



## **The City Child and Family Centre (based at The Aldgate School)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

#### **What is the City Child and Family Centre?**

The City Child and Family Centre offers a range of children's centre services and activities for families with children under five. All children's centre services are delivered out of venues in the City of London, including the City Child and Family Centre currently located at The Aldgate School and are available from pregnancy until your child is five.

Below is the current children's centre services timetable. We anticipate that these services will remain the same, although the venue for some services may change after September 2025. The services provided by the Child and Family Centre are funded by the City of London Corporation.



# City of London Services and Activities for Children & Families September to December 2024



Education and Early Years Service, Department of Community and Children's Services 020 7332 1002 | [EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

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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: [ccfc@theadgateschool.org](mailto:ccfc@theadgateschool.org)



**Arizan Street Library,**  
1 Arizan Street E1 7AF  
T: 020 7332 3810  
E: [arizanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:arizanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**Shoe Lane Library,**  
1 Little New Street EC4A 3JR  
T: 020 7583 7178  
E: [shoelane@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:shoelane@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**Barbican Library,**  
Barbican Centre EC2Y 8DS  
T: 0207 628 9447  
E: [barbicanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:barbicanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**Golden Lane  
Community Centre,**  
Fann Street EC1Y 0S  
T: 0207 608 2753/0207 332 1231  
E: [adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**Guildhall West Wing**  
71 Basinghall Street EC2V 7HH  
T: 0207 608 2753/0207 332 1231  
E: [adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Orchestra Time</b> 9.30 - 10 am	<b>Stay &amp; Play</b> Contact staff for more info. AM or PM session 9 - 11 am or 1 - 3.15 pm	<b>Speech &amp; Language Therapist</b> Appointments via the SALT team Call 020 7683 4587 1st Wednesday of month 1.30 - 3.30 pm	<b>Baby Massage</b> Four sessions. Booking required. 10 - 11 am	<b>Stay &amp; Play</b> Contact staff for more info. AM or PM session 9 - 11 am or 1 - 3.15 pm	<b>Bookstart Rhyme Time</b> 0 - 5 years old 10.45 - 11.15 am
<b>Baby Clinic - Appointment Only</b> With City Health Visitor (020 76834151) Last Monday of the month 1 - 3 pm	<b>Family Lives Parenting Advice</b> For appointments email Gill Family Support Worker giltw@familylives.org.uk	<b>Breast &amp; Infant Feeding Group</b> 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month 11 am - 1 pm	<b>Sensory Room</b> Booking Essential - Three 20 mins slots Contact staff via details above 10.15 - 11.15 am	<b>Bookstart Rhyme Time</b> 0 - 5 years old 10.45 - 11.15 am	<b>Saturday Monster Art Club</b> All welcome 2 - 3.30 pm
<b>Sensory Room</b> Booking Essential - Three 20 mins slots Contact staff via details above 10 - 11.15 am	<b>Rhyme Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	<b>Family &amp; Adult Learning</b> (Enrolment required) Certificate in Supporting Teaching & Learning Level Two 9.30 am - 3 pm	<b>Rhyme Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 10 - 10.30 am	<b>Friday Monster Art Club</b> All welcome 4 - 5 pm	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: ESOL Entry 2 to 3</b> Speak, read and write English (Enrolment required) 10 am - 4 pm
<b>Family &amp; Adult Learning</b> (Enrolment required) Sewing 9.30 - 11.30 am (with arche) Community Sewing Group 1 - 3 pm	<b>Pick and Play Puzzles</b> All welcome Ages 0 - 9 2 - 6 pm	<b>Calm Colouring</b> All welcome 3.30 - 5 pm	<b>Stay &amp; Play</b> Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	<b>Family &amp; Adult Learning Exploring Drawing</b> (Enrolment required) 1.30 - 4 pm	
<b>Calm Colouring</b> All welcome Ages 5+ 3 - 5 pm	<b>IT Help Drop-in</b> All welcome 5.30 - 7 pm	<b>Rhyme Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	<b>Messy Play for under 5s</b> Ages 0 - 5 Last Thursday of the month 10.30 - 11.30 am	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: ESOL Entry 2 to 3</b> Speak, read and write English (Enrolment required) 5 - 8 pm	
<b>Bookstart Rhyme Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 10.45 - 11.15 am	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: ESOL Entry 1 to 2</b> Speak, read and write English (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 2.30 pm	<b>Breast &amp; Infant Feeding Group</b> 3rd Wednesday of the month 10 am - 12 pm	<b>Games Club</b> All welcome 5.30 - 7 pm	 <b>Childcare</b> If you need to know more about childcare options and funding, please visit: <a href="https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare">https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare</a>	
<b>Bookstart Story Time</b> Ages 3+ 4 - 4.30 pm	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: Functional Skills Level 1 Maths</b> (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 2.30 pm	<b>Toy Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 12 - 2 pm	<b>Professional Development and Employability: First Steps Into Computing</b> (Enrolment required) 1 - 4 pm		
<b>Pick and Play Puzzles</b> Ages 0 - 11 3 - 6.30 pm	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: Functional Skills Level 2 Maths</b> (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 2.30 pm	<b>Family &amp; Adult Learning: The Art Class on Wednesday</b> (Enrolment required) 10 am - 12.30 pm	<b>Family &amp; Adult Learning: Sewing and Textiles</b> (Enrolment required) 1 - 3 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.

