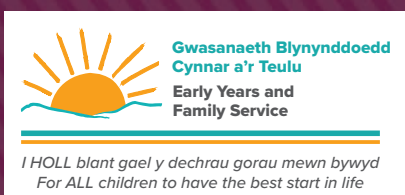


Early Years and Childcare Development Team

Flintshire Newsletter

Autumn 2025

Welcome to your Autumn 2025 update from the Early Years, Childcare, Capital and Partnerships team.



In this edition, we have exciting news regarding the opening of new childcare setting: **Tiny Turrets**. Also **ELKLAN** training, our **Summer Childminder** group and much more.

Thank You for Keeping Us Updated

We recognise how busy you are day to day and appreciate the time you take to complete surveys and questionnaires that are sent to you.

By providing this information, you ensure Flintshire can prioritise workforce demands, remain up to date with emergency contact details and share the latest news opportunities and support available.



Thank You for Entering Our Giveaway!

A big thank you to everyone who entered our latest Facebook giveaway!

We're delighted to announce that Highway Playdays were the lucky winners of the giant blocks for their setting - congratulations to them!



If you haven't yet joined our Facebook group, now is the perfect time. It's the best place to keep up to date with news, training opportunities, and future giveaways.

Don't miss out - join today!



Facebook Group
[CLICK HERE](#)

Supporting Children's Communication

The Early Years Childcare Team are offering ELKLAN Under 3's training this term. ELKLAN Speech and Language Support for 0-3's is a practical training course for those working with children, providing you with:

- A wealth of information and an opportunity to share experiences with other practitioners working with children of the same age
- Practical advice and strategies to support the children, parents and families with whom you work
- Your very own 'Language Builders Book' for 0-3s, a practical resource book containing an abundance of tips, ideas and strategies
- An opportunity, should you wish, to register with OCN (Open College Network) London and achieve a Level 2 or 3 accreditation



We are keen to support staff from all childcare settings to access ELKLAN training, but the places are capped at 20 and the course is always popular. If this is something you would be interested in, please speak to Emma or Fiona and we can add your name to a waiting list and keep you updated on future dates.

Our ELKLAN Journey

Over the past few months, Fiona and Emma, the Childcare Development Officers have had the opportunity to attend the ELKLAN course alongside childcare practitioners from across the county.

The course was made up of 10 interactive sessions delivered by the Flintshire Early Years Advisory Team. Each session was filled with advice, strategies and conversations designed to support and encourage the communication skills of babies and young children.

These sessions covered the themes of:

- Communication
- Adult-Child Interaction
- Non-Verbal Communication
- Developing Play for Language
- The Importance of Listening
- The Blank Language Scheme
- Sharing Books, Rhymes and Songs
- Working with Parents and Carers



Why ELKLAN Matters

Completing this training has helped us both truly appreciate the importance of staff being trained in supporting communication and language development. These early communication skills are the building blocks for learning, social interaction and emotional wellbeing.

The ELKLAN course is practical, engaging and tailored to the needs of early years professionals. It equips practitioners with real strategies they can use every day

in their setting to ensure that babies and young children get the very best start.

We would strongly encourage childcare settings to consider sending staff on this training. The knowledge and staff gained will support children's learning and development for years to come.

Interested in ELKLAN training for your staff?

Please contact us for further information:

Claire.Dodd@flintshire.gov.uk



Tiny Turrets Playgroup Flint

September saw the opening of Tiny Turrets playgroup, a Flintshire Local Authority managed setting offering Flying Start, Childcare Offer and fee-paying places.



The Internal Childcare and Flying Start Team worked over the summer to prepare a welcoming space for parents and children ready for registration and opening day. Making use of the Welsh Governments small capital grant, a new kitchen was installed, decorating to give a fresh look and new flooring added. The playgroup is based in the Early Years and Family Centre Flint (next to Ysgol Gwynedd) and is registered for 21 children.

The childcare team warmly welcome all parents and carers to Tiny Turrets, where we are committed

to providing a nurturing, safe, and engaging space for little ones to learn, play, and grow. We look forward to building strong partnerships with families and supporting each child's early years journey.

Good luck to the team!



Fun, Foraging and The Welsh Promise

August's Childminder Group Highlights

Our Summer Childminder Group was a wonderful mix of play, exploration and learning.



A big thank you to all the childminders and their children who attended - your enthusiasm and participation made the morning a great success!



The children enjoyed a variety of activities, with bubble play and rolling down the slopes inside play tunnels. We ended the session with a foraging adventure - collecting cherry plums and cooking apples from the trees. Of course there was a bit of taste testing along the way!



Back in their settings, the children wasted no time putting their harvest to good use - making delicious apple crumbles!



In addition to the activities, we discussed the Welsh Clebran Project, which aims to provide support when using Welsh in your setting.



It was a morning filled with fun, connection and shared ideas - we look forward to seeing everyone again at our next session.



Welsh Government Consultation: Shaping the Future of Childcare, Playwork and Activities

The Welsh Government has launched a public consultation on The Draft Child Minding and Day Care Exceptions (Wales) Order 2026 and the Proposal for a Voluntary Approval Scheme for Childcare, Playwork and Activity Providers.

