

September 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.

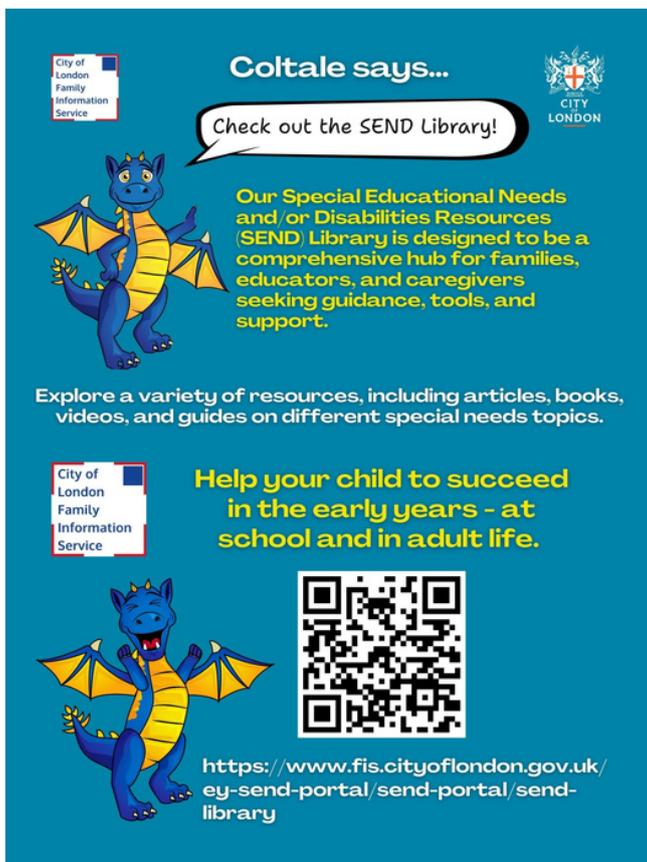
If you would like to find out anything further on any items or would like more advice or information, please contact the Family Information Service.

Email: EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting programme devoted to inspiring a love of reading in children everywhere. Enrolled children from birth to five can receive a high-quality book, 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>



Coltale says...

Check out the SEND Library!

Our Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Resources (SEND) Library is designed to be a comprehensive hub for families, educators, and caregivers seeking guidance, tools, and support.

Explore a variety of resources, including articles, books, videos, and guides on different special needs topics.

Help your child to succeed in the early years - at school and in adult life.



<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/ey-send-portal/send-portal/send-library>



Dolly Parton's IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Register Your Child for

FREE BOOKS

Register your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a FREE BOOK every month until their 5th birthday.

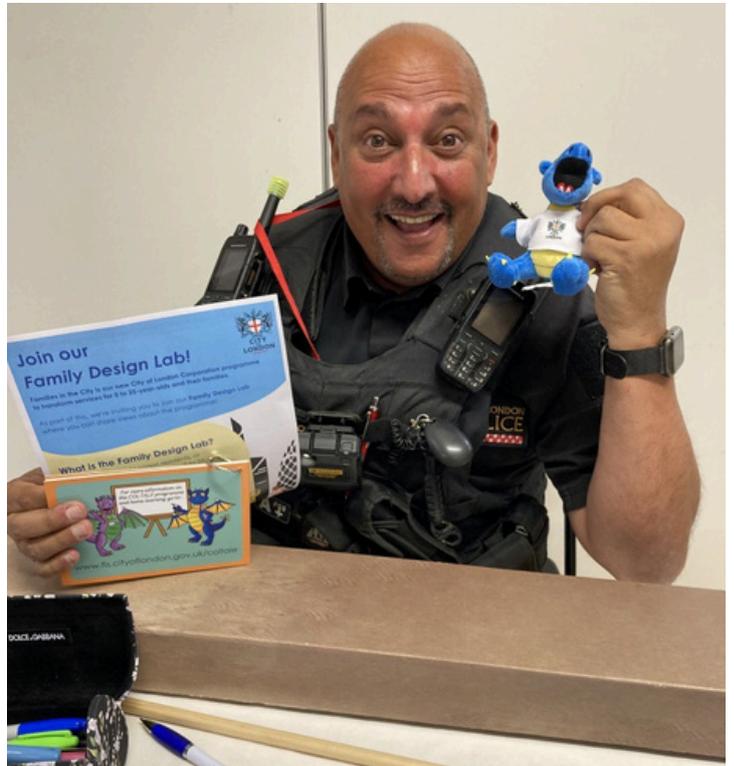
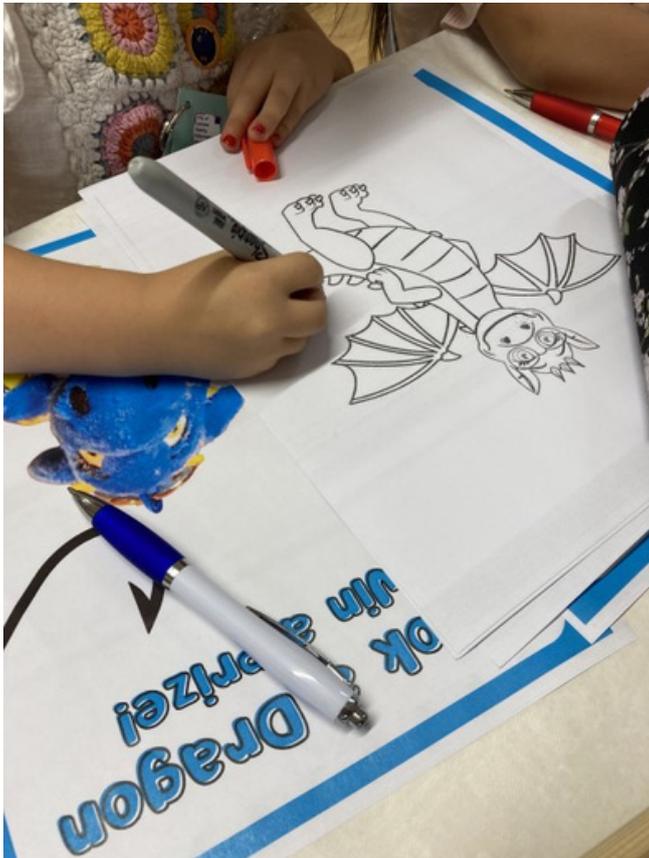


