

June 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.

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

### Coltale and Home learning



COLTALE (City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically) aims to support all children to develop their speech, language and communication skills, and further develop close partnerships between parents and early years practitioners/teachers.

For more ideas to support home learning check out our Coltale Home Learning page here:

[Coltale's Weekly Top Tips - City of London Family Information Service](#)

[Coltale's Adventures - stories featuring Coltale the Dragon - City of London Family Information Service](#)

### City Parent Carer Forum

The Forum offers parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with additional needs or disabilities (diagnosed or undiagnosed), the opportunity to tell the Local Authority, Health and other services what life is like for them.

Email: [info@cityparentcarers.org](mailto:info@cityparentcarers.org) Website: <https://www.cityparentcarers.org/> for more information.



Watch their introductory video featuring one of their members, David Rose at [David Rose - City Parent Carer Forum, SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy \(Lord Mayor's Show\)](#)

You can download the City SEND Ranges booklet from here: [fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/asset-library/using-the-send-ranges.pdf](https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/asset-library/using-the-send-ranges.pdf)

# Living, Growing and Changing in City Nurseries

Aldgate Nursery - with other City settings - have been learning about living, growing and the changing natural world.



Children at Smithfield House Nursery too have been excitedly watching their ducklings hatch.



The manager Janet Macgregor said "As they gathered around the incubator, the children were mesmerised."

"As the ducklings slowly pecked their way out. Some cheered quietly while others watched in silence, their faces lit up with joy. It was a moment that connected them to nature and gave them a sense of responsibility and care for living things"



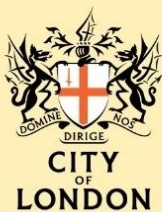
"In the days that followed, the children eagerly observed the ducklings as they grew stronger, fluffed up, and began to waddle. They enjoyed times when they could interact with the ducklings, watching them walk about, swim in the water, and gently hold them. Every morning the children would run into the office to see them in their cage to see how much they had grown!"



Hatching Dragons Nursery's children have also been nurturing chicks, asking questions and learning about lifecycles!

What an amazing experience for our Early Years children!





# Coltale's

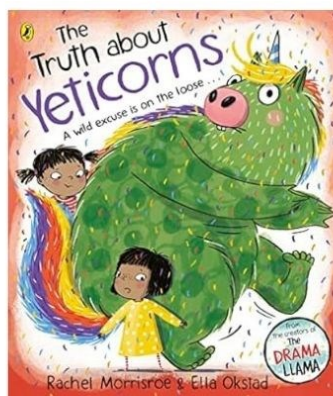
## NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER 2025



## Book for the Summer

This book explores the themes of honesty and the imaginative power of story telling. When you have read the story create a magic carpet. Use colourful scarves and toys as props and go on a magic adventure. let your child guide the adventure and tell you where to take the magic carpet next. Did you spot any unicorns?



In association with  
Dolly Parton's  
Imagination  
Library!



## Paint some magic stones

### You will need:

- Stones
- Paints
- brushes
- Pens



### Step by step:

- Gather smooth, clean stones, pens and paints. Paint colourful pictures and patterns on your stones using your imagination. After drying, You could decorate a window sill or put them in a garden



## Cut out the Yeticorn to make your own puppet!



# MEASLES

is circulating in London

## Symptoms



Rash



Temperature



Runny Nose



Red Eyes



Cough



The best protection is 2 doses of the safe, effective MMR vaccine at 1 year of age, and 3 years, 4 months



If you have not had two doses, you can get them free from your GP surgery



Know the symptoms! Keep people with symptoms away from others



Call ahead before going to A&E or your GP





**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](https://www.imaginationlibrary.com)

# Childcare Choices

Changes to childcare support mean you might now be eligible for more help than ever before.

Support from Childcare Choices can give your child a great start while giving you work choices. From this September, 15 hours childcare for working families with children under 3 will expand to 30 hours, meaning eligible working families can now apply for 30 hours of childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months until they reach school age.

