



**Sheffield City Council**

**Early Years Professional  
Development  
Training  
2025-2026**

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Welcome to the Sheffield Local Authority Early Years Professional Development training brochure for 2025 - 2026.

Sheffield's Early Years sector is rich in diversity, encompassing childminders, private, voluntary, independent, and maintained nurseries, pre-schools, and reception classes. This brochure offers a comprehensive range of professional development opportunities designed to support all early years professionals in delivering high-quality education and care. We celebrate our ways of working together for the best outcomes for our young children, whilst acknowledging the challenges faced in the Early Childhood Education and Care sector, a workforce who are dedicated to carrying out the vital work that is crucial if we want to see all young children - regardless of their background - get the best possible start in life and go on to achieve their full potential.

The training programme focuses on four key areas: building knowledge, motivating educators, developing techniques, and embedding practice. This approach ensures that practitioners are well-equipped to provide the best outcomes for young children. The training offer for 2025-2026 incorporates these elements, allowing early years professionals to access opportunities that enable them to stay informed about new research, approaches and 'tools' in addition to sharing the knowledge and skills they develop or enhance through learning networks.

We have some fantastic trainers lined up, including Ben Kingston-Hughes who will be leading our conference on '**The Power of Play – A Journey to Glorious Behaviour**'. Collaborations with Local Authority partner agencies provide targeted training to support children with SEND, ensuring inclusive practices across all settings. Dedicated sessions are available to assist leaders and managers in embedding change within their settings, fostering continuous improvement and innovation, connecting with sessions designed to empower professionals, equipping them to share their knowledge and skills through communities of practice, peer coaching, and mentoring, all within a supportive environment.

There is the opportunity to access training with professionals from across the country, who are experts within the field of Early Years Education. We look forward to working with you and your staff teams throughout the upcoming year to ensure all young children in Sheffield receive the best possible start in life.

*Vicky Carr, Early Years Quality, Access and Moderation Manager.*

## Meet our Trainers.

Please take a moment to read information about the trainers we are lucky enough to work with.

There is a wealth of knowledge working with our Sheffield Early Years sector this year.

### Ben Kingston-Hughes, Inspired Children

Ben Kingston-Hughes is an international keynote speaker, author and multi award-winning trainer. He delivers inspirational training to schools, nursery settings, out of school settings and for parents, as well as for local authorities and national charities.

Ben is the Managing Director of Inspired Children and has worked with vulnerable children across the UK for over 35 years. He has appeared on television several times working on a variety of children's projects and his distinctive blend of humour, neuroscience and real-life practical experiences have made his training invaluable for anyone working with children.

His game-changing book about play, *"A Very Unusual Journey into Play"* has gained widespread acclaim and his new book, *"Why Children Need Joy"* was a finalist for a Nursery World Award for best professional book 2024, where it was awarded "highly commended".

*"A life changing book, I can't recommend it enough. Everyone in Early Years should read it. The author is an inspiration!"*

**R Taylor (Verified Amazon Purchase)**



### Greg Bottrill

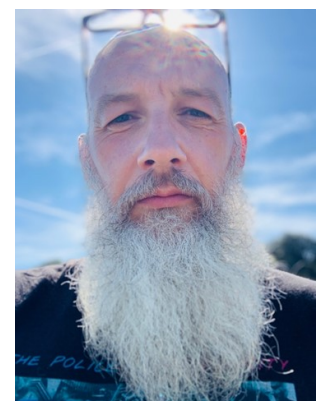
Greg is the author of the bestselling 'Can I Go And Play Now?', 'School of the Magic of Children' and 'Love Letters To Play'.

A passionate advocate of childhood and education done with children

not to them, he is also the creator of Drawing Club,

The Message Centre, Play Projects and Adventure Island.

His work and thinking is deeply embedded in joy, adventure, marvel and play, four things that he believes are equally as important for adults.



## **Kirstine Beeley**

Kirstine Beeley is a sought-after early years trainer, popular keynote speaker, and the creator of the widely respected Empathy Dolls Approach. A former teacher with experience across primary, early years, and special education, Kirstine also held the role of senior lecturer at Oxford Brookes University and has been working as an early years consultant since 2006.

Her books - published through Bloomsbury and her own imprint, Playing to Learn - are used by local authorities across the UK to support quality improvement and professional development planning.

Renowned for her practical, hands-on training style, Kirstine specialises in helping early years settings create inspiring, high-quality learning environments on a budget. She is passionate about sustainability and encourages the use of upcycled, recycled, and preloved materials wherever possible.



## **Marianna Limnaiou**

Marianna Limnaiou is an autism specialist teacher and consultant. As an Attention Autism Advanced Practitioner she has run many workshops and collaborated with parents, teaching staff, speech and language therapists and outside agencies to develop fun, creative and practical learning strategies to support pupils. She has worked as a class teacher both in mainstream and in special schools supporting neurodivergent students as well as in leadership positions in schools in London and Sheffield. She has an Honours degree in Psychology & Pedagogics and an MSc in Child and Adolescent Mental Health.



## **Simon Airey**

Simon is a London-based educator with over 25 years of experience in both mainstream and specialist settings. He has been a class teacher across EYFS to Year 4, previously held the role of EYFS phase leader, and has a particular passion for Early Years. Now working as a visiting teacher, Simon delivers play-based interventions to EYFS children and also covers classes in teacher absence. He brings a neuroaffirming approach rooted in both professional and lived experience of neurodivergence. Simon co-hosts a podcast about social anxiety and has been a guest on podcasts hosted by Cheryl Warren, SEND Network, TTS, among others. He shares accessible, supportive content on inclusive practice via Instagram @simoninclusionteacher and LinkedIn, helping educators feel more confident, connected, and equipped to meet the needs of every learner.



## **Dr Sue Allingham**

Sue's passion for 'everything Early Years' especially teaching and learning began in the late 1980's with her classroom experience and senior lead role as Early Years Co-ordinator. She then moved into research and gained an MA followed by a Doctorate, both in Early Years Education from Sheffield University.

These achievements enabled Sue to consolidate her thinking and practice and realise the work that she was doing had a solid grounding in research. It is this research that forms the base for the articles she writes regularly as the Consultant Editor of Early Years Educator (EYE) magazine, part of the Mark Allen Education Group.

Sue has also received commissions from Practical Preschool Publications to write two books, 'Transitions in the Early Years' (now in its second edition) and Emotional Literacy in the Early Years, launched in early 2020.

Sue works with all Early Years provisions and professionals, as a Consultant and Trainer ensuring that she is providing them with the up to date knowledge and skills they need in order to care for the children as well as care for each other.

## **Sarah Emerson**

Sarah is a consultant and trainer specialising in children's emotional well-being and 'behaviour'. She advocates for responsive, connected parenting and teaching to enable children to develop well-being, resilience, and self-worth. Providing inclusive and neuro-affirming approaches is at the heart of her work. She reframes 'behaviour' into conversations around dysregulation, looking at how we can support the development of self-regulation and self-control in an appropriate way, with realistic expectations for young children. Sarah encourages professionals and parents to explore how we can meet children's needs effectively, communicate with them sensitively, and teach them about their emotions and strategies for regulation from a young age. Sarah has been in the early years sector for over 20 years in a variety of teaching, leadership and training roles. In addition to being a qualified early years teacher and trainer of adults, she holds an MA in Early Childhood Studies and has undertaken postgraduate training in Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Well-being.

## **Mel Shepherd**

Mel has been working in education since 2009, when she completed her teaching degree, with a career rooted in Early Years. Over the years she has taken on a variety of roles including teaching, managing settings and leading on quality development.

Mel is a strong advocate for team training and wellbeing for the teams she works with too. Creating training environments which are fun and engaging and spaces where real learning can take place is something she really enjoys and teaching First Aid has become a real part of this.

When Mel is not working, she is with her husband and two daughters - usually out exploring nature, finding new walking spots, or discovering somewhere new. She also has a love for the theatre, getting to the gym, watching football or eating good food with friends.

## **Debbie Garvey**

Debbie's career spans more than three decades, championing children, families, and practitioners across the entire early childhood sector. From nursery provision, through to training at FE and HE levels, Debbie's child-centered approach has been at the heart of her roles locally, regionally, and nationally. Debbie's experience includes roles such as, practitioner, leader, author, trainer, consultant, lecturer, researcher and facilitator, developing, delivering and evaluating a range of projects. Debbie has empowered the use and development of reflective practice, in order to support quality experiences for children, families and staff, through supportive interventions such as, training, team building, conferences, forums, parent/family support, new provision and CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) programs.

Debbie is an active author, trainer, lecturer, and speaker on the subject of early years, early childhood and leadership. Debbie has particular interests in neuroscience, PSED, leadership, coaching/mentoring and reflective practice, and the roles these play in developing quality experiences for children, families and staff.

In January 2007, Debbie set up Stonegate Training. Our aim is to advocate quality experiences and provision for children, young people, and families, alongside quality CPD experiences for the dedicated practitioners who work with them. Amongst other things, Debbie is a level 6 qualified mentor, and is currently undertaking an MA with a view to continuing into a doctorate.

Debbie has written several books in this area and is an avid Twitter (X) fan, and you can follow Debbie @stoneg8training.

## **Kirsty Davison**

Kirsty has over 20 years of experience in working in the early years sector. With specialist expertise in supporting children with speech, language and communication needs. She has worked for both Sheffield Speech and Language Therapy Service and Sheffield City Council supporting early years settings to meet the needs of all children, but particularly those with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. She has used Makaton extensively throughout her career, particularly during her role as an Advanced Speech and Language Therapy Assistant; and during the time she was part of the team at the Sheffield Early Years Language Centre (UCAN) working with children with Development Language Disorder. She is a fully qualified and licensed Makaton Tutor, hoping to support as many early years practitioners as possible to enhance their knowledge and skills in using Makaton as part of their everyday practice.

## **0-5 SEND Team**

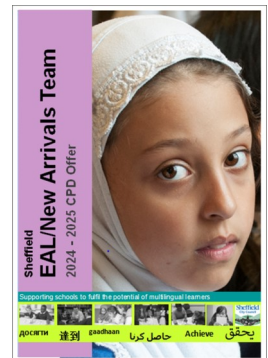
The 0-5 SEND Support Service offers support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), their parents/carers, Early Years settings and schools for children aged 0-5 years.

Our team consists of specialised SEND Early Years Inclusion Teachers, experienced Early Years Inclusion Assistants, a Senior Portage Visitor and Portage Home Visitors. We deliver support citywide and work closely with families, settings, schools and professionals in Education, Health and Care services to help meet the needs of children with complex needs.

## **EAL / New Arrivals Team**

Shabnam Shah is an EMA / EAL Consultant, also working within the Sheffield EAL / New Arrivals Team. With over 20 years' experience working and teaching in schools, Shabnam specialises in training, leadership support, school reviews and the development of academic language and vocabulary. Shabnam is also a qualified 'Word Aware' Trainer.

The Sheffield EAL / New Arrivals Team offers high quality professional development for whole school, senior leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, business managers and other educational professionals. This is delivered through nationally recognised programmes, courses, packages and bespoke CPD for schools and settings. The Team works across all phases both locally and nationally.



## **Community Early Years Practitioners**

We are a team of qualified, knowledgeable and experienced practitioners committed to supporting the early years sector and the children and families of Sheffield. The Community Early Years Practitioners (CEYPs) offer support and advice to professionals and families ensuring early identification of need, supporting health and wellbeing and delivering training opportunities. The CEYP offer is available in a range of settings within communities such as nurseries, childminders, family hubs and schools. Training/workshops are delivered via a hybrid model virtually over zoom and face to face.

