

# Termly News Letter



Welcome to our NEW termly news letter where we will aim to keep you up to date with all things nursery and EARLY YEARS!

This first edition of our news letter comes with lots of news regarding all the recent changes we have faced in the Early Years sector just this first term of the academic year, these include:

### **Funding**

The changes this term includes Government funding increasing to 30 hours for eligible families who can claim childcare from 9 months old until school age.

### **EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)**

The revised framework starts 1 September 2025, with stronger focus on:

- Safeguarding (clearer policies, staff training, safer recruitment).
- Following up absences and holding multiple emergency contacts.
- Healthy food, safer eating, and children's privacy in care routines.
- Students/trainees must hold Paediatric First Aid before being counted in ratios.

We have updated our Policies, safeguarding procedures and menus in line with the new guidance. You can find these on our website.

### **Ofsted Inspection**

From November 2025, inspections will use a new 5-point scale ("Exceptional" to "Urgent improvement") instead of the old "Outstanding/Good" grades.

- Families will receive a detailed 'report card' showing strengths in areas like curriculum, inclusion, well-being and safeguarding.
- Safeguarding will be judged separately (met / not met).

This aims to give parents clearer information about quality in each area of provision.

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Nursery News For You

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Dates For Your Diary

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Important Reminders

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HEY - Healthy Early Years

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Staff and Nursery Updates

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Staff Profile Highlights

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## Community News

Did you know about our local Family Hubs? There are a range of free regular activities delivered by Sheffield Family Hubs. What's on varies according to the needs of the local community but typically you can come to:

- breastfeeding groups and drop ins - come along for support, information and advice around all aspects of breastfeeding. Also a great place to meet other new parents and their babies
- baby groups - a fun and relaxing environment where you can explore and learn together with your baby

- toddler groups - a fun and exciting environment for children and their families to learn explore and develop new skills together

These activities are a great way to meet other parents and families and enjoy spending time with your child.

As well as regular activities, they also offer a range of workshops or advice sessions which have a specific focus on supporting different aspects of family life and child development. They can also offer one to one sessions and support if this is something you feel you would benefit from please get in touch with them!



## Healthy Early Years

### **Physical Activity** for Under-5s

Guidance from the UK Chief Medical Officers recommends that young children should be active every day:

- Infants (under 1 year): Floor play and moving several times a day (reaching, rolling, crawling).
- Toddlers & pre-schoolers (1-4 years): At least 3 hours of activity daily, spread across the day (running, climbing, dancing, scooters, ball games).

### **Why it matters:**

- Supports healthy growth, strong bones and muscles.
- Builds coordination, balance and motor skills.
- Improves sleep, confidence, and emotional well-being.
- Helps set up lifelong healthy habits.



**October-December 2025**

## Dates For Your Diary

4<sup>th</sup> November - Come Dine With Me - Dronfield

6<sup>th</sup> November- Come Dine With Me 4pm-6pm- Ecclesall Road

### **Halloween Events**

w/c 27<sup>th</sup> October - Fancy dress competition all week, prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

-Pumpkin competition, please bring in your creation on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>-Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October- Stay and Play 3-4pm

14<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need, donate and come in your pyjamas!

### **Christmas**

11<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Jumper day

17<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Stay and Play 2-3pm.

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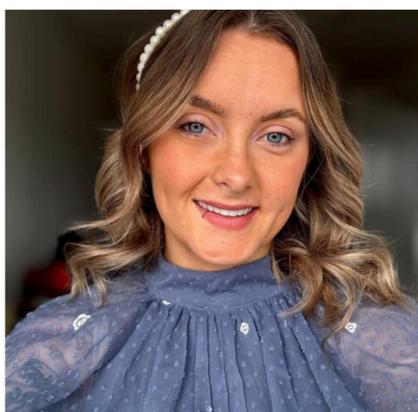
# Meet The Team



## Managers- Samijo and Beki

Meet Our Managers – Samijo & Beki

With a combined 35+ years of experience in Early Years education, Samijo and Beki bring a wealth of knowledge, leadership, and dedication to the nursery. Both are deeply committed to delivering high-quality care and education, ensuring that every child has the best possible start in life. Samijo and Beki have been the driving force of Once upon A Time Daycare since we opened back in June 2019. Their passion lies in creating a safe, stimulating, and inspiring environment where children can thrive. As parents themselves, they value strong partnerships with families and understand the importance of nurturing both learning and well-being. Together, they lead with creativity, professionalism, and a clear vision for continuous improvement



Alice - Deputy Manager

Alice is our newly appointed Deputy Manager at the Sheffield branch. She has recently completed her Early Years Teacher (EYT) degree and has a real passion for supporting children from birth to five.