This consultation seeks views on:

- Proposed updates to the circumstances where child minding or day care services for children aged between 0 and-12 are exempt from registration with Care Inspectorate Wales
- The proposed development of a Voluntary Approval Scheme for providers who are not required to register

- The broader impact of these changes, including on the Welsh Language

We encourage everyone with an interest in childcare, playwork or children's activities to share their views and distribute the consultation link across your networks. We would especially like to hear the views of those most likely to be affected including children, parents, the registered and unregistered sectors.

- The consultation closes on 3 November 2025

For consultation - please Click [HERE](#)

Have you visited our Family Information Flintshire

Click [here](#) to follow us.

Our team has been working hard to ensure that our social media page is a great source of information for families who may be looking for important updates, information around school and childcare regulations, local events, activities, groups and courses to attend.



During the month of July we had over 118,000 views of our social media pages - up from 83,000 in June and over 60,000 in May!

We are delighted that this social media page is fast becoming the go to source of trusted information.

Telephone: **(01352) 703500** E-mail: fisf@flintshire.gov.uk

Small Capital Grant

We are delighted to share that **71 settings across the county have applied for this year's Small Capital Grant.**

For those who have been successful, the next stage of the process will involve a monitoring visit, in line with Welsh Government requirements. These visits will take place across the county to observe the wonderful range of work and projects being delivered to enhance the quality of provision and create new opportunities for the children in your care.

Although the deadline for applications was December, we are no longer accepting new submissions as all funding has now been allocated.

Childcare Offer for Wales

Applications for September term opened on **18 June 2025.**



Reminder that from September 2025 eligibility dates will be moving to fixed cut off dates:

- **31 December 2025**
- **31 March 2026**
- **31 August 2026**



Flying Start

Flying Start rolled out Phase 3 of the 2 year - old childcare expansion areas on 28 April.

A full list of expansion areas can be found on our webpage:

[Flying Start Expansion](#)

If you are not yet a Flying Start provider but are considering becoming one please email

flyingstartproviders@flintshire.gov.uk to make enquiries.

Updates from CWLWM Partners



Shape the future of childcare

Coram PACEY are keen to provide the opportunity to all childminders to discuss Welsh Government proposal's to change elements of the National Minimum Standards. You can email your views to cymru@corampacey.org.uk. You can also submit a response to this consultation on behalf of your setting direct to Welsh Government.

Find out more

With news of [Making Tax Digital](#), we are working closely with HMRC. If you have a particular query or specific questions, let us know!

Also see our recent Blog: [Digital receipts](#) - What are they and why should you make the switch?

We are also delighted to introduce 4 new Development Co-ordinators to the Coram PACEY Cymru team. Adil, Alaw, Sian and Wayne are bringing a wide variety of experience and are here to help you with queries in relation to your childminding service. We look forward to hearing from you!



Have you considered qualifying in Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice?

This is a great introductory course to Playwork, with a good mixture of both practical and theory based information.

There are no qualification entry requirements as long as you are over the age of 16. This course is especially beneficial for those working in Holiday clubs as it will qualify you at Level 2. If you work in any other Playwork setting you will need to progress to the Level 2 Certificate to be counted as a qualified member of the team.

Expression of interest form



Autumn is a great time for training and CPD with Early Years Wales:

Members can access our new Masterclasses (Prices vary).

Our Masterclasses are short, focused pre-recorded sessions (30-45 minutes) offering bite-sized, high-impact learning that combines expert input, real-world examples, and reflective activities, each worth 2 CPD points and including a certificate, with optional tasks to deepen learning.

Titles include:

Thrive:

A Well-being and Nourishment Series for Practitioners.

Terrific Twos to Fantastic Fours:

A Complete guide to Early Childhood Development (broken down into twos, threes and fours).

Foundations in Motion:

Reflexes, senses and early development.

Picture the Possibilities:

Visual Learning in the Early Years.

Payment Options -

Pre-order now for October release:

Individual Class - [Click here to purchase](#)

Complete set - [Click here to purchase](#)

Mix and Match (Five) - [Click here to purchase](#)

TOP TIP

Does your service promote Welsh language and culture?

You **CAN** change the statement on your CIW inspection report:

FROM - *'The service provider is not meeting the Welsh language and culture needs of people and this requires improvement'*

TO - *'This is a service that is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture'*

Click on the link below to find out more about the Active Offer:

[Active Offer Information Pack](#)

Flintshire Childcare Development and your umbrella organisation are keen to support you through the process.

Please contact us via email - ccdtraining@flintshire.gov.uk if you require any further support or guidance.

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) Helpline - Support When You Need It

Do you have concerns about a child's speech, language or communication?

The SALT Call Helpline is here to help.

A qualified Speech and Language Therapist is available at the end of the phone to offer advice and guidance for any concerns.

Helpline Times:

• **Tuesdays: 9:00-10:00am**

• **Thursdays: 3:30-4:30pm**

Call: **03000 848 179**

The helpline is open every week, including during school holidays, so support is always available when you need it.

This service is available to **ALL** childcare settings in Flintshire, as well as parents and carers.

As Autumn arrives, it is wonderful to see the world bursting with colour - crunchy leaves, conkers to collect and pumpkins galore - the perfect season for play, curiosity and discovery.

Thank you for all you do to support and inspire the children in your care.

We wish you a happy, bright Autumn full of fun and new adventures!