If your child lives in the City of London, register for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library here. Learn more at ImaginationLibrary.com

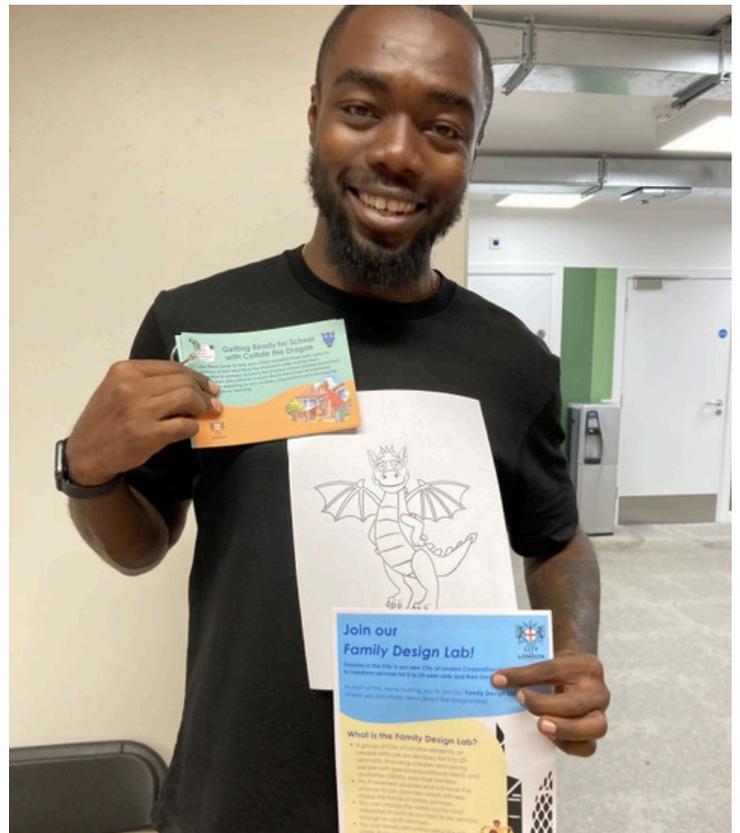
Working Together for Young Children's Voices

A big thank you to our libraries and practitioners for the fantastic sessions delivered over the summer months. The Early Years team attended Artizan Library Funday to promote resources supporting the Coltale project.

Pictured are local police and Artizan staff learning more about how we can all work together to support children's speech and language development.



They offered engaging activities such as "Hook a Dragon" and shared speech and language advice with parents. Children took part in a competition to choose the colours of our new Best Start in Life Family Hub Dragon.





