



Education Mile

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SEND
Local Offer



Early Years news, advice and guidance for
Square Mile families and settings



Edition 12 | July 2021

Hello...

Welcome to the 12th edition of our newsletter.

Our aim is to share regular and national information to help support families with children who are aged 0-5.

If you would like further information and advice, you can follow us on social media (search: Square Mile Families), [visit our website](#), [email us](#) or call 020 7332 1002.

Coltale's Adventures

Have you listened to Coltale's Adventures on the [City of London's Family Information Service YouTube channel](#), yet?

The book is read by Coltale's friend, Ethan. As well as being super awesome, Ethan is autistic and a fan of Coltale, his adventures and #COLTALEtoptips. Ethan is an aspiring voice actor. Show your support for Ethan, and Coltale, by listening, liking and sharing the audio book with all your colleagues, friends and family!

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

For weekly top tips and great activities ideas follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Don't forget to subscribe to our [YouTube Channel!](#)



The Summer of Reading

'Reading is powerful: it teaches us new things, opens our minds, and inspires our creativity'

This initiative aims to get children and their families reading for pleasure over the coming months. Throughout the summer, families will be encouraged to share their reading activity on social media with the hashtag #SummerOfReading. The programme started on 14 June and finishes on 17 September, with new events and resources being announced every week, including both digital activity and in-person events at libraries. Confirmed events so far include Pop Up Project's livestreamed showcase and their 10 Stories to Make a Difference launch at the British Library, as well as the launch of The Reading Agency's 2021 Summer Reading Challenge.

Visit the [Reading Agency's website](#) for more.

Free books!

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, receive a high-quality book in the post, free of charge. [Click here](#) to register.



Every child registered with the library receives a special message and song from Dolly herself, on their birthday! Sign up now!

Squish Space on FB

The Barbican's sensory play sessions for families, is now online as a Facebook Group to keep you inspired with fun, creative activities for you to enjoy at home. In this group you will find resources to get you exploring and playing as a family using things you have around the house. There is no cost to the join the Facebook group and you can sign up [here](#).

COVID-19 and under-fives

- For two year olds, 62 % of their life has been during a pandemic
- Three year olds have spent 41% of their lives living through the pandemic



A survey by the [Anna Freud Centre](#) revealed that a high proportion of nursery workers have experienced complex and challenging emotional and behavioural needs in children. The Sutton Trust expressed concerns that existing inequalities in school readiness may become even more pronounced because of the pandemic.

There have, of course been positives - some families had more time to spend together with fewer external pressures, some new mums felt less isolated as their partner or other family members have been at home and we all saw more community support and acts of kindness

However, 68% of parents think the lockdown affected their unborn baby, baby or child's development. Many parents reported that their child is more clingy and has more tantrums, they are more timid and fearful of people they do not know, or even those they know, that they have had less contact with. (Babies in Lockdown- Institute of Fiscal Studies)

Staff who were surveyed at the Anna Freud Centre mentioned issues around speech and communication issues. More children seemed to be experiencing new speech and language difficulties or delayed speech. It was noted that this had an emotional impact on the children's experiences through becoming more frustrated and knocking their confidence.

COLTALE (City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically) can provide lots of free and low-cost ideas for learning at home, or outdoors together to support your child's speech and language to minimise the impact of lockdown and the pandemic. Follow us on social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). For more advice or information, we're always happy to help! Email us: eeyservice@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Family activities...

BRITISH LIBRARY

British Library

Paddington is one of the world's most loved bears. **Explore his exhibition 9 July – 31 October.** Take part in storytelling workshops and other activities. Children under 12 go free.

On 25 July 2021, 9am-11am there is a free, relaxed, autism-friendly early opening for families with children on the autism spectrum and other sensory needs. Enjoy the Library free from the hustle and bustle of the general public. [Visit website](#).

Guildhall Art Gallery

The Guildhall Art Gallery are doing their first family event in the Gallery on Saturday, 10 July. Book tickets to the Gallery in advance. [Click here](#) and then book a table when you arrive for the family activity, which is drawing a beautiful piece of carved wood made by Joiners & Ceilers' sponsored student Sarah Aaspollo.





CITY CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE



COMMUNITY FUN IN THE SUN EVENT 2021



18 AUGUST • 10AM TO 1PM

**ST. JAMES'S PASSAGE • DUKE'S PLACE • LONDON • EC3A 5DE
020 7283 1147**

OPEN TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5 YEARS

**COME AND ENJOY RHYMETIME BY CITY LIBRARIES, MUSIC AND
MOVEMENT, OUTDOOR PLAY, MAKATON STORIES AND AN
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET CITY EARLY YEARS PROVIDERS.**

The City's Child and Family Centre will be hosting their "Community Fun in the Sun Event 2021" on 18 August, 10am-1pm*. This is an opportunity for families with young children to meet and greet City early years providers. It will be an outdoors event.

Visit their website: www.thealdgateschool.org/about-us-2/cass-child-and-family-centre

**subject to Government guidance about events*