Your Community Early Years Practitioners are Gavin Sweet, Karen Hobson, Jenny Sinclair, Lynsey Shaw, Nicola Waller and Vanessa Hair.

## **Early Years Quality Improvement Team**

We are a team of highly qualified professionals. We have a broad range of experiences, skills and interests within the sector. The Early Years Quality Improvement Team aim to support, challenge and inspire new and existing early years professionals across the sector to develop their high-quality provision.

Our team work city wide, with allocated childcare providers and childminders. We offer tailored support which may include annual reviews, one to one consultation, professional development opportunities (including networking and briefings). Ultimately, we all share the same early years vision and agenda to improve outcomes for the children in Sheffield.

Your Early Years Quality Improvement Team are:

Michelle Richford, Debbie Hindley, Karen Rees, Paula Burgin, Lisa Bramhall, Michelle Fox and Heather Spray.

## **Early Years Quality & Access Team**

Our Early Years Quality and Access Team is comprised of passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable early years professionals. They work collaboratively with schools and private providers to support improvement, developing high-quality early years provision that promotes high standards of attainment in all areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

Through combined expertise they plan and deliver comprehensive programmes of training, providing early years settings with access to training that supports the effective implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework and its processes. They can provide bespoke consultancy, working alongside early years teachers and leaders to audit, develop, implement and evaluate practice including support with producing action plans for improvement in the Foundation Stage.

Working across the authority they conduct termly briefings and network events, disseminating key messages from the sector. Alongside this, the team act as facilitators for moderation events, supporting schools to work together through networking, to ensure consistent and accurate assessment standards in relation to the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.

Your Early Years Quality and Access Team are Jayne Atkinson and Lushane Davies-Maw.

## **Autism Social Communication Education and Training Service (ASCETS)**

Autism Social Communication Education and Training Service (ASCETS) support children from 5 - 25 in the field of Social Communication. As we are proud Educational Training Partners for Autism Education Trust (AET) we offer training to Early Years settings using accredited Good Autism Practice workshops. These workshops value the early stages a pupil may be working within and offers practical strategies and solutions for meeting need.

### **Dr Sarah Rawding**

Sarah's main teaching interests are focused on the holistic development of children within the Early Years and supporting practitioners to become confident and reflective in their practice. She has a specific research interest in the promotion of positive dispositions for lifelong learning, in particular curiosity and creativity. Sarah is the course leader for the Foundation degrees in Early Years and Education and Learning Support and the year leader for level five of Early Childhood Studies. She also teaches on the full time Masters in Education.

## **Deaf/Hearing and Vision Support Service**

The Sheffield Deaf/Hearing and Vision Support Service is a dedicated team of specialist teachers, teaching assistants, habilitation workers and Deaf instructors who provide tailored support to children and young people with sensory impairments across the city. From the point of diagnosis through to the end of formal education, the service works closely with families and settings to ensure children with hearing or vision loss can access learning and thrive socially and emotionally. The Multi-Sensory Impairment Teacher plays a key role in supporting children with combined hearing and vision needs, offering expert advice, personalised strategies, and practical interventions. In addition to direct support, the service also provides training and guidance to settings, helping staff to create inclusive environments and effectively meet the needs of sensory-impaired learners.

## **Educational Psychologists**

Educational Psychologists provide a service to children, young people and their families, as well as to settings in Sheffield. They help to find solutions to worries and concerns people might have about how children are developing, progressing or learning.

All our psychologists are fully qualified. They have a degree in psychology and have undergone post graduate training. Everyone has experience in working with children and young people. Assistant psychologists and trainee psychologists work under the supervision of educational psychologists.

An Early Years  
Conference with  
Ben Kingston-Hughes



# THE POWER OF PLAY

## A JOURNEY TO GLORIOUS BEHAVIOUR

### ✦ Play & Behaviour: The Neuroscience Behind Thriving Children ✦

Join leading play specialist Ben Kingston-Hughes for an inspiring conference exploring the powerful link between Play and Behaviour in young children.

#### ✦ Discover:

- 🕒 The fascinating neuroscience connecting play, brain growth, and emotional well-being
- 🕒 The vital role adults play in creating joyful, meaningful play experiences
- 🕒 Practical strategies for engaging children and supporting positive behaviour
- 🕒 How behaviour communicates children's needs—and how to respond effectively
- 🕒 Ways to help vulnerable children thrive through playful, nurturing interactions

Expect a conference packed with real-world insights, practical tools, and plenty of inspiration to transform your work with children!

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding—and make a lasting difference.

Author of:



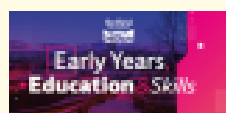
**Book your place and help children thrive!**

📅 **Thursday 16th October 2025**

🕒 **9:30am - 4:00pm**

📍 **Bramall Lane Football Stadium**

🎫 **1 free place for package subscribers otherwise  
£125 to attend**



For bookings email:

[EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Early Years Conference with Ben Kingston-Hughes

## The Power of Play – A Journey to Glorious Behaviour

Number of places: 120

This insightful event explores two essential aspects of working with young children, **Play and Behaviour**. By understanding the simple **neuroscience** of both behaviour and play this fascinating session explores how the two concepts are inextricably linked, and shows how practitioners can use this knowledge to radically improve the **well-being** of their children.

Leading play specialist Ben Kingston-Hughes takes a deep dive into play, exploring the fascinating neuroscience behind this **crucial developmental process** and highlights common sense approaches to create rewarding and vibrant play opportunities for our children.

The session also explores the **vital role of the adult** in supporting and engaging in play and shows how play is a **fundamental building block for brain growth, emotional well-being, social development, life long health and even life expectancy**. Ben will highlight how positive playful interactions with nurturing and joyful adults can be **profoundly important** for our most vulnerable children and support them to be **behave positively and ultimately to thrive**.

We will explore the **fascinating world of behaviour** and how we need as adults to **fundamentally understand behaviour** in order to scaffold, model and support our children. The session examines exactly what children are trying to **communicate** with their behaviour and then promotes a **series of strategies** to help our children to make pro-social choices. There is no “one size fits all” approach to behaviour but by making the effort to understand our children’s behaviour and their motivations we can **tailor our responses** to each individual child and **support them as they grow**.

### Session Aims

- highlight key elements of the neuroscience of play and its vital role in well-being
- explore the critical role of the adult in supporting play
- give concrete strategies for improving play
- explore the fundamental motivators behind children’s behaviour
- showcase the essential neuroscience of behaviour and how an understanding of this helps to fine tune our strategies for the individual child
- assess children’s needs and how this manifests in their behaviour – especially our more vulnerable children
- inspire and entertain learners to have a positive experience of training with real world theory and strategies that directly apply to practice.

### Booking code and date:

EY CONF	Thursday 16th October 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Bramall Lane Football Stadium
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Facilitator: Ben Kingston-Hughes

### Course Cost:

1 FREE place for those subscribed to the package. Additional places will be charged for at a reduced rate. If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged **£125.00** to attend the conference. Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# 0-5 SEND Team: Ordinarily Available Provision – Supporting you and your Early Years Setting

Number of places: 20 / 30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This newly developed training package provides early years professionals with a valuable insight into the wider support available from the 0–5 SEND team.

To achieve this, access to the right support, in the right place and at the right time is essential. Wherever children and young people live in Sheffield, we want them to have their additional learning needs met. For most children, attending their local setting with other children from their community is the best way to ensure this happens. To achieve this settings must have a core offer that meets the needs of all children, including those with SEND. This core offer is referred to as the Ordinarily Available Provision. It is the range of activities, opportunities and strategies that are offered as good basic practice to meet a range of additional needs without the need for a formal diagnosis or specialist support.

The session aims to outline the early years offer for all settings, including what to expect from the Portage team, practical ways to support children with SEND, and the use of helpful strategies and visuals.

It will also introduce offers from our partner agencies and guide practitioners on when to consider further assessments, helping ensure a consistent and informed approach to early intervention and support.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY SENDOAP 01</b>	Wednesday 10th December 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at St Mary's Church
<b>EY SENDOAP 02</b>	Wednesday 11th February 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Mansel Primary School
<b>EY SENDOAP 03</b>	<b>NEW DATE AND VENUE</b> Wednesday 17th June 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Moorfoot Learning Centre

## **Facilitator:**

**0-5 SEND Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Attention Autism Programme: Two-day Training Course

Number of places: 25

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This 2 day course equips attendees with the skills to set up and run the 4 Stage Attention Autism programme. The training focuses on the practical aspects of intervention, working in a team and offering an irresistible invitation to learn. The Attention Autism Programme targets the teaching of attention, communication and social interaction skills. Training is run applying the principles of the Attention Autism Programme throughout each day. There are demonstrations of the techniques in action, films of the work with children, practical hands-on experience for participants and ideas for activities. The intention is to share the practical skills needed for participants to feel confident in setting up and running the intervention immediately.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

**EY AA 01**

**\*Please note both sessions  
must be attended**

Thursday 12th February 2026 and Thursday 19th March  
2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm at St Mary's Church

## **Facilitator:**

Marianna Limnaiou from Gina Davies Autism Centre.

## **Course Cost:**

**3 tokens.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Behaviour and Big Feelings

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This online, 4 part course will empower you to respond to children's 'behaviour and big feelings' with confidence. We will explore the connection between behaviour and emotions in a meaningful way, considering:

- Causes and triggers that contribute to a child's dysregulation
- The impact of attachment, SEND and trauma on 'behaviour'
- Communication and teaching styles based in connection and co-regulation
- Effective responses to a variety of dysregulated behaviours including hitting, throwing and biting
- How to use your environment to de-escalate situations
- Activities and resources to help children learn about feelings and how to regulate them
- How to ensure an approach to behaviour and big feelings that is supportive and inclusive of neurodivergent children
- What 'self-control' really means and how to help children develop it

There will be sharing of information, lots of practical tips, and time for reflection and questions. Participants are welcome to bring any questions they may have relating to current 'real-life' challenges.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

**EY BBF 01**

**\*Please note all sessions must be attended**

Thursday 9th October 2025, Thursday 23rd October 2025, Thursday 13th November 2025 and Thursday 27th November 2025, 9.30am - 11.45am online via Zoom

## **Facilitator:**

Sarah Emerson

## **Course Cost:**

**2 Tokens.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Building Confidence across your EYFS Programme

Number of places: 20

## **Course suitable for:**

This training is aimed at those who are completely new to EYFS, returning after a break or in need of a refresher. It may also be beneficial to members of SLT who want to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the EYFS.

## **Description:**

This four day training programme is a chance to explore the EYFS Statutory Framework, gain an insight into the 4 overarching principles and an awareness of the necessary pedagogy, values and practice pertinent to the Early Years Statutory Framework.

We will focus on the necessity for providing a stimulating and enabling environment which, in turn, empowers children to learn. Practitioners will also spend time during our final session exploring the role of the adult within the early years.

Practitioners will spend time exploring the role of the adult within the early years, discussing how practitioners facilitate, nurture and stimulate thinking, thus allowing children to feel safe, supported, and encouraged to explore. Following the training programme, optional in-house visits and mentor sessions will be available.