Coltale's

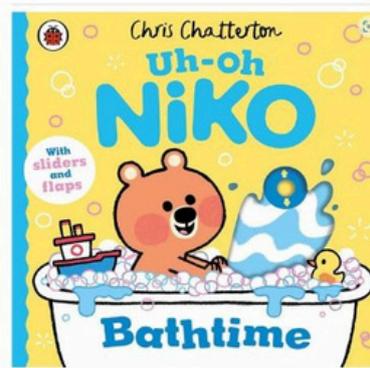
NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025



Book for the Autumn

This book describes the bath time routines of Niko, the cute but clumsy bear. Niko's playtime in the rain leaves him muddy and wet – time for a bath. Talk about why its important to have a bath after getting messy. Introduce the new vocabulary from the book For example, splash, clean, water and jump.



In association with
Dolly Parton's
Imagination
Library!



Puddle Jumping



Step by step:

- Put on waterproof boots or old shoes you don't mind getting wet.
- Find the right puddle, muddy puddles make the biggest splashes!
- Jump or Stomp,
- Laugh and Repeat, Splash again, try different puddles. Who can make the biggest splash



Leaf Play

Collect leaves, crinkle and throw them in the air.
Have fun and let your creativity flow!





Parent Praise for City Libraries

And finally we had to share a beautiful message from a parent to Shoe lane library which reads:

“Thank you to all the City libraries who provide so much for our City families and beyond.”

Find out loads of great ideas about events to attend with your child during the Autumn Term by visiting our **What's On** webpage: <https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/whats-on>



City of London Services and Family Hub/Start for Life Activities September to December 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:	Arizon Street Library, 1 Arizon Street E1 7AF T: 020 7332 3810 E: arizon@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 6DS T: 0207 628 9447 E: barbicanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Golden Lane Leisure Centre, Farn Street EC1Y 0SH T: 020 7250 1464 E: SCD-Col@fusion-lifestyle.com	Gulldhal Art Gallery, Gulldhal Yard, EC2V 5AE T: 020 7332 3700 E: tanya.dean@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Gulldhal West Wing, 71 Basinghall Street EC2V 7HH T: 0207 608 2753/0207 332 1231 E: ead.education@cityoflondon.gov.uk
	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 am - 12 pm	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	Stay & Play Ages 0 - 5 1 - 3.15 pm	Calm Colouring All welcome 3.30 - 5 pm	Stay & Play Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	Rhyme Time 0 - 5 years old 10.45 - 11.15 am	Saturday Monster Art Club All welcome 2 - 3.30 pm	
	Care To Dance From 13 th Oct, 2025 Ages 6 - 11, 4 - 7 pm E: debby.rigby@cityoflondon.gov.uk	Rhyme Time Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	Stay and Play Ages 0 - 5 1.30 - 2.30 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	Family Activities Stories, arts and craft sessions Ages 3 - 13 2nd Saturday of month 11 am - 4 pm	
	Baby Massage From 6 th Oct, 2025 9.45 - 11.15 am To book call 020 7236 1000	Pick and Play Puzzles All welcome Ages 0 - 9 2 - 6 pm	Rhythm & Wiggles Ages 0 - 5 2.30 - 3 pm	Games Club All welcome 5.30 - 7 pm	SEND Activity Programme Football (Ages 7 - 14) 4.30 - 5.30 pm Gym (Ages 15 - 21) 5.30 - 6.30 pm E: SCD-Col@fusion-lifestyle.com		
	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	Professional Development and Employment: First Steps Into Computing (Enrolment required) 1.30 - 4.30 pm	Adult Skills & Education: Functional Skills Level 2 English (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 3.30 pm		
	Rhyme Time Ages 0 - 5 10.45 - 11.15 am	SEND Activity Programme Ages 5 - 18 Swimming - small group & 1-2-1 E: SCD-Col@fusion-lifestyle.com	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	Sensory Room From 17 th Oct, 2025 To book a morning 30 mins slot call 020 7236 1000		
	Story Time Ages 3+ 4 - 4.30 pm	Adult Skills & Education: English - ESOL entry 1 (Enrolment required) 10 am - 1 pm	Toy Time Ages 0 - 5 12 - 2 pm	Zumba Classes for girls Ages Under 16 (booking essential) 5 - 6 pm E: sports@cityoflondon.gov.uk		Speech and Language Therapy Concerned about your child's speech or language development call 020 7683 4262 - places booked by appointment only. Catch Clinic, Thomas Fairchild Children's Centre, Croyley Street, N1 7HT	
	SEND Activity Programme Ages 5 - 18 Swimming - small group & 1-2-1 E: SCD-Col@fusion-lifestyle.com	Adult Skills & Education: English - ESOL entry 2 (Enrolment required) 2 - 4.30 pm	City Sports Football Ages 8 - 18 3 - 6 pm	Zumba Classes for women Ages 16+ (booking essential) 6 - 7 pm E: sports@cityoflondon.gov.uk			

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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