

Leaders and Managers Briefing

Event title: Online Termly Briefing

Audience: Childminders, PVI settings, Schools

Agenda: Updates and information (local and from the wider Early Years sector)

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Agenda

- Local & Strategic updates
- Safeguarding & operational safety
- Inclusion, SEND, funding & Ofsted
- Early Help & family-support messages
- Curriculum & practice focus (baby rooms, reading, HLE, SEED)
- Digital lives (follows HLE)
- Movement & potty training
- Training & contacts

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Solihull Early Years Team Updates

- Rebecca Clay – retirement
- Quality Lead: Vicki Abraham
- New Inclusion Support Practitioners: Elizabeth Butler, Hannah Ryan
- Sarah Davies joins Early Years & Childcare Adviser team (2026)

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Setting Improvement Approach (SIA) theme: Belonging

- Annual cycle continues this term
- Theme: Belonging Two options remain available for providers
- Visits ongoing across settings

Option 1: Safeguarding and welfare: When I belong, I am kept safe and I feel safe

Option 2: Belonging: My key person builds on what I know and can do

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Belonging & children's mental health

- Children's Mental Health Week: 9–15 Feb 2026
- Theme: *This Is My Place*
- Environment
- Relationships
- Routines



Children's Mental Health Week 2026

Children's Mental Health Week 2026 will take place between 9-15 February in 2026. Our theme is 'This is My Place' where we're encouraging peers, families, schools and communities to create an environment that gives children and young people a sense of belonging.

We've released our official Children's Mental Health Week resources for schools, families and community groups, and workplaces, as well as lots of fundraising materials!

Visit our [Children's Mental Health Week site](#) to learn more about the week and find out how you can take part.

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Safeguarding and Welfare

Strengthening Daily Practice

- Make DSLs visible in the setting
 - Use “Who is the DSL today?” where several DSLs are trained
 - Builds trust and clarity for staff, parents & visitors
- Strengthens safeguarding culture

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Designated Safeguarding Lead / s at <i>[Name of setting]</i> | |
| PHOTO | PHOTO |
| <small>[NAME of DSL]</small> | <small>[NAME of DSL]</small> |
| If they are unavailable, please speak to | |
| PHOTO | PHOTO |
| <small>[NAME of DSL / Deputy DSL]</small> | <small>[NAME of DSL / Deputy DSL]</small> |
| <i>[Add any relevant information]</i> | |

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Safeguarding Training & Multi-Agency Updates

- DfE Prevent training now available -
- FREE SSCP multi-agency training- [SSCP-Training-Offer-25.26.pdf](#)
- CSA webinar series for DSLs

Newsletter Sign-up

Solihull Safeguarding

Children Partnership Newsletter



The purpose of the SSCP newsletter is to share information with anyone working with children, young people and families in Solihull. The newsletter will be shared every few weeks with updates on the partnership, our latest training, useful resources and more.

[Sign up to our newsletter!](#)

Quick Links

[Accessibility Statement](#)

Contact SSCP

General Enquiries: 0121 788 4325 or [Sign up to o](#)

SSCP Ne

Prevent in education: training for early years foundation stage staff

This training package has been designed by DfE for staff within the early years foundation stage to understand their responsibilities and the importance of the Prevent duty.

Session date 2025 to 2026

Register on eventbrite

Monday 19 January 2026: 6pm to 7:15pm

[Register](#)

Wednesday 29 April 2026: 4pm to 5:15pm

[Register](#)

Tuesday 16 June 2026: 6pm to 7:15pm

[Register](#)

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Operational Safety Alerts & Procedures

Baby sleep pillows unsafe – suffocation & SIDS risk (<https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-baby-sleep-pillows-psa8>)

Use firm, flat mattress only; stop use immediately

Share safer sleep advice with families

Review emergency procedures this term

Include illness, outbreaks, medical & environmental incidents- Ensure all staff understand roles & communication steps(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings>)



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SCW Improving Immunisation Uptake Team

Early Years Project

Training & Support (IIU Team)

The Improving Immunisation Uptake (IIU) Team will be delivering 'vaccination' training to Early Years Settings: 27th January 6.30-7.30pm or 5th February 1-2pm.