There will be a focus on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, examining the fundamentals of how to complete the profile, the importance of moderation and rules around exceptions and exemptions.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY BCEYFS 01</b> *Please note all sessions	Wednesday 15th October 2025, 19th November 2025, 21st January 2026 and 25th February 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Moorfoot Learning Centre
<b>EY BCEYFS 02</b> *Please note all sessions	Tuesday 12th May 2026, 2nd June 2026, 16th June 2026 and 30th June 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Circle

**\*\*Attendees on this training do not need to book a place on EYFSP Training as it is incorporated into these sessions.**

## **Facilitators:**

Early Years Quality and Access Team

## **Course Cost:**

3 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Business Planning for Success

Number of places: Unlimited

## **Course suitable for:**

The Business Planning for Success Course is aimed at those with responsibility for the overall direction of Early Years and Childcare provision, as well as those considering setting up or extending their offer. For example, childminders, managers, leaders, owners, trustees, committee members, school governors and anyone else considering setting up or developing their provision in Early Years (or the out of school sector, including HAF providers, short breaks providers, leisure and recreation providers).

## **Description:**

Sheffield have recognised the early years sector are facing many changes and a rethink of their business model is now necessary to support both sustainability, high quality and importantly an inclusive offer for all children.

The Course takes the trainee on a journey of reconsidering what it is they are aiming to do and how they weave inclusion throughout a business planning process. Business planning for inclusion also involves thinking about supply and demand in an area, and what percentage of children with SEND are actually likely to need additional support, as well as where responsibility for inclusion rests and how it can be successfully shared. A series of examples from our work with a wide range of other providers nationally will be shared throughout to keep the session "real".

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY BSFS 01</b>	Wednesday 12th November 2025, 6.30pm - 8.30pm online via Zoom
<b>EY BSFS 02</b>	Monday 10th November 2025, 1.00pm - 3.00pm online via Zoom
<b>EY BSFS 03</b>	Thursday 5th February 2026, 9.30am - 11.30am online via Zoom
<b>EY BSFS 04</b>	Thursday 26th February 2026, 6.30pm - 8.30pm online via Zoom

## **Facilitator:**

Ann Van-Dyk (MBE), Families First

## **Course Cost:**

1 token

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Collaborative Moderation Network

Number of places: 15 / 20

## Course suitable for:

Reception teachers, Year 1 colleagues as well as those in a subject leader post to join our network and conversations.

## Description:

This network aims to foster professional dialogue and collaboration among our schools/settings. It will provide practitioners with the skills to make accurate and reliable teacher judgements and to speak with confidence about what their children know, understand and can do. The network will create a supportive space to share experiences and to showcase best practice. By engaging in peer-to-peer moderation, practitioners can share a range of perspectives, enhance their understanding of effective assessment procedures, and build a shared comprehension of the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) in line with the Early Years Profile Handbook requirements.

This collaborative process will not only support the quality assurance of the EYFSP judgements by the end of the school year but will also provide valuable opportunities for ongoing professional development, as schools work together to refine their assessment skills and share best practices.

Each term will have its own focus however there will be flexibility to discuss all areas in any session.

The first network focus will be: **The Prime Areas**

The second network focus will be: **Maths and Literacy**

The final network focus will be: **Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design**

We would warmly welcome our Year 1 and SLT colleagues as well as those in a subject leader post to join our network and conversations. Colleagues may wish to join us for any number of collaborative moderation network events free of charge.

**\*If you have a group of schools with planned moderation sessions and would like our support please let us know if you would like us to attend.**

## Booking codes and dates:

<b>EY COLLAB 01</b>	Friday 24th April 2026, 9.30am - 12.00pm at Phillimore Community Primary School
<b>EY COLLAB 02</b>	Monday 11th May 2026, 9.30am - 12.00pm at St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy
<b>EY COLLAB 03</b>	Friday 15th May 2026, 9.30am - 12.00pm at Phillimore Community Primary School

Facilitators: **Early Years Quality and Access Team**

Course Cost: **FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Communicative Interactions

Number of places:20 / 30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

Effective communicative interactions are crucial in the early years, promoting language development and social skills in young children. This training aims to provide practitioners with strategies to enhance verbal and non-verbal communication, create engaging learning environments, and support diverse communicative needs.

Through exploration of pedagogical approaches and expert insights, including the 'ShREC' approach and 'Sustained, Shared Thinking' strategies, participants will learn to build stronger connections with children, encouraging active listening and expressive language. Join us to empower your teaching and make a lasting impact on children's early developmental milestones.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY CI 01</b> <b>*Please note all sessions must be attended.</b>	Thursday 23rd October 2025, 20th November 2025 and 11th December 2025, 1.30pm - 4.00pm at St Mary's Church - The Garden Room
<b>EY CI 02</b> <b>*Please note all sessions must be attended.</b>	Monday 20th April 2026, 11th May 2026 and 8th June 2026, 1.30pm - 4.00pm at St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Creating an Enabling Environment

Number of places:20 / 30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

Join our "Creating an Enabling Environment" training for early years practitioners and explore how you might design spaces that stimulate curiosity and foster development.

This 1 day workshop offers practical tips on arranging classrooms, incorporating sensory-rich materials, and creating inclusive settings that cater to diverse learning styles. Together we will consider some of the many ways to transform your learning environment into a dynamic, engaging space where children thrive, explore, and grow.

Enhance your teaching practice, reflective skills and make a profound impact on young learners with thoughtfully designed spaces. Should you wish to pair this training with the 'Understanding and Developing the Role of the Adult' practitioners will gain a comprehensive insight into how these two aspects of the four overarching principles have an impact upon learning and development in the early years.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY ENV 01</b>	Friday 26th September 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Moorfoot Learning Centre
<b>EY ENV 02</b>	Tuesday 10th March 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Creating Neuroaffirming Environments : A Two-day Practical Training

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

Ideal for teachers, TAs, SENDCos, and leaders committed to creating truly inclusive, neuroaffirming learning environments for all children, including those without formal diagnoses.

## **Description:**

Are you supporting children who struggle with transitions, sensory overload, or seem constantly dysregulated ; with or without a diagnosis? Do traditional behaviour strategies often feel ineffective or frustrating?

This two-day training provides practical, compassionate solutions tailored to these challenges.

### **Day 1 – Adapting Environment, Provision, and Practice**

Experience a day through the eyes of a neurodivergent or emerging neurodivergent child to deepen your understanding of their unique challenges. We'll explore how play and special interests can be powerful tools to engage and support these learners. Learn how to adjust your environment, teaching provision, and daily routines to reduce sensory overload, lower cognitive demands, and provide visual and communication supports. Walk away with actionable strategies to create a calmer, more inclusive space where every child can flourish.

### **Day 2 – Reflecting on Practice and Behaviour Support**

Join a facilitated forum to reflect on the strategies you've tried, share what's worked or not, and learn from others' experiences. We'll then explore behaviour support through a neurodivergent lens; focusing on understanding the reasons behind behaviours and adopting compassionate, effective approaches that promote regulation and build positive relationships. Gain practical tools to reduce distress and prevent escalation in your classroom.

## **Booking codes and dates: \*\*ADDITIONAL DATES ADDED\*\***

<b>EY Neuro Env</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended.</b>	Friday 3rd October 2025 and Friday 7th November 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Quadrant <b>ADDITIONAL DATE TO ATTEND</b> - Friday 5th June 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at the Quadrant (joint session with cohort 2)
<b>EY Neuro Env 02</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended.</b>	Friday 13th February 2026, Friday 13th March 2026 and Friday 5th June 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at the Quadrant.

**Facilitator:** Simon Airey

**Course Cost:** 3 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Deaf/Hearing and Vision Support Service Training

Number of places:15

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This session will offer an overview of the implications of vision and hearing needs in pre-school settings.

## **Multi-Sensory Impairment:**

This session will outline the distinct implications of multi-sensory impairment (a diagnosis of both deafness and vision impairment). We will address common challenges for Early Years practitioners, the role of specialist advisory teachers, and approaches to assessment, in-class support, and curriculum planning. The session will involve brief simulation activities as well as group discussion of the themes raised.

## **Deaf/Hearing Support Service:**

Our qualified teachers of the Deaf will discuss the impact of deafness on language development in the early years, different types of deafness, technology, and ways to support children in the setting. We will also cover the role of the Service and the Teacher of the Deaf.

## **Vision Support Service:**

The Vision Support Service will cover what a vision friendly early years setting looks like and talk about the implications of a visual impairment on children's development. We will also explore useful strategies to support learning activities, with input from our multi-sensory impairment teacher who will discuss the implications on learning and development for Deaf/Blind children.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY DHVI 01</b>	Tuesday 18th November 2025, 9.00am - 3.00pm at Manor Community Childcare
<b>EY DHVI 02</b>	Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 9.00am - 3.00pm at Mansel Primary School
<b>EY DHVI 03</b>	Thursday 2nd July 2026, 9.00am - 3.00pm at Mansel Primary School

## **Facilitator:**

Deaf/Hearing and Vision Support Service

## **Course Cost:**

FREE

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Developing an Informed Curriculum

Number of places:30

## Course suitable for:

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## Description:

The term *curriculum* has become increasingly prominent across the Early Years sector, yet it remains a source of confusion for many practitioners. This professional development session is designed to clarify the concept of curriculum and support Early Years professionals in understanding its purpose and implementation.

Over the two sessions we will:

- explore what is meant by the term *curriculum* within the context of Early Years education
- understand why a clear, informed curriculum is essential for high-quality practice and outcomes for children
- consider practical strategies for developing a curriculum that is rooted in practitioners' knowledge of their children, their setting's practice, and their existing provision

By the end of the sessions, participants will have a clearer understanding of the 'what,' 'why,' and 'how' of curriculum development, enabling them to design and deliver meaningful, responsive learning experiences.

## Booking codes and dates:

<b>EY Curric 01</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Monday 20th October 2025 and Monday 17th November 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY Curric 02</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Monday 27th April 2026 and Monday 18th May 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Quadrant

## Facilitator:

Dr Sue Allingham

## Course Cost:

3 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Early Years EAL drop in support sessions

Number of places: Unlimited

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants and leaders.

## **Description:**

Sheffield City Council EAL/New arrivals team will be available for our focussed EAL drop-in sessions for early years providers. If you would like any advice or support about children who attend your setting, please come along to any/all of the drop-in sessions below to discuss support strategies, useful resources and learning materials and share good practice.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY EAL DROP 01</b>	Tuesday 11th November 2025, 4.00pm - 5.00pm online via
<b>EY EAL DROP 02</b>	Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 4.00pm - 5.00pm online via Zoom
<b>EY EAL DROP 03</b>	Tuesday 19th May 2026, 4.00pm - 5.00pm online via Zoom

## **Facilitators:**

New Arrivals and EAL team, Early Years Quality and Access Team

## **Course Cost:**

FREE

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Early Help and Multiagency drop in sessions

Number of places: Online Unlimited / Face to face 15

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants and leaders.

## **Description:**

Bringing practitioners together with the Sheffield Parenting, Family Intervention Service, Inclusion and Attendance as well as Family Hub teams is a fantastic chance to strengthen local support networks and make sure families are getting help when they need it most.

Attendees can ask about making referrals and learn referral pathways, find out about local support groups/opportunities you can signpost families to.

There will also be opportunities to discuss support strategies and support systems with professionals present - from early help staff to parenting specialists.

