

August 2026



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 would like more advice or information, please contact the Family Information Service.

Email: EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Safer Sleep



Newborn and baby sleeping advice for parents. Always sleep your baby on their back in a clear cot or sleeping space. Find out what your baby needs to sleep safely, how much sleep they need, and get tips on coping with tiredness.

<https://www.nhs.uk/best-start-in-life/baby/baby-basics/newborn-and-baby-sleeping-advice-for-parents/safe-sleep-advice-for-babies/>

New DfE Guidance on Screen Use

The Department for Education (DfE) has published new guidance to help early years providers manage screen use in ways that support children's learning and development.

The guidance includes recommendations for children aged 0–5, explains the difference between screen use and screen time, and offers practical advice on using screens safely and effectively.

It also covers choosing age-appropriate content, supporting children with SEND, working with parents and carers to encourage healthy screen habits at home, and using digital devices as part of the day-to-day running of an early years setting.



<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/screen-use>

SEND Ranges Guidance Video with useful information for parents and carers with responsibilities for SEND children and young people.

The City of London's SEND Ranges provide a framework for staff in all settings 0-25 to address the early identification of needs, provide ideas for curriculum adaptation, guidance on assessment and the effective deployment of resources, including staff.

The Ranges are based on the four areas of the SEND Code of Practice and give guidance and ideas from Early Years to Post 19. It includes the Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) outcomes from the Early Years through to 25.

The SEND Ranges provide guidance on what should be 'ordinarily available' to meet the needs of the most complex child and young person who maybe either in a mainstream setting, additional resource base or a specialist provision.

For more information watch our introductory video:

<https://youtu.be/xf7Oz3QiFSI>

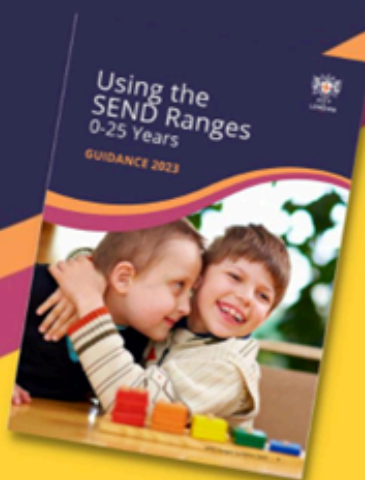
There is also an leaflet introducing the SEND Ranges booklet to parents and carers. This can be downloaded here:

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/asset-library/send-ranges-a5-pdf-01.10.25.pdf>

Then when you are ready, you can download the Using the SEND Ranges booklet from here:

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/asset-library/using-the-send-ranges.pdf>

INTRODUCING THE CITY OF LONDON'S SEND RANGES TO PARENTS AND CARERS



Folllowing Children's Interests at Barbican Playgroup

At Barbican Playgroup, Children have been enjoying exploring books and creating artwork inspired by their own interests. By following what fascinates each child, the playgroup encourages curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning.

Other interests around the playgroup at the end of term include dinosaurs, chicks, colour monsters, elephants, buildings, aeroplanes and flowers, with children expressing their ideas through a variety of creative activities, stories, and play experiences.

Following children's interests helps build confidence, supports language development, and makes learning meaningful and enjoyable. You can find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum here.

[Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage)



Pictured is Manager, Mary Rose, proudly displaying the colourful aeroplanes created by one of the children after exploring books and conversations about flight. We wish the children who are leaving much happiness and celebrate their love of learning as they start school in september.



Best Start in Life Family Hub Connects with Families Across the City



The Best Start Family Hub - City of London Network is your gateway to support and services for children, young people, and families, from pregnancy through to age 25, across the City of London (the Square Mile). You can also access information, advice, and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network is not a single service or building. Instead, it is a connected network of local services working together to provide support for families across the City of London.

The network brings together a wide range of online and face-to-face services, including:

- Best Start in Life services for pregnancy and early childhood (up to 5 years)
- Support for children and young people with SEND and additional needs
- Youth activities and support for young people aged 5 to 19 (or up to 25 for those with SEND)
- Health and wellbeing services
- Family Help, including targeted and specialist support

If you have any questions about the Best Start Family Hub Network, please email BestStartFamilyHub@cityoflondon.gov.uk or call 020 3838 1420.

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/best-start-family-hub>

The Best Start in Life Family Hub Network has been introducing services through community events such as The Aldgate School and the consultation time at Barbican Library. At the summer fair, over 100 Family Hub leaflets and a range of family resources were distributed, helping parents discover local services, activities and advice. Many families were learning about the Family Hub Network for the first time and welcomed information on parenting support, child development, SEND and wellbeing. The events strengthened partnerships with families and professionals while promoting support available through Artizan Street Library, Shoe lane and Barbican Library.

Pictured: At the Barbican Library event – Isabelle Dennie, Lead Early Years Advisor; Hannah Dobbin, Strategy Officer; and Zahida Hussain, Best Start in Life Manager. At the Aldgate School Summer Fair – Family Information Service Officer Paul Ricketts and Rahil Patel, Adult & Community Learning Manager.



Making this summer more affordable for families



The Government's Summer Savings package aims to ease pressure this summer, with free and low-cost activities including museums and galleries, the Summer Reading Challenge, holiday clubs with meals, and outdoor activities in parks, beaches and national parks.

Find out more here:

<https://costoflivinghelp.campaign.gov.uk/summer-savings/>

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets
Company Registration: 7750051
Charity Registration: 1154824

PORTSOKEN BARBECUE
FRIDAY 14TH AUG 2026

FREE FOR ALL

TIME: 12 PM - 5 PM

MUSIC | GAMES | BURGERS | DRINKS | PRIZE DRAW

GUINNESS ESTATE, PORTSOKEN, LONDON E1 8AH

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: 02077020901
OR INFO@SOCIETYLINKS.ORG.UK

GOLDEN LANE ESTATE, EC1Y 0SA

FREE!! BARBEQUE
WED 12TH AUG 2026
12 PM - 5 PM

===== ★★★★★ =====

MUSIC | GAMES | BURGERS | DRINKS | PRIZE DRAW

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
02077020901 OR
INFO@SOCIETYLINKS.ORG.UK

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Company Registration: 7750061
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CITY OF LONDON

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020 7332 1002 | EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk | www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk

