

February 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)

### Childcare Choices Update...

Parents are able to apply to claim their government-funded childcare provision. This will give eligible working parents access to 15 hours of childcare per week from April. Apply for childcare support now to get your code in good time ahead of the start of the offer in April.

Visit the Childcare Choices website to find out more: [childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://childcarechoices.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 a 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>



UK Government

Help for Households

## 15 hours childcare per week for two-year-olds

Eligible working parents can apply from January

Childcare Choices



# 'A Day In The life' of Sarah – EHCP Casework Manager at City Of London



**I get up around 7.15am and catch the Northern line to work.**

I'm a member of the Pret a Manger coffee club, so I always grab a cup to eat with my breakfast - yogurt and fruit - at my desk.

There are usually meetings to attend which include Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) panel meetings or board meetings. In fact much of my day is spent attending review meetings, multiagency reviews or liaising with schools and social care agencies about learners needs.

I may meet a new family to find out how I can help and if there's anymore we can do to support their child or young person.

So, my primary role is to work with families and schools collaboratively so we all do the best we can to support each SEND child/young person.

***"A lot of my work is casework "***

I will create plans to ensure that appropriate support is in place for our SEND learners. This means that some of my visits are onsite at schools, colleges or nurseries.

It important to me that all children and pupils are making good progress and we work together to ensure their individual needs are met. Desk time is often spent writing draft reports and plans for children and young people with SEND which will contribute to their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

I've been in this role for six years. It's been rewarding to see the young people I've worked with growing up and moving into adulthood.

Our SEND learners become independent and have aspirations. They become active members of our society. Its been great to see these young people move on to jobs or college courses and careers which are matched to their interests and skills.

After work I like to go to the gym because its important that we all look after our mental and physical health. I joined the gym around 18 months ago!



***Zong the Dragon - named by our City of London families - represents our Local Offer/SEND***

If you do have concerns that your child has SEND or needs additional support I would always advise that you talk to your school SENCO in the first instance. This means that adaptations can be put into place and your child will receive the support they need.

The City of London's Local Offer outlines the services and information relevant for children and young people up to 25 years old who have SEND. It's purpose is to provide clear, accessible information about what services are available in the area.

You can access the Local Offer here:

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/send-local-offer>

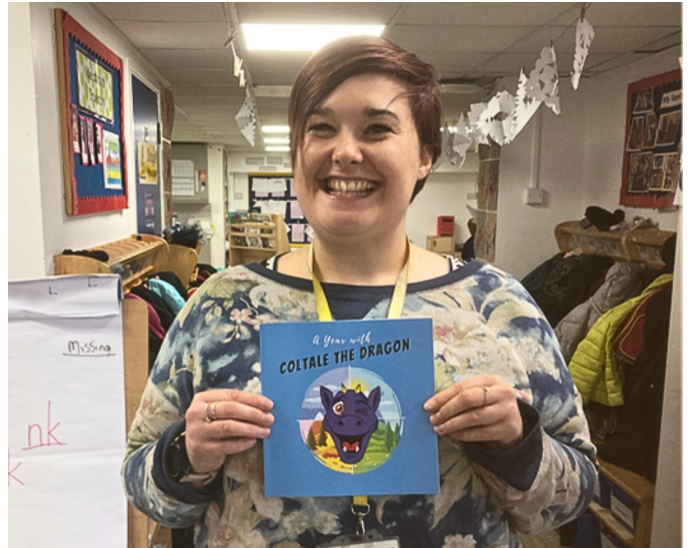


# Celebrating Home learning in Early Years

This month the Early Years team is proud to announce the launch of “**A Year with Coltale**”, a new book supporting family learning.

The book is filled with home learning ideas inspired by the staff and parents who work for the City of London authority, libraries, schools, and Early Years settings.

Picture (right) shows Beth Jeyes, Reception Class Teacher from Aldgate School, celebrating the book's arrival. Both of their settings and their children contributed to it!



## Collect a copy of the Coltale Book!

Here's Janet MacGregor, Manager of Smithfield Nursery 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)



## Vaccination Confidence for Families.

There will be online training available for parents, March 18th, 10.00 – 11.30am

To book a place contact:  
[EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

This session will provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about vaccinations.



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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