

February 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

Building Bright Beginnings



Regular attendance in early years settings or schools supports learning, routines, friendships and language development, giving children the strongest foundations for confidence, wellbeing and future success. For more information visit: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/why-childcare-matters/>

National Year of Reading

The National Year of Reading officially launched earlier this month with the inspiring **Go All In** campaign. The campaign celebrates the idea that no matter what people love whether that's football or family time there's a book that can take that passion further. If you're into it, read into it.

A termly programme of professional development, ready-to-use resources and memorable events for children and young people is available for schools, parents and early years settings which will help more young people discover a lifelong love of reading.



In early years hearing stories, songs and rhymes from infancy strengthens brain development, builds vocabulary and communication skills, creating strong foundations for learning, throughout childhood.

For more information visit: <https://goallin.org.uk/>

Learning Through Play at Artizan Library

Stay and Play sessions are always so much fun. Sessions at Artizan Library include playdough making, books and stories, music, and car play. A big thank you to the practitioners and the library for organising these sessions.

You can find out more about supporting early development by clicking here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/best-start-in-life/early-learning-development>



Stay and Play at Artizan Library

Stay and Play sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-5.

Help your child learn through play while you connect with other local families.

Tuesday 9 - 11.15am and 1 - 3.15pm
Friday 9 - 11.15am
Artizan Library, 1 Artizan Street,
London E1 7AF





Emotional Wellbeing in the Early Years

Wednesday 25th February, 9:30-11am, Artizan Library

Who is this for?

For all families who would like to learn more about supporting their child's emotional well-being, and to meet others who have babies and toddlers in the City



What will the session include?

- An interactive session sharing how to support the emotional wellbeing of your child, using different psychological models and learning
- Play activities with your baby or toddler to put some of the ideas into practice
- Time to chat with the City of London psychological wellbeing team
- A small gift bag of items for your baby or toddler

Spaces are limited – to reserve a space please scan the QR code or email city@chorusfamilies.co.uk





Loved and Wanted

Loved and Wanted is a campaign from the Mayor of London that reaffirms to Londoners, that no matter who you are or where you're from you are loved and wanted in our city.

We are living in uncertain and unsettling times. But we know that in London communities continue to rally together and support each other.

Find more about it here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/you-are-loved-and-wanted-london>



City of London Services and Family Hub/Best Start in Life Activities January to April 2026



Education and Early Years Service, Department of Community and Children's Services 020 7332 1002 | EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk
 Follow us on X, Facebook and Instagram @SquareMileFamilies
 For the latest information about services, activities and events, visit: <https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>

Venue
Colour/
Pattern
Key:

Artizan Street Library, 1 Artizan Street E1 7AF T: 020 7332 3810 E: artizan@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Smithfield House Children's Nursery 14 West Smithfield EC1A 9HY T: 020 7236 1000 E: office@smithfieldnursery.co.uk	Shoe Lane Library, 1 Little New Street EC4A 3JR T: 020 7583 7178 E: shoelane@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Barbican Library, Barbican Centre EC2Y 8DS T: 0207 628 9447 E: barbican@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Golden Lane Leisure Centre, Farn Street EC1Y 0SH T: 020 7250 1464 E: SCD-COL@fusion-lifestyle.com	Guildhall Art Gallery Guildhall Yard, EC2V 5AE T: 020 7332 3700 E: artgallery@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Guildhall West Wing 71 Basinghall St, EC2V 7HH T: 0207 608 2753/0207 332 1231 E: adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Baby Clinic - Appointment Only With City Health Visitor (020 76834151) 4th Monday of the month 1 - 3 pm	Stay & Play Ages 0 - 5 9 - 11 am	Breast & Infant Feeding Group 1st Wednesday of the month 10 - 11.30 am	Rhyme Time Ages 0 - 5 10 - 10.30 am	Stay & Play Ages 0 - 5 9 - 11 am	Rhyme Time 0 - 5 years old 10.45 - 11.15 am
Pick and Play Puzzles Ages 0 - 11 3 - 6.30 pm	Adult Meditation Classes Ages 18+ 12 - 12.45 pm	Calm Colouring All welcome 3.30 - 5 pm	Stay & Play Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	Sensory Room To book a morning 30 mins slot call 020 7236 1000	Saturday Monster Art Club All welcome 2 - 3.30 pm
Care To Dance Ages 7-15, 5.15pm - 6.15pm E: amelia@caretodance.co.uk	Stay & Play Ages 0 - 5 1 - 3.15 pm	Stay and Play Ages 0 - 5 1.30 - 2.30 pm	Aldgate Food Club All welcome 1 - 3 pm	Rhyme Time 0 - 5 years old 10.45 - 11.15 am	Family Activities Stories, arts and craft sessions Ages 3 - 13 2nd Saturday of month 11 am - 4pm
Baby Massage Ages 5+ 9.45 - 11.15 am To book call 020 7236 1000	Rhyme Time Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	Rhythm & Wiggles Ages 0 - 5 2.30 - 3 pm	Messy Play for under 5s Ages 0 - 5 Last Thursday of the month 10.30 - 11.30 am	Friday Monster Art Club All welcome 4 - 5 pm	
Calm Colouring Ages 5+ 3 - 5 pm	Pick and Play Puzzles All welcome 2 - 6 pm	Rhyme Time Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	Games Club All welcome 5.30 - 7 pm	SEND Activity Programme Football (Ages 7 - 14) 4.15 - 5.15 pm Gym (Ages 15 - 21) 5.15 - 6.15 pm E: SCD-COL@fusion-lifestyle.com	
Rhyme Time Ages 0 - 5 10.45 - 11.15 am	IT Help Drop-in All welcome 5.30 - 7pm	Breast & Infant Feeding Group 3rd Wednesday of the month 10 am - 12 pm	Bumps And Babies 3rd Thursday of the month Ages Pre-birth - 5 10 - 11.30 am	Adult Skills & Education: Functional Skills Level 2 English (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 3.30 pm	
Story Time Ages 3+ 4 - 4.30 pm	City Sports Gym Ages 8 - 18 5 - 7 pm	Toy Time Ages 0 - 5 12 - 2 pm	Digital Skills & Computing: Essential Digital Skills for Beginners (Enrolment required) 2 - 4 pm	 City Chorus is the emotional wellbeing service for families with children aged 0-18, or 25 with SEND. We can offer online or home visits as needed. To speak to us about any aspect of emotional development email us: city@chorusfamilies.co.uk	
City Sports Swimming Ages 8 - 18 6.30 - 7.30 pm	Adult Skills & Education: English - ESOL entry 3 (Enrolment required) 10 am - 2 pm	Adult Skills & Education: Essential Digital Skills Level 1 (Enrolment required) 10 am - 1 pm	Adult Skills & Education: English - ESOL entry 2 (Enrolment required) 10 am - 1 pm		

Toynbee City Advice Surgeries are on local estates. For more information please go to: <https://www.toynbeehall.org.uk/whats-on/>

DISCLAIMER: Please note that times and locations of sessions may change due to unforeseen circumstances. The City of London Corporation and providers cannot accept responsibility for such changes.

If you would like to find out anything further on any items or you would like more advice or information, please contact the City of London Family Information Service.

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