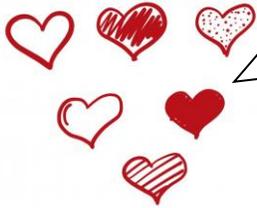




Welcome to the third edition of the Education Mile Newsletter. Our aim is to share regular local and national information for families in the City. If you would like to find out anything further on any items or you would like more advice or information, please contact the **Family and Young People's Information Service**, **020 7332 1002**, fyi@cityoflondon.gov.uk. Website: www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Thank you to Nathan Beasley, our Business and Admin Apprentice for creating our new logo.



To make you smile...

A dad was driving home his son, who was around 7. The little boy was watching the stars and was completely silent, when he said, "I wish people could think of a different word for love so that it was easier to understand!"

The importance of music and singing in early development cannot be underestimated (with thanks to Bernard Trafford, writer, educationalist and musician for some key points)



The Sunday Times quoted Amanda Spielman's (Ofsted chief inspector) serious point on the topic: "Humpty Dumpty may seem old-fashioned, but children who can sing a song and know a story off by heart aged four are better prepared for school. Nursery rhymes provide a collective experience – and teach a little bit of social history to boot." There's science underlying this. Called Eurhythmics: it is a method of learning which invites the child to respond to music totally, by singing, playing, listening and moving.

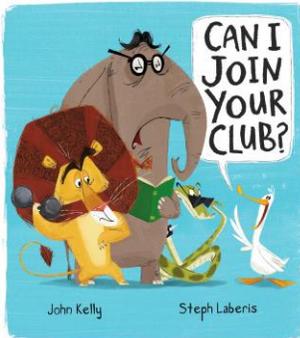
Children under 6 years old need to strengthen their motor skills in order to develop a sense of what music is, how it sounds and how it moves through the body. Music and movements combined help children to develop aural skills, spatial awareness and social experience. They also support children to focus on elements of music - up and down, fast and slow, short and long, same and different, loud and soft. Skills which are all needed for effective communication.

In summary: Nursery rhymes are a powerful contributor to children's early learning. By listening attentively to music and responding to it, children become better at listening and talking. However, remember that this does not include nursery rhymes playing in the background all through the day.

Training

The Department for Education has funded a new online training directory, EYupskill (<http://eyupskill.org.uk/>), as part of the government's Early Years Workforce Strategy. Developed by the Pre-school Learning Alliance, it provides practitioners with impartial support and information about training providers and professional development pathways.

Early Years Conference



City of London Early Years Conference

Thank you very much to everyone who attended our first Early Years Conference. We receive some wonderful feedback, including "I just wanted to email and thank you all so much for Saturday. It was amazing, how brilliant that a LA can pull something so proficient together. I loved every minute. It was a great opportunity to chat to fellow colleagues and parents. The speakers were inspirational and the opening from your director made me want to start googling for jobs in the City!".

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

Do you have a child attending your setting who will be 5 by 31st August 2018? If so, you will need to complete a foundation stage profile for this child in June 2018. For more details, contact Isabelle.britten-dennie@cityoflondon.gov.uk or Emma.mottershead@cityoflondon.gov.uk.



Breakfast Clubs



The government is to spend up to £26m of the proceeds from a new tax on sugary drinks to open more breakfast clubs in disadvantaged areas.

This idea is based on a research published by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), which found that breakfast clubs that offer pupils in primary schools a free and nutritious meal before school can boost their reading, writing and maths results by the equivalent of

two months' progress over the course of a year. It is also worth noting that children's concentration and behaviour improved as a result of attending the breakfast clubs.

The research also found that children who attended the breakfast club – regardless of whether or not they actually ate breakfast there – showed academic improvement. This means that the social and educational benefits of the breakfast club could be as valuable as the nutritional benefits provided by the breakfast itself.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>