With strong knowledge of the EYFS, Alice especially enjoys helping preschoolers gain confidence and prepare for their exciting transition to school.



Fiona - Deputy Manager

Fiona is our Deputy Manager at the Dronfield site brings a wealth of experience in the Early Years sector. She has a true passion for working with both children and families, supporting each child's learning, development, and well-being.

Her dedication and warmth make her a valued member of our team, helping ensure every family feels supported and every child has the best possible start in their early years journey.

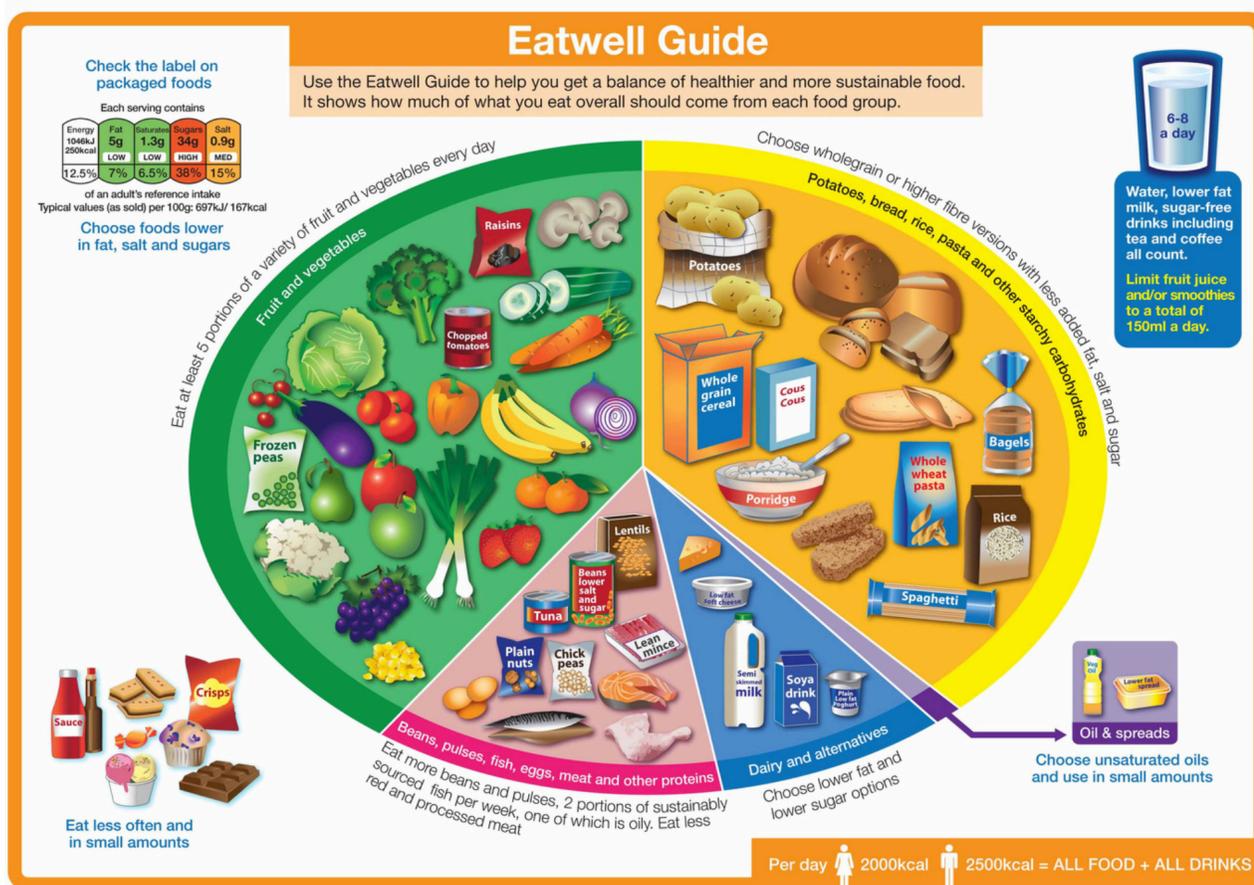


## Staff Updates

- Ecclesall Road -Aimee will be returning after having her little girl Esme in October. She will be joining our Jungle Team.
- Ecclesall Road - Georgina will also be returning after having her little boy Archie. She will also be joining our Jungle Team.
- Ecclesall Road - Megann will again we returning after having her little girl Olivia. She will be joining our Jungle team.
- Dronfield - We have recently welcomed Sadie to our Under the Sea Team.
- Dronfield - We have recently welcomed Jemima as an apprentice.

**Despite the current recruitment challenges in the Early Years sector, our dedicated staff and key workers continue to provide a wonderful, consistent environment, maintaining high standards of care and ensuring every child feels supported and nurtured.**

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Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

## Sheffield Safeguarding Hub

### Children and Young People

- Do you work in Sheffield?
- Concerned that a child or young person is suffering or likely to suffer harm?
- Want to report a safeguarding concern?

**Please contact the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub on**  
**0114 273 4855**

Email: [C&FScreeningTeam@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:C&FScreeningTeam@sheffield.gov.uk)

If the child or young person is in immediate danger please contact the police by calling 999  
For further information and guidance including LADO, Prevent, Policies and Procedures or Safeguarding Children training please go to [www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org](http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)



# Keeping children safe

Home safety for children under five



## Safer sleep for babies

### Things you can do

✓ Always place your baby on their back to sleep

✓ Keep your baby smoke free during pregnancy and after birth

✓ Place your baby to sleep in a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as you for the first 6 months

