

August 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)

### 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>

### Enjoy your Summer outside!

There are many benefits of spending time together outdoors. More space, and the opportunity to be noisy, can make children feel more relaxed, and this is often when they will chat the most!

Being outside allows children to explore and discover new things, which can spark curiosity and a sense of wonder.

Outdoor play can foster creativity

and imagination, as children use natural materials like sticks, rocks, and leaves to create games and stories.

Spending time outside with your child can strengthen your bond and create lasting memories!

Check out the links below for spaces to spend valuable time outside with your child this summer!

[Green spaces - City of London](#)

[Walk and talk trail for 0-5 year olds | National Literacy Trust](#)

[What's On - City of London Family Information Service](#)





# Children's Art in the City of London

Expressive art and design are an essential part of the EYFS curriculum. Opportunities to explore and express themselves plays a significant role in a child's development.

Art encourages children to think creatively. This helps them develop problem-solving skills!



By incorporating art into the EYFS curriculum, educators provide rich and engaging learning experiences that benefit children's cognitive, emotional, and creative development.



It helps children develop children's fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and dexterity.

Art provides an outlet for children to express their emotions, thoughts, and ideas. This helps build their confidence and self-esteem as they see their creations come to life.



Thank you to the children at Barbican Playgroup for providing these pictures for our newsletter this month!



# New booklet on 'Independent Living' gives choices for applicants with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in the City of London

Some young people are able to live independently in the community and some young people who have additional needs may need support to enable them to live as independently as possible.

So, the City of London has produced a booklet which will give a rundown of all the choices available; from Supported Housing, City Housing Stock or provided with partner agencies.

Independent living applicants with special educational needs and/or disabilities who are over 18 years of age are eligible to apply for independent housing through the Housing Register.

To be eligible, they must have lived in the City of London for at least two years or be currently housed elsewhere.

Additionally, their care plan must be under the City of London Children's services.



Find out more by clicking in the link below.

[housing-options-for-applicants-with-SEND-2024  
\(cityoflondon.gov.uk\)](https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/housing-options-for-applicants-with-SEND-2024)



# City Advice

City Advice is a free service.

Call them on 020 7392 2919 or email:

[city.advice@toynbeehall.org.uk](mailto:city.advice@toynbeehall.org.uk)

Advice is available on:

- Relationships, Health and wellbeing
- Consumer and employment rights
- Welfare benefits
- Debt



## Cost of living support

The Seasonal Health Intervention Network (SHINE) is a fuel poverty referral network and free energy advice service for Londoners. SHINE London offers a helpline and affordable warmth interventions to ensure households get the help to reduce utility bills, tackle energy debt and stay well and warm.

They accept referrals for households of any tenure. But households must have an income below £16,480 a year, or be in receipt of means-tested benefits or where a household member falls into target groups; such as people with disabilities, long-term health conditions worsened by the cold, children under 15, adults over 60, or those spending more than 10% of household income on gas, electric or communal heating.

More information on SHINE website:

[Home | SHINE London \(shine-london.org.uk\)](https://www.shine-london.org.uk)

**Are you struggling with high gas and electricity bills? Can't afford to heat your home?**

You could be entitled to help to cut costs and stay warm and well this winter. This free service is available if you are on a low income, are over 60, have children under 16, a disability, or health condition.

Call **0300 555 0195** or visit [shine-london.org.uk](https://www.shine-london.org.uk)

Islington's award-winning SHINE network have helped thousands of residents save an average of £213 per year on energy bills through discounts, debt support and energy saving measures. The service is now open to all London residents.



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