By attending, discover how to apply for referrals, signpost families appropriately, and understand when a family might benefit from universal activities, targeted hub support, or intensive intervention.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY EHMA 01</b>	Wednesday 22nd October 2025, 9.30am - 10.30am online via Zoom
<b>EY EHMA 02</b>	Friday 21st November 2025, 9.30am - 10.30am at First Start Family Hub
<b>EY EHMA 03</b>	Thursday 22nd January 2026, 9.30am - 10.30am online via Zoom
<b>EY EHMA 04</b>	Thursday 12th March 2026, 9.30am - 10.30am at Primrose Family Hub
<b>EY EHMA 05</b>	Thursday 21st May 2026, 9.30am - 10.30am online via Zoom
<b>EY EHMA 06</b>	Thursday 11th June 2026, 9.30am - 10.30am at Valley Park Family Hub (Bankwood site)

## **Facilitator:**

Family Intervention Service, Inclusion and Attendance, Family Hub, Parenting, Quality Improvement Community Early Years Practitioners

## **Course Cost:**

FREE

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Early Stages Good Autism Practice- Accredited

Number of places:25

## **Course suitable for:**

Any practitioners who work with Autistic pupils or those with social communication differences in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, SENCos

## **Description:**

This new 2025/26 course includes updated knowledge and understanding of Autism, practical support packs of resources and access to the new AET Progression Framework (worth £350) which you can establish in your setting to track pupils' progress.

In addition, you will have the option to attend a follow up networking session with the trainers and colleagues from your session (dates will be shared in your training sessions).

## **What will you learn?**

- Develop your knowledge and understanding of good autism practice
- Understand strategies and approaches you can draw upon for autistic pupils you work with
- Ensure you are providing a neuro-affirmative, positive experience for all autistic pupils
- Consider how to involve the pupil and their family in scaffolding autistic pupils' strengths, interests and aspirations
- Access the Progression Framework assessment tool to use in your setting

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY ASCETS 01</b>	Tuesday 11th November 2025, 9.30am - 3.30pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY ASCETS 02</b>	Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 9.30am - 3.30pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY ASCETS 03</b>	Tuesday 19th May 2026, 9.30am - 3.30pm at The Circle

## **Facilitator:**

Autism Social Communication Education and Training Service (ASCETS)

## **Course Cost:**

1 token or if you are not part of the subscribed package £80.00 - price set by ASCETS in line with their traded offer.

Please book via [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Emotion Coaching with Educational Psychologists

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

Emotion coaching is a relational approach which supports children and young people to learn from moments of heightened emotion, developing more effective responses. This approach is supported by a large evidence base and complements trauma informed / attachment aware approaches. Emotion Coached children are better able to control their impulses, self soothe when upset, pay attention, achieve more academically and are more resilient and able to self-regulate. It also promotes positive relationships between adults and children in setting.

This training looks at how Emotion Coaching supports emotional regulation and emotional literacy development and will teach you the tools to use this approach in your practice, focussing on four easy to remember steps.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY Emotion Coach 01</b>	Tuesday 30th September 2025, 9.00am - 12.00pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY Emotion Coach 02</b>	Wednesday 18th March 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at The Quadrant

## **Facilitator:**

**Educational Psychologists**

## **Course Cost:**

1 token.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Emotional Regulation with Educational Psychologists

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This course offers attendees the opportunity to explore:

- What is meant by emotional regulation and self-regulation, including up to date research and psychological theory
- The importance of emotional regulation skills and the potential impact for young people who have differences in this area
- The psychological theories underpinning approaches to teach / support emotional regulation skills in young people
- Examples of setting approaches to supporting emotional regulation e.g Zones of Regulation. This will include time to think about how their own setting may benefit from / further embed the approach, irrespective of where they are at in their Zones journey
- Examples of small group targeted interventions that can be offered to identified cohorts of young people to develop their emotional regulation skills e.g Zones of regulation group intervention and Language for Behaviour and Emotions

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY EmoReg 01</b>	Wednesday 8th October 2025, 9.00am -12.00pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY EmoReg 02</b>	Tuesday 21st April 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at The Quadrant

## **Facilitator:**

**Educational Psychologists**

## **Course Cost:**

1 token.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Empathy Dolls

Number of places:15

## Course suitable for:

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCOs, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## Description:

### **Discover the Power of the Empathy Dolls Approach – A Transformative Training for Early Years Practitioners**

Launched in 2006 by renowned early years trainer and author **Kirstine Beeley**, the *Empathy Dolls Approach* has been transforming early years practice for nearly two decades. With thousands of practitioners trained across the UK, this proven and powerful method continues to be at the forefront of emotional development support in early childhood settings.

This **unique, hands-on training** introduces a specially designed Empathy Doll that becomes a trusted emotional companion for children. More than just a soft toy, the doll acts as a powerful tool to help young children **explore, process, and begin to articulate their emotions**—something that can often feel overwhelming and confusing during the early years.

Through interactive workshops and real-life case studies, you will:

- **Deepen your understanding of emotional development** in the early years, grounded in up-to-date brain science
- Explore the vital role of **co-regulation** and why it's key to helping children manage big feelings safely and effectively
- Learn **practical strategies** to use the Empathy Doll in your setting to support co-regulation, resilience, and emotional wellbeing

Understand how to **tune into non-verbal cues** and respond to children's emotional needs in a meaningful way.

**At the end of the day, you'll take home your very own Empathy Doll** (RRP £100+), allowing you to begin embedding the approach straight away in your own setting.

Join a growing community of practitioners around the world who have seen the difference this approach makes not just for the children in their care, but for their own confidence and emotional insight as professionals.

## Booking codes and dates:

<b>EY EMPDOLL 01 (Childminder Priority)</b>	Saturday 11th October 2025, 9.30am - 3.30pm at Primrose Family Hub
<b>EY EMPDOLL 02</b>	Friday 14th November 2025, 9.30am - 3.30pm at St Marie's School

## Facilitator:

Kirstine Beeley

## Course Cost:

2 tokens.

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Exploring Performance Management

Introduction to Performance Management using a Support and Challenge Approach.

Number of places: 15

## **Course suitable for:**

Early Years Managers and leaders, school leaders.

## **Description:**

Managing staff is not always easy, and this training programme is designed to help leaders and managers at all levels, consider some of the practical day-to-day support and challenge approaches (and difficulties) of performance management. The programme builds in opportunities for reflection and action planning.

Based on Debbie's book 'Performance Management in Early Years: A practical guide for leaders and managers', this course will cover areas such as induction, supervision, mentoring/coaching, sickness monitoring, conflict management and using reflection and feedback etc.

### **Aim:**

To support leaders and managers in developing skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence in a wide range of performance management areas.

### **Objectives:**

Delegates will have the opportunity to

- Explore a range of research, theory, legal and good practice
- Examine their own experiences and consider how this influences practice
- Consider scenarios and case studies to assist in developing understanding
- Cover a range of management related topics, such as induction, health and wellbeing, supervision, coaching/mentoring CPD and using feedback
- Develop an action plan to consider own practice

## **Booking codes and dates:**

### **\*\*UPDATED INFORMATION AND DATES\*\***

<b>EY PerfMan</b>	Friday 8th May 2026, 9.30am - 3.30pm at Manor Community Childcare
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## **Facilitator:**

Debbie Garvey

## **Course Cost:**

1 token

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Extended Support Plans

## Early Years Training

Number of places: 20 / 30

### **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

### **Description:**

This session is designed to guide participants through the extended support plan, and how this sits within a graduated approach. The session is designed for Early Years Colleagues and we will be using examples of children from the early years.

#### **In this session we will explore:**

- Who would benefit from an Extended Support Plan
- The level of detail needed in an Extended Support Plan
- How to use as a working document, including reviews
- How to reference outside agency support
- How to clearly show a child's strengths and needs
- How to clearly signal the provision and interventions you have in place to support the child

We will also look at the Annual Review process and paperwork for children with an EHCP and how this fits with the Extended Support Plan.

### **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY ESS 01</b>	Wednesday 26th November 2025, 9.15am - 12.00pm at Mansel Primary School
<b>EY ESS 02</b>	Wednesday 25th March 2026, 9.15am - 12.00pm at Learn Sheffield <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-extended-support-plan-annual-review-training-tickets-1537508301719">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-extended-support-plan-annual-review-training-tickets-1537508301719</a>
<b>EY ESS 03</b>	Wednesday 20th May 2026, 9.15am - 12.00pm at Learn Sheffield <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-extended-support-plan-annual-review-training-tickets-1537508301719">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-extended-support-plan-annual-review-training-tickets-1537508301719</a>

Please book EY ESS 02 and EY ESS 03 via the Learn Sheffield link above.

**Facilitators: 0-5 SEND Team**

**Course Cost: FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# EYFS and EAL

Number of places:10

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This day is focused specifically on the needs of EYFS children. The first part of the day will focus on strategies and resources that promote talk and develop the language of EAL learners and will benefit newly arrived children and those who enter school with very low levels of English.

The training will cover:

- Using visual support to scaffold language development
- Ensuring pupils are registered with accurate ascription
- The importance of maintaining and developing a child's first language
- Supporting a bi-lingual learner through the silent phase
- Development of key vocabulary and language for the EAL learner
- Outline how you can create a culturally inclusive environment, examining the diversity and inclusion within the Early Years setting using the EAL audit
- Using the EAL audit to evaluate your existing practice and set priorities for future developments
- Early Years pedagogy that underpins an inclusive learning environment
- Examples of good practice in working with children and families
- What a culturally inclusive setting might look like, including books, dolls and other support materials

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY EAL 01</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Friday 3rd October 2025 and Friday 21st November 2025, 9.00am - 12.00pm at Phillimore Community Primary School
<b>EY EAL 02</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Friday 8th May 2026 and Friday 19th June 2026, 9.00am - 12.00pm at Phillimore Community Primary School

## **Facilitators:**

New arrivals and EAL team, Early Years Quality and Access Team

## **Course Cost:**

2 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# EYFS Profile Training

Number of places: 15 / 30

## **Course suitable for:**

Early years teachers or practitioners new to completing the EYFS Profile. This training will also be suitable for those wishing to refresh their knowledge of the EYFS profile and its completion.

**\*\*Please attend this training if you are a PVI setting or Childminder who has a child / children who have deferred their Reception / Foundation School place and will be leaving your setting to go into a Year 1 class in September 2026.**

## **Description:**

The 'The EYFS Profile' training equips teachers and practitioners with the knowledge and skills to effectively assess and support children's development in their early years at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

This comprehensive training covers the principles and framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile, guiding participants through discussion around the processes of observation, record keeping, and evaluation of children's progress across all areas of learning and development.

Participants will investigate the processes involved when completing the profile for children with SEND and for those with English as an Additional Language. In addition, we will explore the rules for exceptions and exemptions.

Practitioners will consider the necessity to communicate effectively with parents/carers about their child's achievement & attainment. Participants will reflect on what the children know, understand and can do and how to articulate this with Year 1 colleagues.

This training ensures that practitioners are well-prepared to complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the Reception year.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY EYFSP 01</b>	Wednesday 25th February 2026, 9.30am - 12.00pm at Moorfoot Learning Centre
<b>EY EYFSP 02</b>	Wednesday 29th April 2026, 9.30am - 12.00pm at St Mary's Church, Pavillion Room
<b>EY EYFSP 03</b>	Tuesday 2nd June 2026, 9.30am - 12.00pm at The Circle

## **Facilitators:**

Early Years Quality and Access Team

**Course Cost: FREE**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# EYFS Leadership Programme

Number of places:20

## **Course suitable for:**

New and existing leaders of EYFS in schools and also suitable for those returning to EYFS leadership after a break.

## **Description:**

The EYFS Leadership Programme is designed to support current and aspiring Early Years Leaders in their leadership journey. This comprehensive programme covers essential leadership skills such as development of team management strategies and support, fostering a positive work environment and getting the most from your team.

Participants will learn how to support their team in effectively implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, ensuring high-quality teaching and learning through a variety of mentoring and coaching techniques. The training also emphasises the importance of building strong relationships with children, staff, and families, and equips new, current and aspiring leaders with strategies to inspire and support their teams.

In addition, delegates will have the opportunity to examine, through focused investigative questions, how to showcase the culture and ethos of their setting through, for example, purposeful learning walks.

