

Lockdown Edition 2: February 2021

Welcome to the second lockdown edition of the City of London SEND newsletter. With schools still closed for most pupils, we hope this newsletter will offer ideas for keeping children active and occupied during lockdown as well as links to support. We would love to hear your feedback and ideas for the information you would like us to include in future editions. Please send your comments or ideas to EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Topics (click on a heading): [The SEND Local Offer](#) | [Preparing your child to return to school](#) | [BBC Tiny Happy People](#) | [Makaton](#) | [World Book Day](#) | [BBC Bitesize](#) | [Sensory Activities at home](#) | [City of London Youth Forum](#) | [Important contacts](#) | [National Internet Safety Day Top Tips](#) | [The City of London Safer Schools App](#) | [Coltale](#)

The City of London SEND Local Offer



The City of London Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) local offer provides information in a single place for children and young people with and their parents or carers. It includes up-to-date information on opportunities and services that you can access across education, health and social care and leisure.

The Local Offer is in the process of being redesigned so that City of London families, children and young people can access all the information they need in one place.

We want the Local Offer to be the 'one stop shop' for information about SEND in the City and we need to hear your views. If you would like to be involved please email Sue Briggs at sue.briggs@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

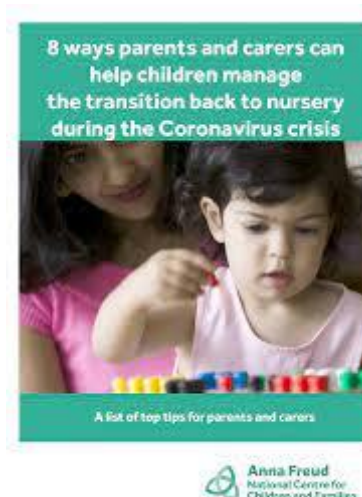
Preparing your child to return to settings and schools

Tips for parents and caregivers

The half term break will be a good time to start talking with your children about returning to



face-to-face learning. The Mental Health Foundation has produced some practical advice for parents and carers of school-age children that can be found by clicking [here](#).

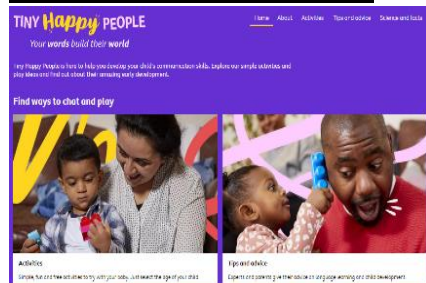


The Anna Freud Centre has produced information for parents and carers of young children in early years settings. This information can be found by clicking [here](#).

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BBC Tiny Happy People



The BBC Tiny Happy People website helps you to develop your child's communication skills.

The website

includes simple activities and play ideas that are designed for pre-school children but also has many activities that can be enjoyed by children of any age. Click [here](#) to explore for yourself.

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Makaton signing

Makaton is a language programme that uses signs together with speech and symbols to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention, listening, comprehension, memory and expressive speech and language.

Makaton is the signing system used by Mr Tumble in the CBeebies 'Something Special'. The [Makaton website](#) features a 'Sign of the Week' with a video for you to practice along with your child. If you would like more information about Makaton training or signs please contact Isabelle Britten-Dennie at Isabelle.britten-dennie@cityoflondon.gov.uk.



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World Book Day: 4 March 2021

World Book Day is a brilliant opportunity for everyone to celebrate the joy of reading. The lockdown means doing things differently, so we have some amazing resources to help schools and families whether children are celebrating at

home or at school. Reading and sharing stories is the perfect lockdown activity for everyone to enjoy! This year's World Book Day activities include:

- 2021's brilliant £1 book selection – available in bookshops & supermarkets with our £1 tokens from Thursday 18 February - Sunday 28 March.



- World Book Day Book Club – a new online reading community.

- Share A Story Corner – video stories to encourage families to read together.

