding they are entitled to. With visits to local libraries, skills shows and family events we have spoken to plenty of parents/carers this year. Our outreach work will continue in the New Year where we hope to visit more locations and target more families!



EYFS Conference



What a great turnout for the EYFS Conference on Friday 7th November.

With interesting talks from speakers Ruth Swailes and Dr Aaron Bradbury in the morning and then engaging workshops with Ben Kingston-Hughes and Diana Lawton in the afternoon it was truly an incredible day.

Thank you to everyone who attended, we hope you found the conference as useful and compelling as we did!



Happy Healthy Active Holidays

🎄 ⚡ Wow, what a year 2025 has been! ⚡ 🎄

Summer was an absolute blast – our biggest year yet! ☀️ With **68 provisions** running and over **4,000 children attending**, the smiles were endless.

HHAH welcomes children from **Reception to Year 11**, aiming to be inclusive for all. This year, we introduced **additional SEND specialist provisions** and hosted **family fun days with some very special guests!**

🎅 And now... Christmas is here!

We've got an **action-packed festive programme** from **20th to 23rd December**, filled with:

🎨 Christmas arts & crafts

🎲 Festive games

🎅 A visit from the man in red himself – all in preparation for the big day!

⚡ Week 2 brings even more family fun with activities like:

⛸ Ice skating

🎬 Cinema trips

🎭 Panto performances

...and so much more!

👉 Invite families to join the fun at: hhah.telford.gov.uk

From all of us at **Happy Healthy Active Holidays**, we wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** 🎄 🎁

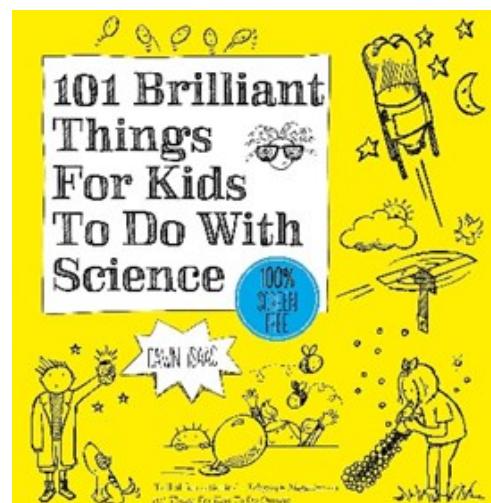
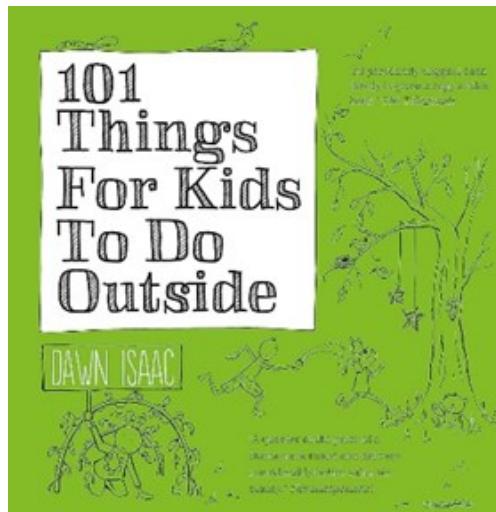




Second year of Wraparound and what it looks like so far!

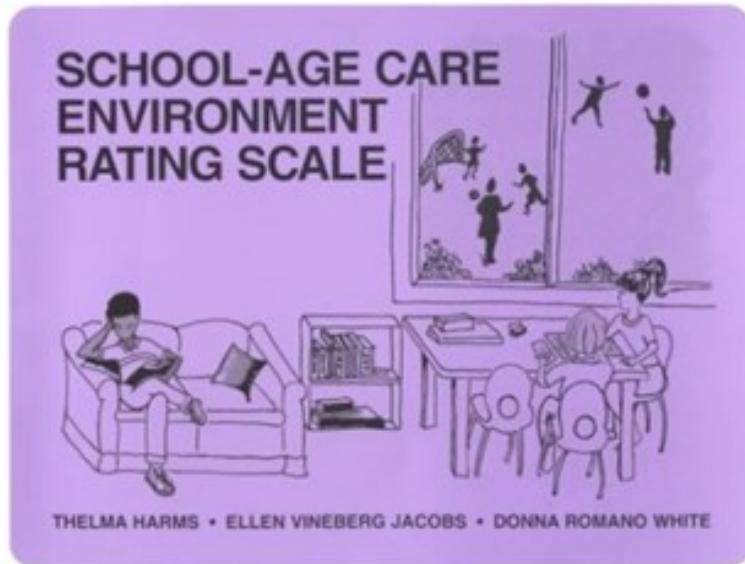
2024-2025 Wraparound was a huge success with 474 new and expanded places for the academic year. 17 schools, 11 PVIs and 6 childminders have been funded through this DFE programme.

Funded providers over 2024-2025 received a combination of books to help enhance ideas as well as an arts and crafts hamper. This included a variety of items such as paint, paper, tissue paper, card, glue sticks, paint pots, colouring pencils and many more items. Look out for the next lot of goodies in 2026!



Wraparound

Settings have welcomed Telford & Wrekin into their provision to complete a School Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS). These have been well received and have been seen as a tool for providers to celebrate what they are doing well within their setting, and the recognition of wraparound practitioners.



Looking to this new academic year (2025-2026) we have already been having fun during the recent training, such as Ben Kingston-Hughes delivering play ideas and having lots of laughs. The Network meeting provided fresh creative ideas from the Creative Station and The Embrace Group who deliver physical games and activities. We definitely saw the competitive side of practitioners but all in all it was lots of fun.