By the end of the training, EYFS leaders will have had the opportunity to develop their own strategic overview, having a new-found confidence in their ability to lead with vision and purpose, creating a thriving early years setting.

## **Sessions will focus on:**

- Leadership vs management; Coaching and mentoring approaches; Developing and embedding culture and ethos and sharing the vision
- Developing the team through the implementation of robust, research-based professional development
- Purposeful learning walks – how to successfully showcase your setting with others

In addition to the above, we will spend time each session building actions plans with reference to the Early Years Statutory Framework and the OFSTED Education Inspection Frameworks.

Following training 1:1 mentor sessions will be available to reflect on current leadership journey and offer further support if required / requested.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

**EY LEAD 01**

**\*Please note all sessions must be attended.**

Friday 10th October 2025, Friday 28th November 2025 and Friday 23rd January 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Phillimore Community Primary School

**Facilitators: Early Years Quality and Access Team**

**Course Cost: 3 tokens. If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Focus on Early Learning Goals

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

Early years teachers or practitioners new to completing the profile for children at the end of their EYFS journey.

**\*\*Please attend this training if you are a PVI setting or Childminder who has a child / children who have deferred their Reception / Foundation School place and will be leaving your setting to go into a Year 1 class in September 2026.**

## **Description:**

Delegates will attend a full day course that takes an in-depth look at ALL of the Early Learning Goals, sharing in moderation discussions around the meaning of each goal, the implications for planning, teaching, learning and assessment. We will have access to exemplification materials and explore the goals together with other colleagues.

**Colleagues may wish to invite Year 1 staff or subject leads/SLT to join them in these discussions.**

As a follow on from this session, delegates may like to join the Collaborative Moderation Network to put their knowledge into practice.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY ELG 01</b>	Friday 27th February 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Phillimore Community Primary School
<b>EY ELG 02</b>	Wednesday 20th May 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Circle

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Greg Bottrill: The Sheffield Quest

Number of places:30

## Course suitable for:

Early Years leaders and managers, school senior leaders and academy leads.

## Description:

For the past two years, Sheffield's Early Years community has collaborated with **Greg Bottrill**, author and childhood advocate, to explore his transformative **Drawing Club** and **Story Dough** approaches. These playful, creativity-driven practices have had a powerful impact - igniting imagination, language, fine motor development, and joyful connections between practitioners and children.

We're thrilled to invite you to join the next phase: "**The Quest**", a year-long, action-research project framed around the question: "**What does childhood want and need?**" With increasing challenges—rising screen time, lingering COVID effects, and shifting attitudes toward education—this simple yet profound exploration offers a refreshing shift in pedagogy.

Over three immersive sessions, Greg will guide us through his **Inner Child Led Pedagogy (ICLP)** and introduce powerful toolkits: **The Soul Circle**, **The Golden Nine of Childhood**, **The Magic Mirror**, and other innovative strategies designed to re-center childhood at the heart of everyday learning. Expect thought-provoking mini-projects, fresh perspectives, and an invitation to reshape how we engage with children on a deeper, more human level.

**The Quest** is a unique opportunity - exclusive to Sheffield - to move beyond routine and embrace a bold, child-led vision in your early years setting. We can't wait for you to join this inspiring journey!

## Booking codes and dates:

<b>EY SHEFFQuest</b>	Friday 24th October 2025, Friday 6th February 2026 and Friday 8th May 2026, 1.00pm - 3.00pm at The Quadrant
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**\*Please note all sessions must be attended.**

## Facilitator:

Greg Bottrill

## Course Cost:

2 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Group Consultations with Educational Psychologists

Number of places:10

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

Group consultation with an Educational Psychologist involves a collaborative meeting where EP and EY practitioners work together to explore specific concerns or issues. Consultation is a joint problem-solving process that involves working cooperatively to try to achieve the most positive outcomes regarding a problem or issue. Everyone in the consultation process has an active role to play and has equal opportunity to share their views.

How will Group Consultations help?

- It will provide opportunities for EY practitioners to share best practice
- It will help EY practitioners to gain new perspectives, understandings and ideas
- Often participants of the group leave with ideas for supporting their wider practice in supporting children with SEND
- It widens the peer support network for practitioners
- It allows access to Educational Psychology support

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY Consult 01</b>	Tuesday 14th October 2025, 9.30am -12.00pm at Manor Community Childcare
<b>EY Consult 02</b>	Wednesday 11th February 2026, 1.00pm – 4.00pm at St Marie’s School
<b>EY Consult 03</b>	Wednesday 13th May 2026, 9.30am – 12.00pm at St Patrick’s Catholic Voluntary Academy

## **Facilitator:**

Educational Psychologists

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Healthy Early Years Award

Number of places: 15 / 25

## **Course suitable for:**

EYFS practitioners from schools, PVI settings and childminders. This must be a practitioner who can lead and coordinate, ensuring a whole team approach /involvement, and who can influence and affect change where needed to achieve the award. A manager or member of the senior team will be expected to attend the introduction session and to complete the required learning agreement.

**Please note that the HEY Award is suitable for providers where practice has been positively recognised by Ofsted or following discussions with LA Quality Team Managers.**

## **Description:**

Healthy Early Years is an accredited quality assurance award, endorsed by Sheffield's Director of Public Health. The training and award recognises and celebrates a holistic, whole setting approach to healthy early years. The award covers seven strands promoting key Public Health messages. Each strand guides you in demonstrating your commitment to supporting children, families, staff and the wider community in making informed choices leading to positive attributes of physical, mental, emotional health and wellbeing.

To undertake the award you are required to:

- Attend all training sessions
- Work together as a whole team to complete a reflective toolkit
- Submit the toolkit to panel, with an action plan and a Healthy Early Years communication plan

The award covers

- Leadership and management
- Health and safety
- The EYFS prime areas
- Parent partnership and involvement
- Food and healthy eating
- Building relationships and supporting infant feeding
- Immunisation

**\*\*Please note - To maintain your award you will need to attend reaccreditation training. The date for your reaccreditation training will be included in the letter you receive from panel.**

## **Booking codes and dates: \*Please note all sessions within your cohort must be attended**

EY HEY 05	EY HEY 06
Introduction session Tuesday 16th September 2025 10.00am-11.30am delivered ONLINE via Zoom.	Introduction session Thursday 26th March 2026 10.00am-11.30am delivered ONLINE via Zoom.
Session 1 Tuesday 30th September 2025 9.00am-4.00pm at Learn Sheffield.	Session 1 Thursday 16th April 2026 9.00am-4.00pm at Learn Sheffield.
Session 2 Tuesday 4th November 2025 9.30am-12.30pm at Learn Sheffield.	Session 2 Thursday 14th May 2026 9.30am-12.30pm at Learn Sheffield.
Session 3 Tuesday 13th January 2026 9.30am-12.30pm at Learn Sheffield.	Session 3 Thursday 1st October 2026 9.30am-12.30pm Venue TBC.
Session 4 Tuesday 24th February 2026 9.30am-12.30pm at Learn Sheffield.	Session 4 Thursday 5th November 2026 9.30am-12.30pm Venue TBC.

**\*\*For our Childminding colleagues - we are reviewing how the award can be delivered effectively for you, a consultation will be sent out and details of training days will be shared early 2026.**

**Facilitators: Community Early Years Practitioners**

**Course Cost: FREE    Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# It's Stage not Age - Child Development

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This engaging and interactive training session is designed to deepen Early Years practitioners' understanding of child development, with a focus on developmental stages rather than chronological age. Through a combination of activities, group discussion, and video clips, participants will reflect on how children grow and learn, and how this knowledge can directly inform effective practice.

### **The sessions will support and encourage participants to:**

- explore the importance of recognising and responding to the different stages of child development
- reflect on brain development and how each stage of growth builds upon the previous one
- understand how developmental knowledge shapes the physical and emotional environments we provide for children
- examine why an understanding of developmental stages is essential for supporting children's learning and wellbeing
- identify the challenges and barriers to applying developmental knowledge in practice, and consider practical strategies to overcome them
- reinforce the value of play as a vital tool for learning and development across the Primary age range

By the end of the sessions, practitioners will be equipped with a stronger foundation in child development and practical insights to support developmentally appropriate practice across a range of settings.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY ChildDev 01</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Tuesday 21st October 2025 and Tuesday 18th November 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY ChildDev 02</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Tuesday 28th April 2026 and Tuesday 19th May 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Quadrant

## **Facilitator:**

Dr Sue Allingham

## **Course Cost:**

3 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Knowing Your EYFS: An Overview of the Statutory Early Years Foundation Stage

Number of places: 12

## **Course suitable for:**

Early years practitioners, childminders and teaching assistants who are new to EYFS, or wish to refresh their knowledge. This course is also suitable to use as part of your staff induction processes.

## **Description:**

The Early Years Foundation Stage ( EYFS ) sets out the standards for the learning, development and care of young children from birth to 5 years old. In this interactive session, practitioners explore the EYFS framework and reflect on what this means in practice and what this looks like in their provision:

This session includes:

- Introductions to the key EYFS documents and statutory requirements
- Principles of the EYFS
- Learning and Development– the educational programmes (environment and adult role)
- Statutory assessment
- Safeguarding and welfare requirements

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY KNOW 01</b>	Friday 19th September 2025, 9.30am - 12.30pm at First Start Family Hub
<b>EY KNOW 02</b>	Friday 6th February 2026, 9.30am - 12.30pm at First Start Family Hub
<b>EY KNOW 03</b>	Friday 15th May 2026, 9.30am - 12.30pm at First Start Family Hub

## **Facilitators:**

Early Years Quality Improvement Team

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Leading and Embedding Change in Early Years

Number of places:10

## **Course suitable for:**

All childminders, managers, EYFS leaders, SENCOs and senior leaders.

## **Description:**

Engaging with ongoing continued professional development is essential in education to keep up with the rapid changes that affect our practice. In these sessions we explore theoretical and practical ways to support you to develop confidence and skills to share your knowledge and become an effective and confident lifelong learner as well as to support others to embark on the journey. The three day course will cover;

### **Lifelong learning and knowledge exchange -**

- What is an expert? What is knowledge?
- Having confident conversations
- The value of questioning
- Promoting growth mindsets
- Being curious and creative practitioners

### **Introducing and managing effective change -**

- Principles of change management
- Embracing change
- Overcoming resistance to change
- Persuasion, group processes
- Taking others with you on the journey

### **Skills of reflection and review -**

- Principles and practices of reflection
- Building resilience
- Goal setting and action planning
- Recap and review

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY SHU</b>	Wednesday 22nd October 2025, Wednesday 4th February 2026 and Wednesday 20th May 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Sheffield Hallam University
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**Facilitator: Dr Sarah Rawding, Sheffield Hallam University**

## **Course Cost:**

**3 tokens**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Makaton for Babies

Number of places:15

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers and SENCOs working with babies and young children in their care and have little or no previous experience of Makaton.

## **Description:**

Makaton Signing for Babies and Families (MSBF) is for practitioners who would like to sign with babies and toddlers in their care. Makaton Signing for Babies and Families training is designed to encourage the development of communication and language skills in babies and toddlers. During this course you will learn approximately 100 signs and symbols and gain practical ideas of how to implement Makaton through songs, games and activities.

