

April 2023



## Early Years news, advice and guidance for Square Mile families and settings

### Hello...

Welcome to our monthly 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 like more advice or information, please contact the Family Information Service.

020 7332 1002

[EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

[www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### Makaton

Talking does not just involve speaking. Watch someone talking, they will also be using gestures, facial expression, eye contact and body language. All this is communication. Makaton uses speech with signs (gestures) and symbols (pictures) to help people communicate. Would you like to learn some useful signs to use with your child?

As part of our Coltales programme (City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically) we post Makaton videos every Wednesday on our social media platforms. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or search [#ColtalesTopTips](https://www.instagram.com/coltales)

To find out more about Makaton, please visit their website by clicking [here](#).

### Start for Life Survey and Consultation

The City of London is undertaking a consultation and survey with resident parents and carers, on the subject of early years services in the City. It only takes a few minutes and your views are key to ensuring an effective review of the current services.

If you are unable to attend one of our face-to-face events, it would be much appreciated if you could complete this on-line survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CoLSfl>



### START FOR LIFE

#### City of London Consultation Sessions For Families With Children Under Five

10TH MAY: 1.00PM – 3.30PM  
GOLDEN LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
GOLDEN LANE ESTATE,  
LONDON EC1Y 0SA

11TH MAY: 9.45AM – 12.30PM  
PORTSOKEN COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
20 LITTLE SOMERSET ST,  
LONDON E1 8AE

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

We are seeking the views of parents/carers and partners on services for children under five and their families.

- Priorities for Early Years Services and activities in the City of London.
- What Early Years Services we should prioritise locally in the City of London.
- What is currently working well and what still needs further improvement.



If you have any questions in advance of these sessions please email: [EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

## Coltale's Top Tip

Why not try to play 'ready, steady, go' games to help build anticipation skills?

Anticipation games allow children to practise saying certain phrases and short, simple sentences. It's also a great way for them to take the lead and get prepared for something fun!

By giving answers and explaining what will happen after 'Go!' you are encouraging your child to put together sentences on their own and get creative.

By playing this game, your child will also practise their attention and listening skills as they will wait for the 'go' before they can do something.

Working out whether or not they have to do the action after 'go' helps children develop their decision-

For example, blow bubbles with your child and build suspense by saying 'ready... steady...' . Then wait for your child to respond with a word, a nod or a sign, before saying 'go' and blowing.

This will help your child learn to take turns and focus their attention.

Blowing bubbles also develops the small muscles in your child's mouth as they pucker their lips and blow bubbles.



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