If you're interested there is still the opportunity to join the wraparound programme, even if you can deliver partial places, please get in touch to explore your options. To discuss further please contact wraparoundchildcare@telford.gov.uk

So far seven schools and two childminders have joined the programme this term, they now have the opportunity to increase their provision with the additional funds. There is still time!

Save the date - 10th March 2026 - Wraparound Carousel 9:30AM to 2:30PM. Watch this space!

Toy safety

“I would hate for any other child to go through what Becca suffered because of buying dangerous toys via online marketplaces.”

Mum of two-year-old Becca who swallowed magnets from a toy

Toys from reputable brands are made to be safe. But if they've come from an unknown seller on an online marketplace, a market or small discount store, they could be dangerous.

Buying safely

- Buy toys from brand names you know. If you've never heard of the seller or the brand and price is really tempting, it could be dangerous
- Watch out for cheap copies of popular toys. They may not be made to UK safety standards.
- Check if the toy has been removed from sale because it's unsafe. Visit gov.uk and search 'product recalls'
- If you buy something that looks unsafe, trust your instincts and send it back.

Under 3s most at risk

Babies and toddlers are curious and naturally put everything in their mouths. So dangerous toys can pose the biggest risk to small children. Be especially careful when buying for under 3s.

Watch out for missing or contradictory age warnings. If a toy is pictured with a toddler but marketed as unsuitable for young children, pick something else.

Which toys are most dangerous?

Toys with:

- accessible button batteries that can burn through your child's food pipe
- super strong magnets that can rip through your child's belly
- long cords that can strangle your child
- small parts that can choke your small child

Water beads that can block your child's bowel if swallowed

Electrical toys with exposed wires or chargers that can catch fire.



Checking toys

If you're unsure about the safety of a toy, here are some checks you can do:

- Check battery compartments for accessible button batteries or loose spares in the box
- Check for any loose small magnets
- Give the parts on the toy a quick tug and check for small parts that come off
- Look for long cords or access to stuffing
- Check if there are any age restrictions or safety warnings on the product.

Report dangerous toys

If you spot or buy a toy you're concerned about:

- Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 0808 223 1133
- Citizens Advice consumer helpline (Welsh-speaking adviser): 0808 223 1144
- Advice Direct Scotland helpline: 0808 164 6000
- Northern Ireland Consumerline: 0300 123 6262



Beware of Button Batteries this Christmas

“I went from having a fully weaned toddler to feeding him via a tube” Hollie, Mum of one-year-old Ralphie who swallowed a button battery.

If a child swallows a big powerful lithium coin cell battery, the damage can be life-altering or even fatal.

But button batteries are an inevitable part of Christmas. They power so many products, from Christmas novelties to remote controls for anything that lights up.

While toys from reputable retailers will come with a screw on the button battery compartment, cheap toys bought online may not offer any protection.

Plus, gifts arrive with loose spare button batteries that can fall out unnoticed.

The damage a lithium coin cell battery does to a child’s food pipe if it gets stuck can happen alarmingly quickly, with few clear symptoms to warn you.

So it’s important to know how dangerous they are and to be alert to where they are in your home.

This Christmas, when buying toys look for brand names you know, give new toys a quick check to make sure battery compartments are secure and watch out for spare batteries that come loose with new products or toys.

Family Hubs

Family Hubs are committed to offering support to our families in Telford and Wrekin to ensure they can access the ‘Right help at the right time’.

We currently run 12 community drops ins over Telford where parents/carers can access support and advice bespoke to their family’s needs in addition to this we also offer a bookable telephone drop in, support we cover includes Parenting and Behaviour support, Online and Community safety, SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) and more...

For more information, please see our website—under “What’s On” - Drop Ins

School Readiness Workshop—3rd Monday of each month, 10-11AM - Dawley Town Hall TF4 3JR - to book please visit our website - **booking located under the parenting section of our website.**

Parenting Together - Online 4-week Workshop, we offer mornings, afternoons, and evenings—covering; Parental Wellbeing, Understanding Behaviour as Communication, Emotional Regulation, exploring boundaries and consequences, promotion positive parenting, and keeping children safe online, offline and in the community - **booking located under the parenting section of our website.**

Playing Together - Free Play Session for you and your child aged 0-5 years to enjoy games, creative activities and physical play - various venues and times.

Music & Movement - A free fun interactive session filled with music, dance and movement - selected dates and venues

Blossom and Bloom - a free stay and play session for infants and pre-schoolers with SEND aged 0-5. Fun activities every Tuesday term time, have a coffee, meet other parents in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Please see our website under ‘What’s On’ - Groups and Events in your community - for further information.



Right help at the right time



Making it *REAL*

Next dates for the Special Approach to Making it REAL open access webinars:

13th January 2026 1PM - 3PM [A Special Approach to Making it REAL to support families and practitioners Tickets, Tue 13 Jan 2026 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

5th February 2026 9:30AM - 11:30AM [A Special Approach to Making it REAL to support families and practitioners Tickets, Thu 5 Feb 2026 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

24th February 2026 7PM - 9PM [A Special Approach to Making it REAL to support families and practitioners Tickets, Tue 24 Feb 2026 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

9th March 2026 10AM - 12noon Bookings open 19th December 2025



Makaton Training Session

We recently attended a Makaton Training Session which was fully funded by our Early Years Hub - Hub around the Clock which is made up of local childminders, schools and PVI settings. We completed a taster course and all learnt about the history of Makaton and how to sign 36 basic words and some Early Years specific signs. All the practitioners are looking forward to using Makaton with their children in their settings to support their communication. The course was run by Sarah Case - more details about the courses she runs can be found here: <https://www.sarahthemakatontutor.com>