You will receive a pocketbook of signs and symbols and a certificate of attendance.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY MAKBABIES Twilight</b> <b>*Please note all sessions must be attended</b>	Wednesday 7th January 2026, 14th January 2026, 21st January 2026, 28th January 2026, 4th February 2026 and 11th February 2026, 7.00pm - 8.00pm online via Zoom
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## **Facilitator:**

**Kirsty Davison - Hands on Communication**

## **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Makaton Level 1

Number of places:15

## Course suitable for:

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCOs, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## Description:

Level 1 training provides a practical introduction to the Makaton Language Programme. The course includes lots of interactive activities discussing commonly asked questions, hints and tips for effective signing and symbol use and how to start using Makaton in everyday situations at home or work. You will also learn the signs and symbols from Stages 1 and 2, and some of the Additional stage, of the Core Vocabulary which is over 150 signs!

You will receive a participant manual and an official Makaton level 1 certificate.

## Booking codes and dates:

<b>EY MAKL1 01</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Thursday 6th November 2025 and Thursday 20th November 2025, 1.30pm - 4.00pm at The Manor Community Childcare
<b>EY MAKL1 02</b> <b>(Childminder priority)</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended</b>	Saturday 21st March 2026 and Saturday 28th March 2026, 9.30am - 1.00pm at Primrose Family Hub

## Facilitator:

**Kirsty Davison - Hands on Communication**

## Course Cost:

**2 tokens**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Mark Making into Writing

In house delivery on request

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

Unlock the journey from mark making to writing with our specialised training for early years practitioners.

Empower your teaching and nurture confident, budding writers through a workshop that delves into the developmental stages of writing, offering effective techniques to encourage children's early mark making (0-3) and transition into writing (3-5).

The session will begin with a reflective walk to take a look at the mark making provision available, following this, participants will explore fun, hands-on activities that promote fine motor skills, letter recognition/formation, and a confidence to 'have a go' and 'feel' like a writer.

Settings may choose to request both sessions to support their whole understanding or choose to focus on 0-3 years OR 3-5 years.

Request this bespoke training to inspire young learners, supporting their creativity and laying a strong foundation for literacy in your setting.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

Please email [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk) to request this training session.

**The training is planned to be delivered in house to suit your settings bespoke needs.**

**The training can be delivered as a staff CPD day or on a one to one basis.**

## **Facilitator:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to access this training session.**

# Maths all Around us

In house delivery on request

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCOs, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

Discover the magic of maths in everyday life with our 'Maths All Around Us' training for early years educators.

The full day in-house training explores pattern and spatial reasoning (including shape, space and measure) through play and routine experiences.

There will be a particular focus on the environment and how this can be used as the 'third teacher', supporting children's mathematical concepts and helping them to make links in their learning within the classroom/room setting.

Join us to transform your teaching approach and help children see the world through a mathematical lens, fostering a lifelong love of all things maths.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

**Please email [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk) to request this training session.**

**The training is planned to be delivered in house to suit your settings bespoke needs.**

**The training can be delivered as a staff CPD day or on a one to one basis.**

## **Facilitator:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to access this in house training session.**

# New to SENCo Role Training: Working with the 0-5 SEND Team.

Number of places:10 / 20

## **Course suitable for:**

PVI SENCos and Childminders.

## **Description:**

**Have you become a new SENDCo within the last 6 months or are interested in becoming a SENCo in a private setting?**

The 0-5 SEND team work across settings in Sheffield to support children with SEND. Come and meet some of the team.

Training includes:

- An overview of the key responsibilities of the SENCo and the SEN Code of Practice
- Identifying SEN and how to work together with parents to plan next steps
- The Graduated Approach (assess, plan, do, review cycle) and an introduction to some strategies/resources for inclusive everyday practice that can support SEN
- Information about funding that can be accessed for SEN
- Learn about the 0-5 SEN team and how they can support in settings
- Signposting to further support/agencies within the Sheffield Local Offer

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY NSR 01</b>	Wednesday 19th November 2025, 9.15am - 12.00pm at Manor Community Childcare
<b>EY NSR 02</b>	Wednesday 18th March 2026, 9.15am - 12.00pm at St Marie's School
<b>EY NSR 03</b>	Wednesday 13th May 2026, 1.15pm - 4.00pm at Mansel Primary School

## **Facilitators:**

**0-5 SEND Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Paediatric First Aid

Number of places: 12

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCos, teachers and teaching assistants.

## **Description:**

A paediatric first aid course which is specifically tailored for those working with young children in Early Years and educational environments.

The training is thorough, up to date, and meets all Ofsted and EYFS requirements. It combines essential knowledge with practical, hands-on activities to help build real confidence when responding to emergencies.

The course is delivered in an engaging and supportive way, with a focus on making the content relevant and easy to apply in real-life settings. Suitable for nurseries, preschools, schools, and childminders.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY PFGA 01</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended to gain the qualification</b>	Monday 23rd March 2026 and Tuesday 24th March 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY PFA 02</b> <b>(Childminder Priority)</b> <b>*Please note both sessions must be attended to gain the qualification</b>	Saturday 9th May 2026 and Saturday 16th May 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm, Little Ark Nursery and Pre-school

## **Facilitator:**

Mel Shepherd - Early Years Reflections

## **Course Cost:**

3 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Planning for Potential - Looking for Learning in Early Years

Number of places: 15

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This exciting and thought-provoking project is focused on how settings can offer high quality early years provision on a very tight budget.

As well as considering the resources which will offer the most engaging learning possibilities, Kirstine will work with you to reflect on current issues in early years provision and support you across the year to transform your learning spaces and practices whilst always knowing the “why” behind your pedagogy.

Each session is packed with practical ideas to implement as well as providing a reflective journal to document your own settings transformational journey across the year.

Kirstine will, as ever, bring access to a wide variety of affordable and exciting resources for purchase on the day.

**For a full overview of the project please see the next page**

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY PFP Project</b>	Friday 10th October 2025, Friday 16th January 2026, Friday 24th April 2026 and Friday 12th June 2026, all sessions will be delivered from 9.30am - 3.30pm at St Patrick’s Catholic Voluntary Academy
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**\*\*Please note all sessions must be attended**

## **Facilitator:**

**Kirstine Beeley**

## **Course Cost:**

**4 tokens**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

## **Day 1 – Planning for Play**

During this session we will explore the importance of play based learning and the differences between ‘activities’ and enabled environments. A reflective session that will form the foundations of your year long journey aimed at developing and enhancing your own setting and play based practice. Exploring the ‘why’ behind enabling engaging environments for learning across the EYFS. You will leave having identified the start of your own action plan for the year.

We start as we mean to go on with lots of practical activities and hands-on, feet-in learning.

Everyone attending receives a copy of Kirstine’s popular ‘Planning for Play’ book to aid the start of your exciting journey.

## **Day 2 – Planning for the potential of maths learning in early years**

A real hands on exploration of very early maths skills and looking at how you can integrate the potential for maths learning into all areas of your continuous play provision. Breaking down early counting into much smaller steps you will explore the power of play in being able to visit and revisit skills and understanding to help children to gain Mastery of their maths understanding. This session will challenge some ‘traditional’ approaches and really make you reflect on your own practice, giving you the knowledge and confidence to explain to senior leaders and subject leads how early years really builds the foundations for life long maths learning.

As well as part two of your reflective journal (including audit tools) you will receive a copy of Kirstine’s best selling ‘Maths Makes the World Go Round’ book to take away and access again to exciting preloved resources to buy on the day.

## **Day 3 – Planning for the Potential of Literacy in Early Years**

This session really digs down into what a ‘Literacy Rich’ environment looks like in early years and through practical exploration you will gain lots of ideas to be able to enhance and extend literacy learning in your setting. Exploring the concepts of both ‘text rich’ and ‘language rich’ environments you will explore the skills that children need to be physically ready for writing as well as story telling and authorship skills within play. Your reflections and action planning will hopefully help to really get children excited about wanting to read and write. As ever Kirstine will challenge your thinking and give plenty of practical, easy and affordable ideas to take away.

Everyone attending will receive a literacy pack and a copy of Kirstine’s ‘Getting Reading for Life – Not just Writing’ book to take away.

## **Day 4 – Planning for the Potential of Science in Early Years & End of Year Celebration**

Our final session of the project will be spent exploring what early science really looks like in settings and debugging some myths around science and the need for ‘knowledge’ rather than understanding. Fun, practical and maybe a bit messy exploration of ways to enable your environment for early science potential will hopefully excite and inspire in this last session together as a team.

As part of this last part of the project practitioners will be encouraged to share their reflective journey and journals so far and to identify on going areas for development once the project draws to an end. A true celebration of what has gone before and what exciting possibilities are still to come.

Everyone attending will receive a ‘potion kit’ and a copy of Kirstine’s Science in Early Years book as well as a practical award to show participation in this year long reflective project.

# Play and Say

Speech, language and communication training and in setting support.  
Delivered face to face within setting by request.

## **In house training and support suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants, leaders, and schools with 2 year provision.

## **Description:**

Developed by expert Speech and Language Therapists from Sheffield, the Play and Say programme is designed to universally support speech and language development in young children, with a particular focus on vocabulary building. Primarily targeted at children under five years of age the programme is particularly beneficial in supporting language development of 2-year-olds. The programme equips early years practitioners with practical, evidence-based strategies to promote communication skills within everyday interactions.

## **Programme Aims and Benefits:**

- Foster effective language development strategies for use with all children in early years settings.
- Support the early identification of speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN).
- Assist with the 2-year progress check and integrated review processes, including moderation.
- Strengthen partnerships with parents by empowering them to use communication strategies at home, with access to additional resources such as the Curious Communicators programme.
- Provide engaging, enjoyable activities for children, parents, and practitioners alike, enhancing motivation and learning.

## **Delivery and Support:**

Over a five-week period, our Community Early Years team collaborates closely with your setting, offering hands-on training, modelling, and tailored guidance during weekly visits. This 'alongside' approach ensures practitioners build confidence and competence in embedding Play and Say techniques seamlessly into daily practice.

## **Additional training includes:**

- Introduction to Speak up for Sheffield Training – which is beneficial for all early years practitioners
- 'Curious Communicators' sessions aimed at parents and carers to extend learning into the home environment

## **Evaluation and Impact:**

After programme completion, we return to your setting to observe practice and gather feedback this evaluation assesses the impact of the training on practitioner skills and children's language outcomes, ensuring continuous improvement and sustained success. In addition, we will facilitate a moderation opportunity in your setting primarily focusing on the moderation and professional discussion with keyworkers who have completed 2-year progress checks.

This opportunity will be delivered bespoke to your setting. Please register your interest via [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk) and a member of the team will contact you.

**Facilitators: Community Early Years Practitioners**

**Course Cost: FREE**

**Email:** [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Practitioner and TA Network

Number of places: 15

## **Course suitable for:**

Teaching Assistants and Early Years Practitioners

## **Description:**

The TA/Practitioner Network for early years teaching assistants and practitioners, provides essential knowledge and practical strategies to support young children's growth and learning effectively. This program delves into a range of early years specific key pedagogical approaches including: play, emotional regulation and executive function, attachment and the role of the key person and progressive provision.

The network will provide a supportive space for collaborative discussion around the themes covered. This will allow TAs and Practitioners time to reflect upon and share examples of good practice, while building upon their existing knowledge and skills. It will also offer a platform for colleagues to make links with other settings.

Spring 1 – The importance of play

Spring 2 – Supporting children with their emotional regulation and executive function

Summer 1 – Attachment and the role of the key person

Summer 2 – Facilitating progressive provision in Early Years

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY PATA 01</b>	Thursday 29th January 2026, 1.30pm - 4.00pm at St Marie's School
<b>EY PATA 02</b>	Thursday 5th March 2026, 1.30pm - 4.00pm at St Marie's School
<b>EY PATA 03</b>	Thursday 30th April 2026, 1.30pm - 4.00pm at St Marie's School
<b>EY PATA 04</b>	Thursday 11th June 2026, 1.30pm - 4.00pm at St Marie's School

## **Facilitator:**

Early Years Quality and Access Team

## **Course Cost:**

**1 token to attend as one off sessions or 2 tokens to attend all sessions (Please note it does not have to be the same person who attends each session, attendance can be 'shared out' across your team)**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Prevent Duty

Number of places:15 / 20

## Course suitable for:

EYFS Practitioners from PVI settings and childminders.