Supports improving uptake for 0–5 year olds

Helps settings share consistent health messages

Book you place: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/nhssouthcentralandwestcsu/1810823>

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Flu Vaccination – What Settings Need to Know UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

- Protecting young children and practitioners this winter
- All 2- and 3-year-olds are eligible for a free flu vaccination (quick nasal spray).
- Some children 6 months+ in clinical risk groups are also eligible.
- Uptake is lower than expected and many parents are unaware their child can receive the vaccine.
- Winter brings a rise in seasonal illnesses, including flu—vaccination helps protect children, families and staff.
- Early Years practitioners play a vital role in raising awareness with parents.
- Free information leaflets and posters are available from UKHSA.
- Children who cannot have the nasal spray for medical or faith reasons can request the injectable alternative (porcine-free).

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Early Help- Stay Informed

- Early Help newsletter for families and practitioners
- Updates on Family Hubs,
- Family Helpline and local support
- Subscribe online to receive updates directly
- Display the Early Help poster in settings
- From April: early SEND support in every Best Start Family Hub

Working for Children and Families in Solihull

Early Help in Solihull
The right support at the right time

Solihull METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community-led Family Help assessments
An Early Help assessment is used to identify and address the needs of children, young people, and their families at an early stage before problems escalate and require support.
Any professional can complete an Early Help assessment. The Family Support Team will help to assess whether further support is needed based on the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership's thresholds for support: <http://bit.ly/46w4w4s>

Family Helpline
0121 788 4327
Mon-Thu - 09:00-16:30
Friday - 09:00-16:00
The Family Helpline is a telephone for parents, families, professionals, or anyone involved with supporting parents and children in Solihull. The Helpline is staffed by Family Support Workers who help people find the right services for them, whether that be signposting to Family Hub sessions, facilitating Early Help assessments and referrals, or offering bespoke advice on next steps.
We acknowledge that not everyone will be able to access the Helpline. All are welcome to visit the Hubs in person or email family.hubs@solihull.gov.uk to be directed to the right support service for them.

Local Offer
The Local Offer brings together support services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) between the ages of 0-25 in Solihull.
It includes information on:
• SEND Information, Advice, and Support
• Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
• Solihull Parent Carer Voice and Network
• Strategies such as Graduated Approach
• Engagement hub and surveys
• SEND funding and provision
• Service directory
<http://bit.ly/46w4w4s>

Family Support
The Family Support Service provides regular drop-in sessions of the Solihull Family Hubs.
Families can simply visit one of the Hubs and chat with a Family Support Worker without needing to book in advance.
The Family Support Team can also complete an Early Help assessment and provide targeted support.
For more information, call the Family Helpline on 0121 788 4327.

Start for Life offer
The Start for Life offer has lots of information and advice on planning for a baby, pregnancy, babies, toddlers, and more.
<https://bit.ly/46w4w4s>

My Solihull Map
The My Solihull Map highlights free and low-cost activities and services from the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector.
Discover local community groups on the digital map.
<https://solihull.gov.uk/community/online-map-solihull>

TOGETHERNESS
Bringing the Solihull Approach to the world
Mums, dads, grandparents, and carers who live in Solihull can access online parenting courses for free by entering the code #PFLACKS on the Togetherness website.
<http://bit.ly/3u27k9e>

CONNECTED CARE NETWORK
Working across the NHS and the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector to care for children and young people in Solihull.
<http://connected-care-network.co.uk>

Family Support
37 Burtons Way, B34 0UG
0121 779 1700
elmwood@solihull.gov.uk

Evergreen (Englehurst)
42 Kinghurst Way, B37 4DX
evergreen@castlebridge.org
0121 779 1724

Hatchford Brook (Elmdon)
Old Lodge Lane, B9 2JE
hatchfordbrook@solihull.gov.uk
0121 794 4943

Riverside (Chelmsley Wood)
289 Bosworth Drive, B37 5DP
riverside@solihull.gov.uk
0121 779 1730

Outreach
Meriden Primary School
Fringley Road, CV7 7JF
Shirley Health Junior School
Coombes Road, B90 3QS

solihullfamilyhubs
www.solihull.gov.uk/solihull-family-hubs

Early Help Coordinators
Early Help Coordinators work with every school or education setting in Solihull to support families.
They review and screen assessments, provide tailored advice to families, and support Designated Safeguarding Leads and other pastoral staff with Early Help.
For more information, please email earlyhelp@solihull.gov.uk
www.solihull.gov.uk/earlyhelp

