

April 2024



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

[EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### Book Club Free books for children under 5!

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 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>



### Have your say on a new City of London SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy!

A new SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy is being developed for the City of London. The Strategy will set out our vision for children and young people with SEND in the City of London. It will include the issues we need to focus upon and the key actions partners need to take to achieve positive change and meet residents' needs. There will be a range of engagement activities over the coming months for families that we hope will enable you to have your voice heard!

Contact:

[Hannah.dobbin@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.dobbin@cityoflondon.gov.uk) to reserve your place.



#### Opportunities to get involved

- Thursday 9 May - In-person vision and priorities half-day workshop (morning or afternoon) with parent carers, other family members and professionals at the Small Research Business and Enterprise Centre, 80 Basinghall Street, EC2V 5AG
- Wednesday 8 May 7:30pm and Friday 9 May 11am - one-hour online session for parent carers and other family members on the vision and priorities.

Dates to be confirmed:

- May - Parent carer electronic survey on what's important to you and your family.
- May - possible session for parent carers and other family members at Portsoken Community Centre.
- June - Session with young people to hear about what's important to them.
- June - session with the City Parent Carer Forum.

Contact Hannah Dobbin, Strategy and Projects Officer – [hannah.dobbin@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.dobbin@cityoflondon.gov.uk) – if you'd like to get involved or want to keep up to date with what's going on!

My London artwork by a City of London Young Person

# Day In The life' of Ann Marie

## - Community Nursery Nurse



**I wake up around 7am have breakfast and I'm out the door by 8.20am. On a good day it takes me 30 minutes by bus - door to door.**

My base is at St Leonards. I will greet everyone and ask them how they are. First thing in the morning I always check emails and deal with anything urgent or pending.

On a good day I will have about four contact visits. This might be a home visit to do an 8-10 or 27 months health review which is added to my daily diary. This means I will check the babies and toddlers development and milestones. I enjoy talking to parents and offering advice; for example a parent might need reassurance about how many meals their baby needs, when to stop formula milk, sleep or engaging activities. After each visit I write my notes and documentation within 24 hours as records need to be up to date.

I try to plan my diary and some of the morning is taken up contacting parents and booking appointments which I will add to my planner.

***"No two days are the same in my role."***

Integrated health reviews are done in a local nursery or Children's Centre. This is where we look at the child's progress at 2 years and 3 months. These reviews also give me a valuable opportunity to discuss any concerns with parents about their child's development.

No two days are the same in my role. This morning I met with two families who had 'transferred in' to the city. When we have new families I will ensure I have contact or see them within 14 days.

It's great to be able to make an appointment with them and let them know information about services that are available to support themselves and their child.

The best part of my job is meeting parents/ carers and interacting with the children. I've been a nursery nurse for over 25 years. Initially I did voluntary work in Stoke Newington, but I left to do a Business Studies course and then returned! I qualified in 1999 after studying for my NNEB part time. It took three years but I loved the skills I learnt. I've worked as a deputy of a nursery and then applied to the NHS to be the community nursery nurse!

***"The most important thing is that they know I am here to help."***

I feel proud of the rapport I build with families and I still bump into some of them years later. They often say how grateful they are and how I guided them on the pathway of parent hood. One of the parents told me that their child is now 17 and applying to go to university! She made me smile when she told me that without the help she had in the child's early years she wouldn't have become the parent she is today.

Sometimes parents want lots of support which is fine and sometimes they don't. The most important thing is that they know I am here to help them and the service is always open if they wish to comeback or take their time. I support children and families up to 5 years old.

When I'm not working I like to watch favourite TV programmes or treat myself to a bit of retail therapy, because its important that we all look after our own wellbeing and make time to relax when possible.



# Celebrating World Book Day in Early Years

World Book Day was celebrated by Hatching Dragons Nursery in style this year. Here's Kristina, the area manager, dressed up as the familiar children's character Mary Poppins! Click on the link to find activities and advice, as sharing stories together as a family is not just on World Book Day, but every day of the year!



<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

## Collect a copy of the Coltale Book!

Here's Mary Rose, Manager of Barbican Playgroup, receiving her delivery of "A Year With Coltale" books.

If you would like a copy please contact:  
[Isabelle.Britten-Dennie@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Isabelle.Britten-Dennie@cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
or [Verity.Welch@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Verity.Welch@cityoflondon.gov.uk)



City of London Family Information Service

CITY OF LONDON

### PARENTS - COLTALE WANTS YOUR IDEAS!

**How do you support your child's mathematical learning?**

The City of London wants your mathematical based activities suitable for 0-7 year old children for our next Coltale book - "Communication Through Mathematics with Coltale"

If your ideas are accepted you will be credited in the book and receive a free copy!  
Email your suggestions and ideas to:  
[verity.welch@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:verity.welch@cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
Ideas need to be submitted by June 30th, 2024

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.

020 7332 1002 | [EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk) | [www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

