



Welcome to the sixth 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.



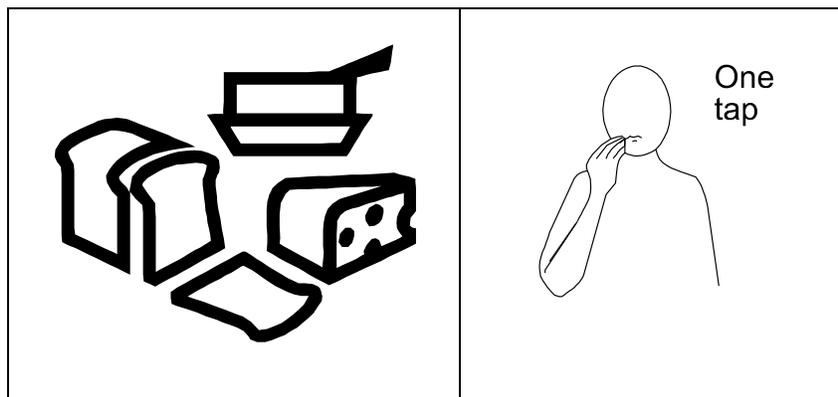
To make you smile...

In the middle of dinner, a child asked his dad: "What did it feel like on your last day of being a child?"

Makaton sign

Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Makaton is designed to support spoken language, so signs and symbols are always used with speech. If you would like to know more about Makaton or want to attend training, then contact me at isabelle.britten-dennisee@cityoflondon.gov.uk

This term's sign is: **Food**



Did you know?

At age two, the connections that are being formed in a child's brain are happening about twice as fast as in an adult's brain (Stiles & Jernigan 2010).

Tips for reading with young children (part 2)

18-24 months: Introduce longer stories with more complex plots. Humour is a big selling point at this age, as are silly rhymes. Don't worry if your toddler runs away when you read as children this age just really need to move. Look for ways to connect that energy to the story, such as asking your child to hop like the rabbit in the book. Your toddler might also be able to label objects with simple sounds or words, for example, exclaiming "Moo!" when he sees a picture of a cow. For new talkers, get in the habit of pausing before you say a favorite line or phrase in the story to see if your toddler will fill in the final word. Harness your toddler's growing independence and give your child the "job" of turning pages. While reading, take some time to discuss what's happening in the pictures and ask questions about the book such as "Who is hiding behind the tree?" This interaction helps to build your toddler's thinking and language skills.

24-36 months: Your child will be ready for books with an engaging plot (extra points for humor, rhymes, and great illustrations). Nonfiction stories, such as a book about construction vehicles, stories about animals or seasons, or books that discuss jobs such as doctor or fire fighter are also of interest to toddlers who are working hard to figure out how the world works. At this age, you can ask questions about the story that are a little tougher such as "How do you think the boy is feeling?" or "What do you think will happen next?" Make connections between the book and your child's life by asking questions such as "The boy in this story played in his garden. What did you do in the garden this afternoon?" By 3 years old, your child may even be able to tell you the story based on what's happening in the pictures. And don't be surprised if your little one wants to hear the same book over and over. Children love repetition and won't tire of a story, even the 10th time.

Finally, remember that telling your child a story can happen any time. Give it a try during mealtimes, nappy changes, driving to nursery, and right before bed when you "tell the story" of your child's day. Each of these moments creates an opportunity to build a deeper connection with your child and to build her language and literacy skills, too!

For more details, go to <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1833-read-early-and-often>

Are you entitled to 30hrs free funding for your 3-4 year olds?

If you earn more than the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or minimum wage per week (for example, £120 per week if you are 25 or older) and less than £100,000 per year, you can claim 30 hours free childcare for your 3-4 year olds. To register, go to: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If you are already claiming, **don't forget to renew your code.**



City Parent Carer Forum: Connecting, creating, co-producing

The forum usually meets once a month in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Discussions centre around how to improve services for the SEND community in this area. For more information, have a look at the new website: <https://www.cityparentcarers.org/> or go to http://fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk/kb5/cityoflondon/fyi/parents_forum.page