**Apply for your childcare code now!**

[Homepage](#) | [Childcare Choices](#)



## City of London Services and Activities for Children & Families April to July 2025

Education and Early Years Service, Department of Community and Children's Services 020 7332 1002 | [EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto: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:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>City Child &amp; Family Centre,</b> St James's Passage, Duke's Place EC3A 5DE T: 020 7283 1147 E: <a href="mailto:ccfc@theedgateschool.org">ccfc@theedgateschool.org</a>	<b>Baby Clinic - Appointment Only</b> With City Health Visitor (020 76834151) Last Monday of the month 1-3 pm	<b>Stay &amp; Play</b> Contact staff for more info. AM or PM session 9 - 11 am or 1 - 3.15 pm	<b>Baby Orchestra</b> 9.30 - 10 am	<b>Sensory Room</b> Booking Essential - Three 20 mins slots Contact staff via details above 10.15 - 11.15 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>Arizon Street Library,</b> 1 Arizon Street E1 7AF T: 020 7332 3810 E: <a href="mailto:arizonlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk">arizonlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>	<b>Sensory Room</b> Booking Essential - Three 20 mins slots Contact staff via details above 10 - 11.15 am	<b>Family Lives Parenting Advice</b> For appointments email Gill Family Support Worker <a href="mailto:gillw@familylives.org.uk">gillw@familylives.org.uk</a>	<b>Speech &amp; Language Therapist</b> Appointments via the SALT team Call 020 7683 4887 1st Wednesday of month 1.30-3.30 pm	<b>Rhyme Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 10 - 10.30 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>Shoe Lane Library,</b> 1 Little New Street EC4A 3JR T: 020 7583 7178 E: <a href="mailto:shoelane@cityoflondon.gov.uk">shoelane@cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>	<b>Baby Massage</b> 1.15 - 2.15 pm	<b>Rhyme Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	<b>Breast &amp; Infant Feeding Group</b> 1st Wednesday of the month 11 am - 1 pm	<b>Stay &amp; Play</b> Ages 0 - 5 10.30 - 11.30 am	<b>Friday Monster Art Club</b> All welcome 4 - 5 pm	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: Functional Skills Entry English</b> (Enrolment required) 10 am - 2 pm
<b>Barbican Library,</b> Barbican Centre EC2Y 8DS T: 0207 628 9447 E: <a href="mailto:barbicanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk">barbicanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>	<b>Family &amp; Adult Learning</b> (Enrolment required) Sewing 9.30 - 11.30 am (with creche) 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>Messy Play for under 5s</b> Ages 0 - 5 Last Thursday of the month 10.30 - 11.30 am	<b>Family &amp; Adult Learning Exploring Drawing</b> (Enrolment required) 1.30 - 4 pm	
<b>Golden Lane Community Centre,</b> Farn Street EC1Y 0S T: 0207 608 2753/0207 332 1231 E: <a href="mailto:adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk">adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>	<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>Games Club</b> All welcome 5.30 - 7 pm	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: Functional Skills Level 2 English</b> (Enrolment required) 9.30 am - 3.30 pm	
<b>Guildhall West Wing</b> 71 Basinghall Street EC2V 7HH T: 0207 608 2753/0207 332 1231 E: <a href="mailto:adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk">adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>	<b>Bookstart Rhyme Time</b> Ages 0 - 5 10.45 - 11.15 am	<b>Adult Skills &amp; Education: Ballroom Beginner &amp; Improvers</b> (Enrolment required) 5-7 pm	<b>Breast &amp; Infant Feeding Group</b> 3rd Wednesday of the month 10 am - 12 pm	<b>Professional Development and Employability: First Steps Into Computing</b> (Enrolment required) 1.30 - 4.30 pm		
	<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>Bumps And Babies</b> 3rd Thursday of the month Ages Pre-birth - 5 10 - 11.30 am		
	<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: Creative Jewellery Making</b> (Enrolment required) 11 am - 2 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.

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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