## Description:

All **schools**, registered **early years childcare providers**, and registered **later years childcare providers** are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015, “in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. This is an introductory workshop to raise awareness of the statutory requirement of the Prevent Duty. The purpose is to develop an understanding of the Prevent Duty and understand who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. We will look at how some people are able to influence and radicalise others to contemplate terrorism, and will support practitioners in recognising when an individual may need help. You will be signposted to the help and support available in our region and who to contact or speak to if you have concerns.

## Booking codes and dates:

<b>EY PVTD 01</b>	Thursday 20th November 2025, 9.30am - 12.30pm at St Marie’s School
<b>EY PVTD 02</b>	Thursday 14th May 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at Learn Sheffield

Please email Denise Tunnicliffe, [Denise.tunnicliffe@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Denise.tunnicliffe@sheffield.gov.uk) with an expression of interest if you would like PREVENT delivered to your whole staff team on one of your training and development days.

## Facilitators:

Early Years Quality Improvement Team

## Course Cost:

**FREE**

Email: [Denise.tunnicliffe@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Denise.tunnicliffe@sheffield.gov.uk) to request in house training or  
[EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk) to book onto sessions above

# Purposeful Learning Walks

In house delivery on request

## **Course suitable for:**

EYFS leaders and managers within a school or PVI setting.

## **Description:**

The 'Purposeful Learning Walks' in-house training empowers early years leaders, managers and members of SLT to observe and reflect on the learning environment and teaching practices that enhance the quality of education in the early years setting.

In light of the new Ofsted framework, we will explore together the ways in which your curriculum may be ambitiously constructed and sequenced to prepare children for the next stage in their education. We will explore how it enables children to demonstrate what they know, remember and understand in all areas of their development.

Through the lens of the 'Overarching Principles', participants will consider how they might conduct structured walkthroughs that focus on key aspects of early years provision, such as the needs of the 'Unique Child', the 'Enabling Environment', the 'Positive Relationships' with adults within Early Years Foundation Stage and their impact upon 'Learning and Development'.

Leaders will develop skills in gathering insights, identifying areas for improvement, and sharing best practice with others. Settings will be able to explore their own purpose, direction of travel and desired outcomes with the QA/QI officers through a professional, mutually challenging dialogue.

By fostering a culture of continuous reflection and collaboration, Purposeful Learning Walks can assist leaders to further develop their confidence in presenting their learning environment, showing how it supports every child's development and well-being.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

Please email [\*\*EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk) to register your interest in having this training delivered in house, a member of the team will then contact you with their availability to deliver.

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team and Early Years Quality Improvement Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**1 token.**

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to access this in house training opportunity.**

**Email: [\*\*EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# School EYFS Network Meetings

Number of places: Venue dependant

## **Course suitable for:**

EYFS leaders, coordinators, teachers and teaching assistants in schools.

## **Description:**

We are looking forward to continuing to facilitate our popular, in person network events this year, hosted at schools across the city.

This is a great opportunity for Early Years leaders, coordinators, teachers, teaching assistants and SLT to receive local and national updates, share good practice, ask questions and to develop collaborative networking links with like-minded colleagues and partners.

Each term the network events will be facilitated by the Early Years Quality and Access Team. Participants will engage in interactive sessions, workshops, and discussions that focus on fostering a holistic environment, addressing topics such as developmental milestones and assessments, moderation, family engagement, and inclusive practices.

Through these collaborative networks we aim to enhance the quality and accessibility of Local Authority services, ultimately contributing to the positive growth and development of children in their early years education.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY Net Aut 01</b>	Wednesday 26th November 2025, 4.30pm - 5.30pm at two volunteer schools.
<b>EY Net Spr 02</b>	Wednesday 18th March 2026, 4.30pm - 5.30pm at two volunteer schools.

If you would like to apply to be a host school for the above network events please contact Vicky Carr - [\*\*Vicky.carr@sheffield.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:Vicky.carr@sheffield.gov.uk)

There will be no Summer Network event as we will be hosting transition events across the City, see the Transition week page in the brochure.

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [\*\*EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# School EYFS Termly Briefings

Number of places: Unlimited

## **Course suitable for:**

EYFS leaders, coordinators, teachers and teaching assistants in schools.

## **Description:**

Our School Early Years Termly Briefings will be your chance to keep up to date with local and national key early years messages and updates. Guest speakers will be invited from Local Authority teams to give local updates as well as national speakers. Standing agenda items will be;

- SEND focus delivered by 0-5 SEND team
- Safeguarding spot
- Ofsted and DfE updates
- Transition conversation
- Guest speakers

We will also ask for your feedback and suggestions for topics to be covered and speakers to invite.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY B Aut 01</b>	Wednesday 24th September 2025, 4.15pm - 5.30pm online via Zoom
<b>EY B Spr 02</b>	Wednesday 28th January 2026, 4.15pm - 5.30pm online via Zoom
<b>EY B Sum 03</b>	Wednesday 13th May 2026, 4.15pm - 5.30pm online via Zoom

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# SENCo

## Briefing and Networking event

Number of places: 50

### **Course suitable for:**

Early Years SENCos, practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers and teaching assistants.

### **Description:**

Join us for our engaging Early Years SENCo Briefing & Networking Events designed to connect local Special Educational Needs Coordinators with Local Authority leads who will focus on strategic updates and local matters current to Early Years SEND.

This session offers a valuable opportunity to stay informed about the latest developments in SEND provision, share best practices, and engage in networking opportunities with opportunities for round table discussion, professional dialogue, queries and questions.

Whether you are an experienced SENCo or new to the role, this event provides a supportive space to collaborate, learn, and strengthen your professional network.

**Our October SENCo Briefing and Network event will incorporate an introduction to our Early Help and Multiagency drop in sessions and the Revised Early Years Sheffield Support Grid training. PVI Setting SENCos will be given priority for this training session.**

### **Booking code and dates:**

<b>EY SEN B 01</b>	Wednesday 22nd October 2025, 9.30am - 12.30pm at The Quadrant
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<b>EY SEN B 02</b>	Tuesday 17th March 2026, 1.15pm - 4.00pm at St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane <b>**Please note new venue</b>
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<b>EY Childminder</b>	Wednesday 22nd October 2025, 6.30pm - 7.30pm online via Zoom
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<b>EY Childminder</b>	Tuesday 17th March 2026, 6.30pm - 7.30pm online via Zoom
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### **Facilitators:**

**Local Authority SEND Leads and Guest Speakers.**

### **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Sheffield Childminders Together: Briefing, Network and CPD sessions

Number of places: 20

## **Course suitable for:**

Childminders.

## **Description:**

We invite our valued childminding colleagues to join us for our Childminder Briefing, Network and Continuous Professional Development sessions.

This is a great opportunity for Childminders working with early years children, to receive local and national updates, see and hear a range of interesting EYFS and early years related presentations, share practice, ask questions and to develop collaborative networking links with like minded colleagues and partners.

This year we are combining the briefing and network sessions, face to face, to allow plenty of time and opportunity for round table discussion, professional dialogue, queries and questions.

The first session of the year will be delivered from 10.00am - 3.00pm and will include a light lunch, an introduction to our team and the wider early years teams as well as a Continuous Professional Development opportunity.

The following two sessions will be delivered over a morning and will focus on strategic updates and local matters current to Early Years, however we welcome suggested topics and ideas from our childminding colleagues that they feel would be beneficial or relevant for them.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY CM SEYT 01</b>	<b>Get to know us.</b> Saturday 13th September 10.00am - 3.00pm at Primrose Family Hub
<b>EY CM</b>	<b>CPD and network half day.</b> Saturday 22nd November 9.30am - 12.30pm at Primrose Family Hub
<b>EY CM</b>	<b>CPD and Network half day.</b> Saturday 6th June 9.30am - 12.30pm at Primrose Family Hub

## **Facilitators:**

Local Authority Leads, Early Years Quality Improvement Team, guest speakers and training providers.

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Sheffield Early Years Together: PVI Briefing and Networking

Number of places: 80

## **Course suitable for:**

EYFS managers and practitioners from PVI settings.

## **Description:**

In addition to the annual Early Years Events, we invite you to join us for the autumn and summer “combined” Provider Briefing and Network sessions.

This is a great opportunity for Early Years Providers to receive local and national updates, see and hear a range of interesting EYFS and early years related presentations, share practice, ask questions and to develop collaborative networking links with like minded colleagues and partners.

The combined briefing and network sessions are face to face, and allow plenty of time and opportunity for round table discussion, professional dialogue, queries and questions. The sessions will be led by Sheffield City Council Senior Leads.

Local Authority leads will focus on strategic updates and local matters which are current to Early Years. We also welcome suggested topics and ideas from the sector.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY SEYT 01</b>	Wednesday 5th November 2025, 10.00am - 3.00pm at Little Ark Nursery and Pre-school
<b>EY SEYT 02</b>	Wednesday 6th May 2026, 10.00am - 3.00pm at Little Ark Nursery and Pre-school

## **Facilitators:**

**Local Authority Leads and guest speakers.**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Speak up for Sheffield - Introduction course

Number of places: 15/30

**Course suitable for:** All professionals who work with young children in early years education, health and social care.

## **Description:**

The ability to effectively support children's speech, language, and communication (SLC) development is essential for everyone working with young children and families. The Speak Up for Sheffield introduction course provides foundational knowledge and practical strategies to help practitioners promote SLC in everyday settings.

The course was created in collaboration with Sheffield speech and language therapists. It addresses key areas including brain development, the vital role of adults in supporting communication, and evidence-based strategies to nurture speech and language skills in young children.

This course is designed for all professionals working at the Universal Level - that is, anyone who works directly with young children and their families and wants to build confidence in supporting speech and language development.

## **Course Highlights:**

- Understand typical speech, language, and communication development
- Learn how brain development impacts communication skills
- Explore practical, everyday strategies to support children's SLC development
- Gain knowledge to better engage and support families in communication activities

## **Further Opportunities:**

Participants interested in advancing their expertise may express interest to the facilitator for future access to the Speak Up for Sheffield Language Champions course, which offers more in-depth training.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY SUFS 01</b>	Wednesday 8th October 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at St Mary's Church, The Garden Room
<b>EY SUFS 02</b>	Thursday 6th November 2025 and Thursday 20th November 2025, 9.30am -12.30pm at Manor Community Childcare Centre (Please note both sessions must be attended)
<b>EY SUFS 03</b>	Monday 23rd February 2026, 9.30am-4.00pm at St Patrick's Voluntary Catholic Academy
<b>EY SUFS 04</b>	Friday 6th March 2026 and Friday 20th March 2026, 9.30am - 12.30pm at Little Ark Nursery and Pre-school (Please note both sessions must be attended)
<b>EY SUFS 05</b>	Wednesday 6th May 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Circle
<b>EY SUFS 06</b>	Tuesday 9th June 2026 and Tuesday 23rd June 2026, 9.30am - 12.30pm at Mansel Primary School (Please note both sessions must be attended)
<b>EY SUFST 01</b>	Tuesday 16th September 2025, 23rd September 2025 and 30th September 2025, 6.00pm - 8.00pm online via Zoom. (Please note all sessions must be attended)
<b>EY SUFST 02</b>	Wednesday 21st January 2026, 28th January 2026 and 4th February 2026, 6.00pm - 8.00pm online via Zoom (Please note all sessions must be attended)
<b>EY SUFST 03</b>	Thursday 14th May 2026, 21st May 2026 and 4th June 2026, 6.00pm - 8.00pm online via Zoom (Please note all sessions must be attended)

**Facilitators:** Community Early Years Practitioners

**Course Cost:** FREE

**Email:** [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Speak up for Sheffield - Language Champions

Number of places:15

## Course suitable for:

Practitioners, educators, and early years professionals committed to developing their expertise in supporting children's speech, language, and communication development, with the aim of fostering inclusive, supportive learning environments. **Please note all participants must have attended the Speak up for Sheffield Introduction course prior to attending Language Champions.**

## Description:

Language Champions is an advanced, comprehensive training package designed for professionals working with children to deepen their understanding of speech, language, and communication needs. Delivered over six full-day sessions across the year, this course equips participants with extensive knowledge of various speech, language, and communication difficulties, their diagnoses, and their impact on children's overall development, in the here and now and in the future.