## Are there any plans to change how children's centre services are delivered?

Following a review which involved conversations with local families and partners, a change to how the services are run and delivered was decided by Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee in March 2024. This means that the services will now be run across the City of London including the libraries and community centres, to make the activities easier to access for all families and children living in the City of London.

From September 2025, the service will be called 'Start for Life' and will focus on quality and increasing availability when developing the Family Hub services. We will also seek to further improve access to services for families of children who have special educational needs and disabilities.

**Please find a link to the City of London's Childcare page, where a copy of the Children's Centre Services Independent Review Summary Report Dated October 2023 is located [Childcare - City of London Family Information Service](#)**

## Is the intention to save money?

No, there are no plans to reduce what the City of London Corporation spends on children's centre services.

## What are Family Hubs?

Family Hubs, promoted by the Department for Education, offer advice, support and services to help you throughout your family journey (parents and children up to age 18, with additional services up to age 25 for those with Special Educational Needs). Services include, health, education, skills and employment, parenting, and youth services.

## When will the changes come into effect?

From September 2024 to August 2025, we will carefully plan the changes.

The changes will happen gradually over the course of this academic year to ensure there is a smooth transition from September 2025.

Staff, who work directly with children's centre services will be transferred to the City Corporation's Education and Early Years Service.

The City Corporation acknowledges the importance of delivering services for local families and will work closely with The Aldgate School, parents, and key partners over the next year, to ensure a smooth transition of services.

A parent carer group called *City Children's Voices* is currently being set up by staff. Members of the group will attend the *Start for Life Advisory Board*, to help oversee the changes.

If you are a City of London resident and would like to be a part of the Children's Voices Group, then please contact Zahida Hussain [zhussain@thealdgateschool.org](mailto:zhussain@thealdgateschool.org) or call the Children's Centre on **020 7283 1147**.

## What does this mean for the children's centre services next September 2025?

The existing children's centre services will move over to "Start for Life" services. The City Corporation's contributions have supported and will continue to support the sustainability of these services for families.

Stay and Play sessions as well as other services will start to be delivered at a range of venues across the City of London, allowing more families to benefit from accessing information about their child's learning and development. Emotional well-being support has already successfully moved to Artizan Street Library, with an outreach service across the City of London.

## Will families have to pay for services?

No, there are no plans for new charges to be introduced for “Start for Life” services. As now fees for childcare remain the responsibility of the school.

## What will happen to the childcare?

There are five early years settings in the City of London offering places for 0–2-year-olds, which includes the childcare at The Aldgate School.

Like all other childcare providers, the school can use funding from the Free Early Education Entitlement. The Government has also recently announced funding for schools and early years providers to expand their childcare offer. All childcare services rely on the contribution from parents in the payment of fees.

There is also a Nursery class at The Aldgate School which has its own admissions process and will continue after September 2025. Children may attend the Nursery class from the beginning of the school year after their 3rd birthday.

The Start for Life services will continue to be funded in a range of locations.