

April 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)

### Transitions

If your child is starting school in September check out these useful documents from the Department for Education (DfE).

First here's some tips for Starting Reception Class:

<https://startingreception.co.uk/#how-can-i-help-my-child-get-ready>

If you have a child with SEND here a tips to help their transition: <https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/send-local-offer/early-years-0-to-5>

If you have some ideas on what helped your child with SEND prepare for school email:

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

We will add your top tips to our guidance!



### Toddlers Tech and Talk



New research has shown that under 3's are very comfortable in their use of new technology! This is according to Professor Julia Gillen - Professor of Literacy Studies, Lancaster University.

She presented this latest research on

'Toddlers, Tech, and Talk: Understanding how very young children learn language and literacy at home in a digital age' at the London Advisor's Forum in Pimlico on March 17th.

The research investigated how the home lives of children up to age of three, intersect with digital technologies in diverse families across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

The research paper is published here:

[Research: Toddlers, Tech and Talk | Manchester Metropolitan University](#)



# Understanding the World in City Nurseries.

Smithfield House Nursery promotes cultural awareness and scientific curiosity.



Children learnt about the significance of Eid as a celebration of the end of Ramadan - a time of fasting and reflection. Through storytelling, songs, and crafts, the children were introduced to the values of kindness, generosity, and gratitude.



They also learnt about the customs of Eid, such as wearing special clothes, giving gifts, and sharing meals with family and friends. By experiencing the sights, sounds, and traditions of Eid, the children begin to understand its importance in a simple, joyful way.



The little scientist session was making perfume from fresh flowers. It was a fun and creative activity that allowed the children to explore their senses. Using petals from flowers like roses, lavender, or daisies, children learnt how to gently crush and mix the flowers with water to make their own perfume.



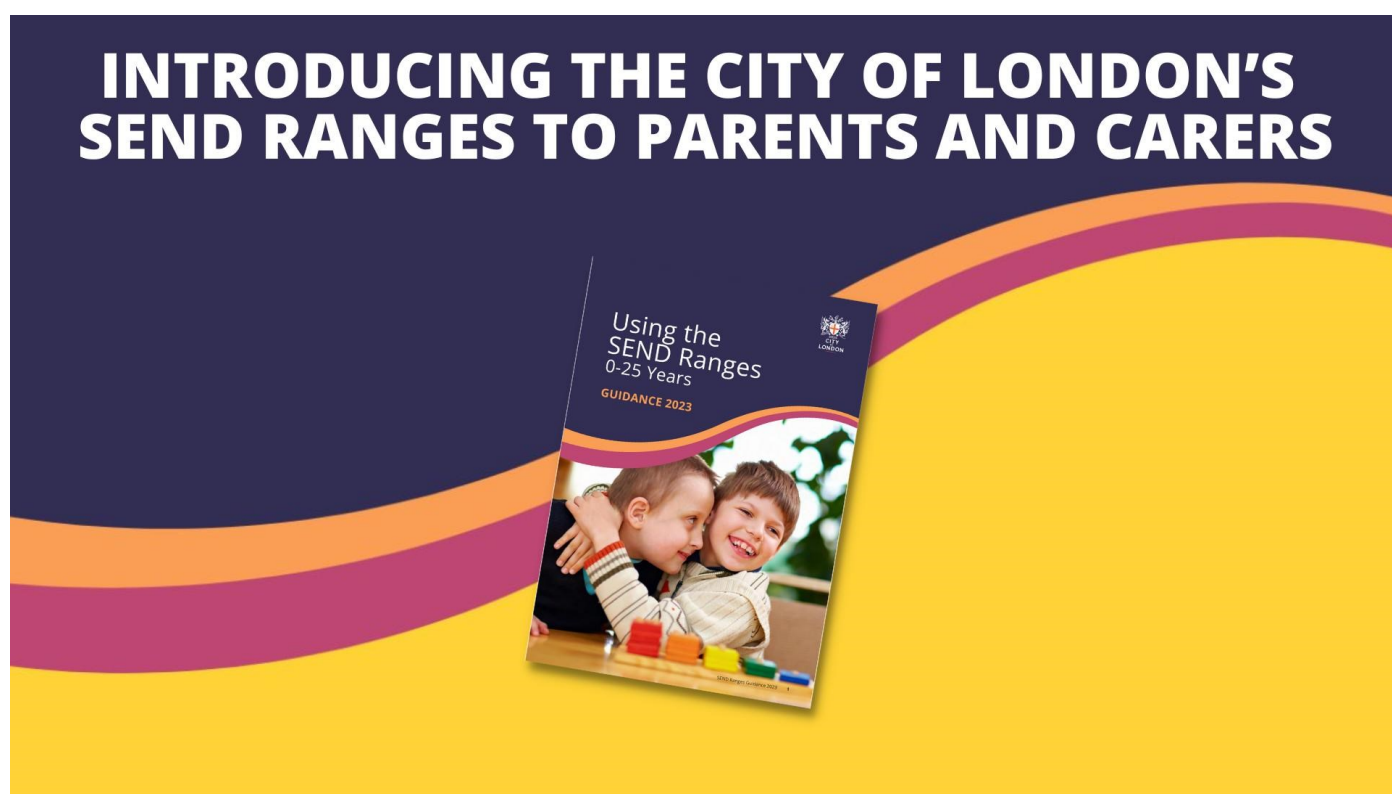
This hands-on process introduced them to basic concepts of scent, nature, and creativity, while fostering their fine motor skills and imagination. The activity was a delightful way to encourage curiosity and sensory development that was playful and engaging.