Early Help website
www.solihull.gov.uk/earlyhelp

YOUTH OFFER
Our youth offer defines what activities, opportunities and support is available for young people between 11-18 years old or up to 25 years old for those with SEND.
<http://bit.ly/46w4w4s>

Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership
The SSCP includes organisations that work with children and families such as Solihull Council, West Midlands Police, local NHS services and schools. They work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Solihull.
www.solihull.gov.uk/solihull-safeguarding

Solihull Family Information Service
Childcare, activities and services for carers and carers.
0800 389 8667
family@solihull.gov.uk <http://bit.ly/3u27k9e>

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Ofsted updates

- Ofsted summarises- [Ofsted and DfE](#)
- Using the Ofsted Early Years toolkit in PVI
- <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/6aogwdhIIGtkLdDa?ref=Link>

THE VOICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Podcast Articles Pioneers Events Projects Contact Partners Conference Newsletter

Ofsted's renewed early years inspection framework: What educators need to know

Podcast, Reflections

Jayne Coward
she/her

Ofsted's renewed early years inspection framework: What educators need to know

In partnership with

Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

Read, listen, reflect
www.thevoiceofearlychildhood.com

Podcast

In conversation with
Jayne Coward
she/her

Ofsted's renewed early years inspection framework: What educators need to know

In partnership with

Ofsted
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Listen to the full podcast episode

Publication date

15 December 2025

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Early education entitlement and quality- DfE information

- Funding can now be withdrawn or refused
- Support is mandatory when standards are low
- New regulations begin January 2026

SEND updates



[Nursery World - Government commits £200m to new SEND training for early years staff and teachers](#)

ur settings. With rising operational costs, recruitment and training needs, and the quest to boost outcomes for

News

Government commits £200m to new SEND training for early years staff and teachers

2 days ago [SEND](#) [Policy & Politics](#)

A new £200m SEND training programme to 'upskill' nursery and school staff, has been announced by the Government.



PHOTO: Adobe Stock

It has been launched in response to feedback from parents through the Government's [national conversation on SEND](#), and primary and secondary teachers that training on SEND is 'inconsistent' and more is needed to help them build their confidence in supporting pupils.

The Department for Education (DfE) says the training, which will be delivered 'flexibly' to staff in early years settings and school teachers from next year through online self-study sessions and live-in-person lessons, will promote practical skills about how to make education more

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Dingley's Promise -reflecting on inclusive practice

Dingley's Promise have developed a reflective framework to support high-quality SEND and inclusive practice

Helps settings evaluate inclusion across:

- Leadership & management
- Educator practice
- Environments
- Transitions

Free resources and videos available through the Childcare Works HUB

Free SEND training for all Solihull practitioners until June 2026

Supports a whole-setting, joined-up approach to inclusion

Link: <https://dingley.org.uk/reflectiveframework/>

[Reflective Framework - Dingley's Promise](https://dingley.org.uk/reflectiveframework/) - <https://dingley.org.uk/reflectiveframework/>

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New Speech and Language Referral Process – Solihull

- New referral form and guidance now available (see link below).
- Must be used with immediate effect.
- Old forms accepted until 31 January 2026.
- From 1 February 2026, referrals on old forms will be rejected.

Link to new form + information:

<https://childrenscommunitytherapies.uhb.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-therapy/>

Additional date update:

New SLCN Network Date: 17 March 2026, 1.15–3.15pm — Natter Matters.

Booking link: <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/training/special-events>

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Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) – Annual Report Update

The EYIF annual report for last year is now available on Solgrid

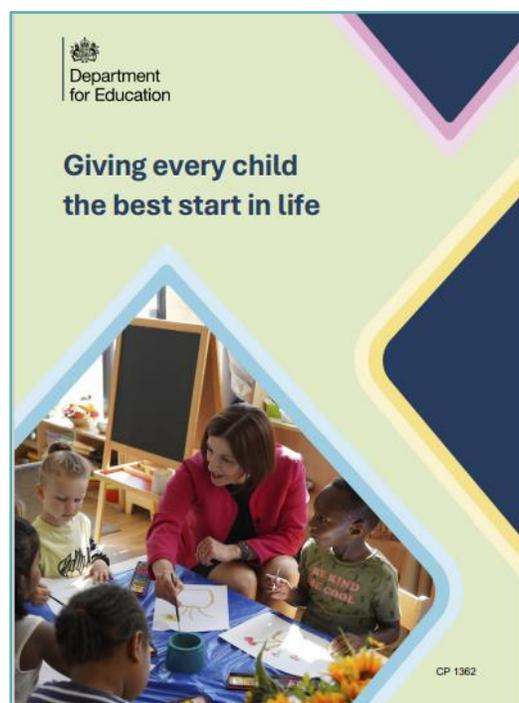
- Summarises how settings have used inclusion funding across Solihull
- Helps monitor impact, celebrate effective practice, and guide future funding decisions

