

March 2025

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.

EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

CEO of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Steve Korris popped into the Guildhall to celebrate all the work the City does to promote the scheme!

Enrolled children from birth to five can receive high-quality books, sent via the post and best of all it is free of charge.



To register please click here:

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/education-and-schools/early-years-0-5-education/dpil>



Early Years Podcasts

Introducing the City of London Early Years Hub Podcasts. These podcasts are interviews with practitioners working with parents/carers and children in the early years; pre-birth to 5 years old.



The EY Hub Podcasts are aimed to inform and advise parents/carers as well as fellow practitioners in this critical period of a child's development. To hear the first five episodes of the podcasts please [click here!](#)

The subjects discussed in the initial podcasts include:

- Supporting speech and language.
- The role of the Health Visitor.
- Family help.
- Supporting your child with SEND.
- Safeguarding.

Plus many more covered in the future!

Pancake Day - A Culinary Adventure at Smithfield House Nursery with Chef Maria!

Smithfield House Nursery celebrated Shrove Tuesday by exploring diverse cultures through cooking.

Guided by Chef Maria, the children learned to make delicious pancakes from oat flour, banana, and coconut yogurt. This hands-on experience not only introduced new ingredients and flavours, but also fostered a sense of adventure in their culinary journey!

In the process of cooking, children were introduced to a wide variety of ingredients that they might never have encountered before - spices from India, citrus fruits from the Mediterranean, and noodles from East Asia.

Going above and beyond to research cultures...

This breath of exposure to different flavours and ingredients encourages children to develop new tastes.

Nursery Manager, Janet Macgregor commented, "This was a fantastic sensory experience, where children smelled, tasted, and felt the different textures of food. These experiences help them grow more adventurous with what they eat, gradually increasing their acceptance of unfamiliar flavours and textures"

Janet added, "Maria goes above and beyond to research cultures, celebrations, and festivals so these cooking lessons have meaning. She will also adapt the recipes to meet the dietary/allergy needs of the children so they can all take part"



National Living Wage

Did you know the National Living Wage is increasing from 1 April 2025. Take a look at the free employment rights hub for information about what you are entitled to and how to access support and advice near you.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/employment-rights-hub-0>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-living-wage-to-increase-to-1221-in-april-2025>

NATIONAL LIVING WAGE
is increasing from 1 April 2025.

Make sure you know what to do if you think you are being underpaid.

Visit the Mayor's Employment Rights Hub.



City of London Services and Activities for Children & Families January to April 2025



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 Key:	City Child & Family Centre, St James's Passage, Duke's Place EC3A 5DE T: 020 7283 1147 E: ccdc@theheadgateschool.org	Arizan Street Library, 1 Arizan Street E1 7AF T: 020 7332 3810 E: arizanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Shoe Lane Library, 1 Little New Street EC4A 3JR T: 020 7393 7178 E: shoelane@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Barbican Library, Barbican Centre EC2Y 8DS T: 0207 628 9447 E: barbicanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Golden Lane Community Centre, Fann Street EC1Y 0S T: 0207 608 2753/0207 332 1231 E: adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Guildhall West Wing 71 Basinghall Street 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) Last Monday of the month 1-3 pm	Stay & Play Contact staff for more info. AM or PM session 9-11 am or 1-3.15 pm	Baby Orchestra 9.30-10 am	Sensory Room Booking Essential - Three 20 mins slots Contact staff via details above 10.15-11.15 am	Stay & Play Contact staff for more info. AM or PM session 9-11 am or 1-3.15 pm	Bookstart Rhyme Time 0-5 years old 10.45-11.15 am
Sensory Room Booking Essential - Three 20 mins slots Contact staff via details above 10-11.15 am	Family Lives Parenting Advice For appointments email Gill Family Support Worker gillw@familylives.org.uk	Speech & Language Therapist Appointments via the SALT team Call 020 7683 4587 1st Wednesday of month 1.30-3.30 pm	Rhyme Time Ages 0-5 10-10.30 am	Bookstart Rhyme Time 0-5 years old 10.45-11.15 am	Saturday Monster Art Club All welcome 2-3.30 pm
Baby Massage 1.15-2.15 pm	Rhyme Time Ages 0-5 10.30-11.30 am	Breast & Infant Feeding Group 1st Wednesday of the month 11 am - 1 pm	Stay & Play Ages 0-5 10.30-11.30 am	Friday Monster Art Club All welcome 4-5 pm	Adult Skills & Education: Functional Skills Entry English (Enrolment required) 10 am - 2 pm
Family & Adult Learning (Enrolment required) Sewing 9.30-11.30 am (with creche) Community Sewing Group 1-3 pm	Pick and Play Puzzles All welcome Ages 0-9 2-6 pm	Calm Colouring All welcome 3.30-5 pm	Messy Play for under 5s Ages 0-5 Last Thursday of the month 10.30-11.30 am	Family & Adult Learning Exploring Drawing (Enrolment required) 1.30-4 pm	
Calm Colouring All welcome Ages 5+ 3-5 pm	IT Help Drop-in All welcome 5.30-7 pm	Rhyme Time Ages 0-5 10.30-11.30 am	Games Club All welcome 5.30-7 pm	Adult Skills & Education: Functional Skills Level 2 English (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 3.30 pm	
Bookstart Rhyme Time Ages 0-5 10.45-11.15 am	Adult Skills & Education: Ballroom Beginner & Improvers (Enrolment required) 5-7 pm	Breast & Infant Feeding Group 3rd Wednesday of the month 10 am - 12 pm	Professional Development and Employability: First Steps Into Computing (Enrolment required) 1.30-4.30 pm	<p>Childcare If you need to know more about childcare options and funding, please visit: https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare</p>	
Bookstart Story Time Ages 3+ 4-4.30 pm	Adult Skills & Education: Functional Skills Level 1 Maths (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 2.30 pm	Toy Time Ages 0-5 12-2 pm	Bumps And Babies 3rd Thursday of the month Ages Pre-birth - 5 10-11.30 am		
Pick and Play Puzzles Ages 0-11 3-6.30 pm	Adult Skills & Education: Functional Skills Level 2 Maths (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 2.30 pm	Family & Adult Learning: The Art Class on Wednesday (Enrolment required) 10 am - 12.30 pm	Family & Adult Learning: Creative Jewellery Making (Enrolment required) 11 am - 2 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.

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