# SEND Ranges Guidance Video

Useful information for parents and carers with responsibilities for SEND children and young people.

The City of London's SEND Ranges provide a framework for staff in all settings 0-25 to address the early identification of needs, provide ideas for curriculum adaptation, guidance on assessment and the effective deployment of resources, including staff.

The Ranges are based on the four areas of the SEND Code of Practice and give guidance and ideas from Early Years to Post 19. It includes the Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) outcomes from the Early Years through to 25.



The SEND Ranges provide guidance on what should be 'ordinarily available' to meet the needs of the most complex child and young person who maybe either in a mainstream setting, additional resource base or a specialist provision.

For more information watch our introductory video: <https://youtu.be/xf7Oz3QiFSI>

There is also an introductory leaflet which can downloaded here:

[Introducing SEND Ranges](#)

Then you can download the SEND Ranges booklet when you are ready from here:

[fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/asset-library/using-the-send-ranges.pdf](https://fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/asset-library/using-the-send-ranges.pdf)

# Free Books!

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>



Do you have any unwanted items hanging around?

## GIVE AND TAKE DAY

Give and Take Days are a simple way for you to give away items you no longer need, and take items you do need, all for FREE!

**Saturday 12th April 2025**

Portsocken community Centre, 20 Little Somerset St, London E1 8AH

**Drop off items** 10am-12 midday

**Pick up Give & Take items only**

City residents 1pm - 3pm

Non-City residents 2pm - 3pm

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/giveandtake](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/giveandtake)



# Take part in the Consultation on Childcare Provision in the City of London and fill out our survey!

## Have your say on 0-2 childcare provision in the City of London



The City of London Corporation is committed to ensuring sufficient childcare provision within the Square Mile for residents.

We want to hear your views on 0-2 childcare in the City of London and what you want elected Members to consider when deciding on a City Corporation 0-2 Childcare Policy, including discretionary subsidised childcare.

**The survey is now open and will close on Friday 2 May 2025.**

Scan the QR code to access the survey or visit [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/childcareconsultation](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/childcareconsultation)



Your voice matters.

If you would like the survey in a different format or would prefer to offer your views in person, with or without the help of an interpreter, please email [EEYServices@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:EEYServices@cityoflondon.gov.uk)



My London artwork by a City of London Young Person

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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