

Early Years Education Recovery

comprehensive support to help settings
and practitioners recover from the
pandemic



Department
for Education

Overview

The government is providing a package of workforce training, qualifications, support and guidance for the early years sector to support staff and settings address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the youngest and most disadvantaged children.

Designed to support all areas of the early years sector, the package offers:

Continuing Professional Development

- Child development
- Communication and language, early maths and PSED
- Nuffield early language intervention
- Leadership of settings
- Supporting caregivers in their home learning environment

Training

- Graduate-level specialist training leading to early years teacher status
- Accredited level 3 early years SENCO qualification

Support & Guidance

- Stronger practice hubs
- Expert coaches and mentors

Continuing Professional Development: Early Years Child Development Training

An online programme designed to help practitioners improve their knowledge and understanding of child development so that they can support children in early education settings

Who is it for?

Early years practitioners in nurseries and private, voluntary and independent settings, nursery managers and childminders

Mentees within the experts and mentors programme

However, the training is available to all, including parents and carers

How long does it take?

There are 10 modules. Each module will take one to two hours to complete.

The training is flexible. Users can save progress and return to where they left off at any time.

What does it include?

Users will work through a number of **online** interactive modules related to child development.

What does it cost?

This programme is free to access.



Continuing Professional Development: Professional Development Programme

The professional development programme (PDP3) provides early years practitioners with training on communication and language, early mathematics and personal, social and emotional development

Who is it for?

PDP3 will be available to practitioners nationally, targeted at reaching disadvantaged children. PDP3 is designed to support level 3 qualified practitioners who have not already completed PDP1 or PDP2.

What does it include?

The programme will cover:

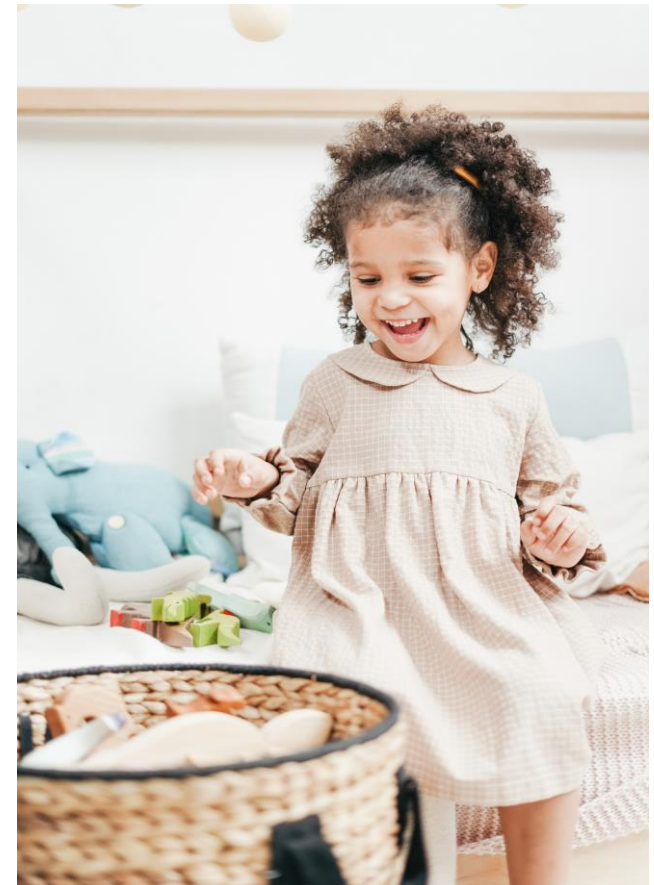
- early language
- early mathematics
- personal, social and emotional development

How long does it take?

It is expected that practitioners will have around 7-8 months to complete the three modules.

What does it cost?

This programme is free to access. Support with backfill costs will be made available to settings via their local authority to help practitioners complete the training.



Continuing Professional Development: Nuffield Early Language Intervention

Trained staff supporting reception-age children with speech and language development and early literacy skills

Who is it for?

All state-funded schools with a reception class have been invited to apply for the programme, with priority given to schools with a high proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals.

What does it include?

A trained teaching assistant provides short, small group and individual training sessions to around 3-6 children for 20 weeks.

How long does it take?

The programme lasts for 20 weeks.

What does it cost?

NELI training and resources free to access for participating schools.



A list of schools registered to deliver NELI is available [here](#).

Continuing Professional Development: NPQ in Early Years Leadership

Helping leaders develop their skills in managing and leading high-quality education and care

Who is it for?

The NPQEYL is aimed at leaders qualified to at least level 3 with a full and relevant qualification who are, or are aspiring to be:

- managers of private, voluntary and independent nurseries;
- headteachers of school based or maintained nurseries;
- childminders with leadership responsibilities.

What does it include?

The NPQEYL is designed to cover all aspects of leadership in early years, with modules covering curriculum and development, SEND, professional development, organisational management and partnership among others.

How long does it take?

The NPQEYL requires a minimum of 75 hours learning, delivered over approximately 18 months. Participants can expect to spend one to two hours a week on the NPQ and will need to engage with at least 90% of the course to pass.