Find out more [here](#).

The Book Trust website includes suggestions for books about and for children with special needs and disabilities. The information can be found [here](#).

Here is a link to a video with some ideas to encourage young children to enjoy sharing books- ['Teach me to talk'](#)

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BBC Bitesize

A reminder that BBC Bitesize is offering three hours of primary programming on CBBC from 9am including Bitesize Daily and Live Lessons.



Secondary students can tune in to BBC Two for Bitesize Daily, drama adaptations and factual programmes. PLUS

Bitesize Daily will be on Red Button every week day and on BBC iPlayer on demand

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Sensory Activities at home

Lockdown at home can be especially difficult for children with sensory difficulties. Here are links to a couple of youtube videos with some ideas for sensory activities you can do with your children at home without special equipment.

[Animation and song](#)
[Sensory Circuits at Home](#)



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The City of London Youth Forum



The City of London recognises and values the important role young people can play in the development of its services. The City Youth Forum is an opportunity for any young person, aged 11-19 (or up-to 25 with SEND) who lives, works or studies within the Square Mile.

Email city@prospects.co.uk or call 07585401280 to get involved. The meetings are monthly as below.

- March: Term Time: Thursday 25th - 5pm - 7pm
- April: Half Term: Friday 16th – 2pm – 4pm
- May: Term Time: Thursday 27th - 5pm -7pm
- **June: No Forum**
- July: Term Time: Thursday 29th – 2pm - 4pm
- August: Half Term: Friday 13th – 2pm-4pm

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Important City contacts

City of London Parent Carer Forum

The Forum represents and is made up of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. For more information contact



CITY PARENT CARER FORUM

Email: info@cityparentcarers.org

- Phone: 07939 069 220
- www.cityparentcarers.org

Coltale on social media

- Twitter - @SqMileFamilies
- Facebook – @SquareMileFamilies
- Instagram - @Square_Mile_Families

Tower Hamlets and City of London

SENDIASS (SEND Information Advice and Support Services) free, impartial and confidential advice and support to families of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25.

National Internet Safety Day: Top Tips

- Keep personal information limited and keep your privacy settings on
- Explain to your children that talking to strangers is a threat to online safety.
- Ensure your child only views content that reflects their age, use parental controls.
- Take an interest in what your child does online and create an environment of trust to encourage your child to share concerns.
- Check a website's reliability: only use reliable, trustworthy websites.
- Create shared family rules for the internet.
- Keep social networks secure.



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The City of London Safer Schools App

The power of technology is of benefit to us all, but more time spent online by our children can lead to greater levels of risk. As parents and carers, it is important that you know how you can help make your children safer.

The free City of London Safer Schools App includes useful advice about making your home and devices safer. It provides information about social media and how to block, mute and report anything that either you (or your child) find worrying - from images to comments from online bullies. The App will help you create healthy media habits, limit screen time, learn about scams and keep your personal data safe.

How to access the App

- Decide which version to download. If you have children in both primary and secondary school, we'd suggest you download the secondary school version.
- Follow the steps set out in one of the images above.
- Allow push notifications to keep up to date with tips, advice and guidance on how to make your child safer.

For any queries and for further information and about the App click [here](#).



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Meet Our Early Years Mascot: Coltale

About Me:

My name is Coltale and I am the mascot for the City of London speech and language programme which is named after me. You will have seen me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as part of the SquareMileFamily posts. I love giving helpful tips to families and teachers who work in the Square Mile.

Fun Facts:

- COLTALE stands for "City of London Talking and Listening Enthusiastically".
- My favourite activities are to read books and sing songs.
- My favourite colour is blue.
- I have been on many adventures; read about them in my e-Book.
- I don't breathe fire ... only sometimes!

Contact:

EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Office hours: 9am - 5pm daily

You can also find me on
Facebook, Twitter and
Instagram.

Search: SquareMileFamilies