✓ Breastfeed your baby

✓ Use a firm, flat, waterproof mattress in good condition

the lullaby trust  
safer sleep for babies - support for families

# Start Well Sheffield Advice Phonenumber

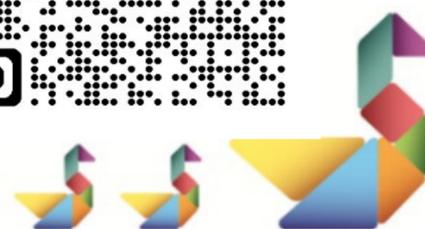
Our phonenumber is a simple, friendly way for families in Sheffield to get quick support, helpful tips, and general advice for children under 5.

You can call us about a wide range of topics to support your child's health and wellbeing. Some of the most common things parents ask us about include:

- Help with food fussiness or healthier eating habits
- Ideas to support potty and toilet training
- Ways to dump the dummy / oral health care
- Sleep and getting into a good routine
- Help with early speech and language development
- Supporting children's emotional wellbeing

No question is too small — our team is here to listen and help. Our phone line operates every Friday morning 9am-11am

Start Well Sheffield Advice line – 0114 2057241



**Start Well**  
SHEFFIELD

Scan the QR Code for more information and events from the team on our Start Well Sheffield Directory

# REFERRALS TO SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY

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Following a successful pilot, we are now ready to launch our new referrals process across the city. From Monday 2nd June 2025, all referrers will be encouraged to use our new electronic referral form to make referrals to the service. The form includes all of the criteria to access the service, as well as enabling us to gather the vital information we need as part of the referral. During the initial launch phase, we will continue to accept paper or SystemOne referrals. Any referrals received using the old paper form or SystemOne will be triaged against the new specialist service criteria. We will send referrers a reminder to use the new electronic form for future referrals. From 1st September 2025, we will only accept referrals via our electronic referral form. We will no longer accept referrals that are sent to us on a paper form or via SystemOne. These referrals will be rejected, and we will redirect referrers to the electronic referral form. The referral form is available on our website: [www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy-new-homepage/speech-language-and-communication/](http://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy-new-homepage/speech-language-and-communication/) If you need any support to complete our new electronic referral form, please contact us on [scn-tr.slt-sheffield@nhs.net](mailto:scn-tr.slt-sheffield@nhs.net)

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