Next EYIF closing date: 2nd February

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EYPP helps us deliver the Best Start in Life by targeting support where it has the greatest impact. The updated EYPP funding and EEF guidance provide a clear, evidence-informed framework for improving outcomes for disadvantaged children—strengthening everyday practice, focusing on high-quality interactions, and ensuring funding is used purposefully to reduce inequalities and improve life chances.



The EEF Guide to the Early Years Pupil Premium

Published 3 March, 2025

Chapters

- Overview** >
- 1 Introducing the balanced approach** >
- 2 Develop quality practice** >
- 3 Tailor personalised support** >
- 4 Lead, plan and sustain** >
- 5 Early Years Pupil Premium myth-busting** >

What is the Early Years Pupil Premium?

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) has one aim: to improve outcomes for socio-economically disadvantaged children from 9 months upwards. In April 2025, the Department for Education (DfE) increased funding for the EYPP by 45% to £570 per child per year.

A child's family income shouldn't be a barrier to their achievement and wellbeing in the early years. Early years settings (including childminders, nurseries and schools) can use this increased funding to help every child to flourish.

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High-Quality Baby Room Practice – What the Research Shows

HEART – Midlands Early Years Stronger Practice Hub



About the Hub Evidence Based Programmes Events Resources Sign up to the Hub Contact Info



CHILD MindERS
Childminder Network:
Resource Bank



NETWORK MEETING
Baby Room Network: Baby &
Toddler Nutrition for Healthy
Development (Part Two)
14 May 2026



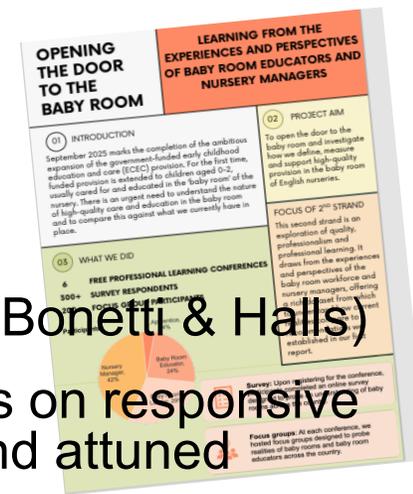
NETWORK MEETING
Baby Room Network: Baby &
Toddler Nutrition for Healthy
Development (Part One)
25 February 2026

(Based on national research by Sakr, Bonetti & Halls)
High-quality provision for babies relies on responsive environments, secure relationships and attuned interactions.

Research highlights the need for appropriate group sizes, strong qualification content, and more baby-specific CPD.

A chance to deepen your understanding and strengthen baby room practice

[final-infographic baby room \(1\).pdf](#)



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National Year of Reading support



- Early Years reading begins with rich interactions, shared stories and emotional connection.
- Diverse, high-quality texts help children build strong identities as readers.
- Reflection Guide supports teams to review leadership, environment, choice and reading aloud.
- Practical prompts encourage simple improvements across routines, spaces and practice.
- Designed to strengthen joyful, inclusive reading cultures during the National Year of Reading.

[Schools And Early Years Settings Offer Toolkit & Resources | National Year Of Reading | National Literacy Trust](#)

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Research you might want to explore

- New SEED report (DfE, July 2025) — long-term impact to Key Stage 2.
- More formal ECEC hours → small KS2 boost (reading/writing/maths), strongest for disadvantaged.
- Home learning environment (HLE) drives outcomes — big influence on attainment and behaviour.
- Practice takeaway: strengthen family partnership & HLE, spot early needs, target support. Link: SEED summary + full report.

Study of Early Education and Development (SEED): Impact Report on Early Education Use and Child Outcomes at Key Stage 2

**Research report
July 2025**

Authors: Joseph Crowley, Charles Wilson, Lovisa Moller Vallgarda, Svetlana Speight and Sehaj Bhatti, National

[SEED impact report on early education use and child outcomes at KS2 \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#)

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This Research..