What does it cost?

Scholarship funding is available for registered providers, childminders, maintained schools and maintained nursery schools



Participants can access further information and register [here](#).

Continuing Professional Development: Home Learning Environment

Funded training to help practitioners support caregivers in their home learning environment

Who is it for?

Local authorities will identify settings to receive training in the best evidence-based programmes (sustained, intensive, tailored, 1-to-1) to address the needs of local 3–4-year-olds (who were babies/small children during lockdown), on the basis of which settings can reach those who will benefit most. It is aimed primarily at practitioners with experience of working with parents and carers.

What does it include?

Programmes will be selected on each local authority's analysis of local need, existing provision and practitioners to deliver support to families.

How long does it take?

HLE training generally takes between half a day and 3 days, depending on the provider, and can be online, face-to-face or a mix of the two.

What does it cost?

This programme is free to access. Additional support for out-of-hours work and backfill will be at the discretion of the LA, training provider and setting



For more information, contact your local [family hub](#).

Qualifications: Early Years Initial Teacher Training

Funded graduate level specialist training leading to Early Years Teacher Status

Who is it for?

EYITT is designed for those who wish to specialise in working at a graduate level with babies and young children, from birth to five years.

What does it include?

Programme content will be tailored to local needs. Each Training is a mixture of learning at university and on a placement in a setting.

How long does it take?

EYITT courses can range from 3 months to 3-4 years, depending on the route chosen.

What does it cost?

Funding is available for the graduate-based and graduate-employment based EYITT courses. There are also bursaries and employer incentives.



More information is available from the [accredited providers](#).

Qualifications: Level 3 Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

Funded SENCo training to help identify and support children with additional needs

Who is it for?

The programme is aimed at SENCOs working in group-based and childminder settings and those due to take up the role of SENCO in these settings.

What does it include?

The learning is completed through a combination of online taught sessions, online study sessions, group discussions and one-to-one tutoring. The learning covers the role and responsibility of SENCOs (including principles, statutory guidance, partnership working and SEND identification) and strategies and techniques for supporting children and families.

How long does it take?

The qualification takes 34 hours, including 24 hours of guided learning, to be completed within a four-month period, with the option of extending the time to six months to allow for flexibility to fit around self-employment or part-time working arrangements.

What does it cost?

This programme is free for everyone who is offered a place.



Application is through the lead delivery partner, [Best Practice Network](#).

Qualifications: Level 3 Qualifications Review

Strengthening the level 3 qualifications criteria

Who is it for?

By reviewing the level 3 qualification, we are aiming to provide a higher-quality criteria for early years qualifications, leading to better training for early years educators. This will impact on individual settings, and the sector as a whole, as we look to improve the quality of early years education.

What does it include?

The review will improve the quality and rigour of the level 3 early years criteria, through public consultation and engagement with the sector and other stakeholders such as awarding organisations, and analysis of new and available data.

How long does it take?

Review and amendment of the level 3 criteria will take place over a two year period, with new qualifications based on a revised criteria set to go live from September 2024.

What does it cost?

The level 3 criteria sets the standard for early years qualifications at level 3 and above. Different courses will have different fees based on the type and level of qualification being studied. Different funding options will apply to different courses.



Support and Guidance: Stronger Practice Hubs

A national network of hubs which will connect providers and act as a source of high-quality evidence-based information

Who is it for?

Hubs will focus on supporting children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Support will focus on settings:

- without existing access to networks and/or relationships with other early years providers.
- looking to improve the quality of their provision
- which could benefit from high-quality professional development for staff

What does it include?

Stronger Practice Hubs will:

- establish local networks of settings to share knowledge and effective practice
- proactively share information and advice on evidence-based approaches, for example, through newsletters, blogs, and social media
- act as a point of contact for bespoke advice, and signposting to other funded support

How long does it take?

The programme will run for 2 years, ending in autumn 2024.

What does it cost?

It is free for settings to access support through the Stronger Practice Hubs.



For more information, please see [Early years stronger practice hubs](#).

Support and Guidance: Experts and Mentors

Bespoke staff and setting support, including leadership, coaching, mentoring and whole-setting support

Who is it for?

Settings who meet one or more of these criteria:

- judged by Ofsted as requires improvement or inadequate in the last 3 years
- high numbers of children in receipt of early years pupil premium, with special educational needs and disabilities, or taking up the disadvantaged 2-year-old offer

What does it include?

The offer to early years settings includes:

- leadership support
- coaching support for leaders
- mentoring for practitioners
- whole setting support depending on needs

A mentor will provide support to a nominated practitioner within each setting, or to a small group of practitioners at one time. An expert will also support the setting leader.

How long does it take?

Settings will receive the support of an expert and mentor for one term, between September 2022 and July 2024:

- Mentors will provide up to 6 hours of mainly virtual support per setting.
- Experts will provide up to 3 days of face-to-face support per setting.

What does it cost?

Support from the experts and mentors is provided for free to settings.



You can apply for support using the [application form](#) on the Pen Green website.