- highlights how strongly the home learning environment shapes children's early language development.
- identifies inequalities in early learning opportunities linked to income, education, and ethnicity.
- shows strong links between screen time and children's language, emotional, and behavioural outcomes.
- emphasises the role of parental mental health.
- reinforces the value of early years settings in narrowing the gap.

Children of the 2020s: home learning environment and screen time at age 2

Research brief

January 2026

Dr Laurel Fish^{*1}, Dr Marialivia Bernardi^{*1}, Jessica van de Grint-Stoop², Dr Jean Anne Heng², Sarah Knibbs³, Prof. Alissa Goodman¹, Prof. Lisa Calderwood¹, Dr Sandra Mathers⁴, Kavita Deepchand³, Chris Ferguson³, Prof. George Ploubidis¹, Prof. Jacqueline Barnes⁵, Prof. Julie Dockrell¹, Prof. Claire Crawford¹, Prof. Lindsay MacMillan¹, Kevin Pickering³, Prof. Pasco Fearon^{1&2}

* These authors contributed equally to this work and are joint first authors of the report.
¹ University College London, ² University of Cambridge, ³ Ipsos, ⁴ University of Oxford,
⁵ Birkbeck, University of London

Children of the 2020s: home learning
environment and screen time at age 2:
research brief

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Managing digital lives

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

My priorities ▾ Knowledge & resource hub ▾ About us ▾ Media centre

Resources >

'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

18 December 2025

Report

Report Downloads

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | PDF | Download |  |
| What I wish my parents or carers knew about the online world... Activity Pack for children | PDF | Download |  |
| Single Page version for printing: 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | PDF | Download |  |
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Movement Matters

- Provides a comprehensive, research-informed explanation of why movement underpins all areas of child development
- Translates complex developmental science into clear, practical strategies
- Offers accessible guidance aligned with the EYFS and national physical activity guidelines,
- Supports inclusive provision
- Equips settings with whole-setting, whole-family approaches,



Movement Matters

A moving child is a thriving child

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The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception

- Clear guidance on when to start potty training and why timing matters
- Simple steps to prepare children, including routines, diet, and avoiding constipation.
- Practical strategies for stopping nappies and encouraging independence
- Advice on moving to nappy-free nap times and supporting night-time dryness
- Signposting to professional support and trusted resources for families, including SEND guidance.



The Potty Training Guide

The new, Government-backed guide to when and how to pott your child

[View the guide](#) [Download the guide](#)

Did you know

83% of children were out of nappies by 18 months in the 1970s and 1980s

Today **1 in 10** children aren't toilet trained

Potty training is an important milestone in your child's development. We understand that all children develop at their own pace, but research shows it's best for your child's bowel and bladder health to stop using nappies, including reusable nappies, pull-ups and training pants, between 18 and 30 months.

It's really important that children are out of all nappies well in advance of starting Reception year in school. The only exception should be children with a diagnosed medical need, such as a bladder or bowel condition.

Being out of nappies not only helps children to feel confident, healthy and part of the group, it also means teachers can spend more time teaching and supporting children's development in other ways.

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Training highlighted

- Vaccination training (IIU Team) The Improving Immunisation Uptake (IIU) Team will be delivering 'vaccination' training to Early Years Settings: 27th January 6.30-7.30pm or 5th February 1-2pm
- SLCN Network (Natter Matters)-SLCN Network Date: 17 March 2026, 1.15–3.15pm — Natter Matters.
Booking link: <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/training/special-events>
- Baby room training (How Young Children Learn) 27TH January 2026 1.00-4.00pm [How young children learn \(babies and toddlers\)](#)
- Prevent training- 29th April or 16th June
- Dingley's Promise- accessible until June 2026
- DfE SEND training-information to follow
- West midlands Stronger practice hub- [Baby Room Network: Baby & Toddler Nutrition for Healthy Development \(Part One\) | Stronger Practice Hubs](#)
- Reading for Pleasure (National Literacy Trust) [Literacy teaching and school events calendar 2025-26 | National Literacy Trust](#)

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Other training and events

- Spring DSL brief- 5th March
- Childminder Network-19th March
- Spring SENCO brief- available now

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Getting in touch

eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk

0121 704 6150

[Solihull Early Years SMS Text Service](#)

Summer Leaders and Managers briefing: Wednesday 27th May 2026

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