The programme incorporates reflective practice, supporting practitioners to evaluate their setting's current approaches, identifying any gaps in provision and develop targeted action plans. By integrating the insights gained, participants will be better equipped to support early identification, intervention, and ongoing support for children with speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN). The programme will support you to make changes to practice within your setting as identified in your action plan.

## Course Highlights:

- Gain a thorough understanding of different types of speech, language, and communication difficulties and their diagnoses
- Explore the broader developmental impact of SLCN on children's social, emotional, and cognitive development
- Develop in-depth awareness of effective approaches and strategies suited to children's diverse needs
- Enhance skills in tracking and supporting the progress of all children's communication development
- Understand speech and language therapy (SLT) pathways and referral processes
- Recognise the wider needs of children with SLCN and how to address them holistically
- Implement a range of evidence-based strategies and interventions within your setting
- Support colleagues by sharing best practices and facilitating strategic improvements in communication support

## Booking codes and dates:

<b>EY SUFS Lang Champs</b>	Friday 12th September 2025
	Friday 21st November 2025
	Friday 30th January 2026
	Friday 13th March 2026
	Friday 15th May 2026
	Friday 17th July 2026
<b>*Please note all sessions must be attended</b>	<b>ALL Sessions will be delivered 9.30am - 4.00pm at St Marie's School</b>

**Facilitators: Facilitators: Rebecca Bergman (Speech and Language Therapist) and Claire Murgatroyd Early Years Quality Improvement Team**

**Course Cost: FREE**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Spotlight Sessions

Number of places: Unlimited

## Course suitable for:

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers and teaching assistants.

## Description:

Spotlight sessions focus on areas of the EYFS touching on various aspects of reflective, inclusive, and pedagogical practices. Each session will be delivered over zoom and will be 45mins -1hr long providing an overview and links to practice, research and further training. These are repeated drop-in sessions. Please attend as many as you wish.

**Please note, spotlights are short informative sessions and as such, are not interactive, however time for comments and questions is allowed at the end.**

## Booking codes and dates:

**\*PLEASE NOTE ALL SESSIONS WILL BE DELIVERED ONLINE VIA ZOOM.**

<b>Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning</b>	<b>EY SS 01</b> Tuesday 23rd September 2025, 4.00pm -5.00pm	<b>EY SS 06</b> Tuesday 10th February 2026, 4.00pm -5.00pm
<b>Self-Regulation</b>	<b>EY SS 02</b> Tuesday 21st October 2025, 4.00pm -5.00pm	<b>EY SS 07</b> Tuesday 10th March 2026, 4.00pm -5.00pm
<b>Schema</b>	<b>EY SS 03</b> Tuesday 18th November 2025, 4.00pm -5.00pm	<b>EY SS 08</b> Tuesday 21st April 2026, 4.00pm -5.00pm
<b>Sustained Shared Thinking</b>	<b>EY SS 04</b> Tuesday 2nd December 2025, 4.00pm -5.00pm	<b>EY SS 09</b> Tuesday 19th May 2026, 4.00pm -5.00pm
<b>Loose Parts</b>	<b>EY SS 05</b> Tuesday 20th January 2026, 4.00pm -5.00pm	<b>EY SS 10</b> Tuesday 16th June 2026, 4.00pm -5.00pm

Please email Denise Tunnicliffe, [Denise.tunnicliffe@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Denise.tunnicliffe@sheffield.gov.uk) with an expression of interest if you would like an online spotlight session delivered to your whole staff team on one of your training and development days.

## Facilitators:

**Early Years Quality Improvement Team**

## Course Cost:

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Statutory Progress Check at Age 2 and the Integrated Review

Number of places:15 / 12

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants and leaders working with children aged 2-3 years.

## **Description:**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements state that practitioners must review children's progress between the ages of 2–3 years and provide parents with a short written summary of their development in the prime areas.

Health visiting services are also required to complete a Healthy Child Programme development review at 2 to 2 and a half years, working with parents to look at similar areas of development.

In this session we look at how to carry out an effective Statutory 2 year Progress Check, how assessment supports early identification, and how we ensure we provide the right support at the earliest opportunity.

We explore further, how this can be achieved by encouraging parents, early years providers, local authorities, and health visiting services to work together, combining the EYFS Progress check at age 2 and the 2 year Healthy Child development review and discussing how a child's needs can be best met through an 'Integrated Review' process.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY STAT 01</b>	Friday 17th October 2025, 9.30am -12.30pm at St Marie's School
<b>EY STAT 02</b>	Friday 6th March 2026, 9.30am -12.30pm at First Start Family Hub
<b>EY STAT 03</b>	Friday 15th May 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at First Start Family Hub

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality Improvement Team and Community Early Years Practitioners.**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Start Well for Professionals

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

This session is ideal for professionals working with young children and families, including health practitioners, family support workers, early years educators, and colleagues from private and voluntary sectors.

## **Description:**

### **Start Well for Professionals – Promoting Healthy Early Years in Sheffield**

Start Well Sheffield, in partnership with Public Health, delivers key messages that encourage families to make small but impactful changes towards healthier lifestyles. The Start Well Family Programme supports families with children aged 0-5 years, empowering parents to give their children the best possible start in life.

### **Course Overview:**

This course, *Start Well for Professionals*, is designed to equip professionals with an understanding of the latest public health priorities for Sheffield, as well as regional and national initiatives targeting health inequalities affecting children and families. You will gain valuable insight into the Start Well Family Programme's content, enabling you to engage confidently in informed discussions with parents and carers and make appropriate referrals to the programme.

### **What You Will Learn:**

- Current public health priorities and initiatives in Sheffield related to early years health and wellbeing
- An overview of the Start Well Family Programme's key messages and resources
- Strategies to support families in making healthier lifestyle choices
- How to identify families who may benefit from the programme and make effective referrals

### **Networking and Collaboration:**

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with a network of professionals across health, social care, and community sectors, sharing knowledge, skills, and best practices to enhance outcomes for Sheffield's youngest families.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY SWP 01</b>	Thursday 20th November 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Moorfoot Learning Centre
<b>EY SWP 02</b>	Thursday 12th February 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Learn Sheffield
<b>EY SWP 03</b>	Wednesday 3rd June 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Little Ark Nursery and

## **Facilitators:**

**Community Early Years Practitioners**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Start Well Family Programme Universal Offer

Start Well Sheffield deliver a free programme for families who have at least one child under 5. It fits under the universal core offer and shares a range of helpful, factual and practical information to help support and develop parents' confidence and knowledge regarding children's overall development, health and emotional wellbeing.

It is delivered in small groups over 5 weeks sharing information, tips, and strategies. Main topics include unpicking eating habits, how to reduce screen time, developing stress-free mealtimes, understanding and responding to children's emotions and behaviours, introducing new foods, portion sizes, understanding food labels, developing family routines and oral health habits.



**Unsure about portion sizes  
or  
experiencing food fussiness?**

**Parents free resource pack.**



**Boosting batteries is  
important for mental health  
and wellbeing.**

# Supporting School Subject Leads with EYFS Requirements

In house delivery on request

## **Course suitable for:**

School staff leading National Curriculum areas wishing to further their understanding of how their subject 'fits' into the EYFS Framework.

## **Description:**

As curriculum subject leaders in school, understanding the pivotal way we shape the educational journey of our youngest learners can be challenging.

This in house, bespoke training will support foundation subject leads in their understanding of the main principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage, exploring how this is the very start of the child's curriculum journey within the school and how this early development leads on to further progress as children move into Year 1 and into the Key Stage 1 curriculum.

There will be reference to all Key Stage 1 'subjects' and how these may look and feel in the Foundation Stage.

Schools have found it beneficial for EYFS leads and/ or members of SLT to accompany curriculum leads to collectively hear key messages and share thoughts around subject leadership and the EYFS.

This training will be offered flexibly to incorporate as many subject leads as desired.

Delivery models of this training, can be discussed upon booking and will be dependant on capacity of the Quality and Access Team.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

Please email [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk) to request this training session in your school.

**The training is planned to be delivered in house and we have found it works well delivered in your school on a timetabled basis for subject leads to have one to one time with the Early Years Quality and Access Officer.**

## **Facilitators:**

Early Years Quality and Access Team

## **Course Cost:**

2 tokens.

**If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to access this training session.**

# The Revised Early Years Sheffield Support Grid

Number of places: 25

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCOs, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

The Early Years Sheffield Support Grid (EY SSG) has been comprehensively updated to align with national and regional developments, incorporating valuable feedback from stakeholders.

This session aims to delve into the recent enhancements, including the introduction of an 'Ordinarily Available Toolkit' that outlines the support and resources expected to be provided by mainstream settings without the necessity for additional or specialised assistance.

Furthermore, the updated grid features refined levelling grids for Speech and Language, as well as Cognition and Learning needs, and introduces a new Sensory section (4e) to better address these specific areas.

The inclusion of Preparation for Adulthood considerations ensures a more holistic approach to supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

This session will provide an opportunity to explore how these updates integrate with current practices across the city and within individual settings, fostering a collaborative approach to inclusive education.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

Thursday 25th September 2025, 9.00am - 12.00pm at Learn Sheffield

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-revised-early-years-ssg-training-tickets-1539798110599>

Wednesday 11th March 2026, 9.00am - 12.00pm at Learn Sheffield

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-revised-early-years-ssg-training-tickets-1539798110599>

Tuesday 30th June 2026, 9.00am - 12.00pm at Learn Sheffield

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-revised-early-years-ssg-training-tickets-1539798110599>

### **Please book via the Learn Sheffield link above**

**Please note, online evening sessions will be delivered for childminders to access.**

**Please register your interest by emailing [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)  
Information will be shared with SEND Strategic Leads at Learn Sheffield and sessions will be facilitated.**

## **Facilitator:**

**0-5 SEND team and SEND Strategic Leads; Learn Sheffield**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE    Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Transition - Supporting my Journey 0-3 Years

Number of places:30

## Course suitable for:

Early years practitioners from PVI settings, schools and Childminders who are supporting children aged 0-3 years with transition.

## Description:

Research suggests that **transitions are central to young children's development and emotional wellbeing**, and the way in which the first transitions are handled could have a significant impact on the child's capacity to cope with change in the short and long term.

Babies and young children need to feel important, supported and cared for and we all know that the positive relationships we develop are the foundations for their learning. Supporting transitions in the early years not only helps support the child at these crucial stages in their lives, but also helps support the parents and carers. Exploring what the term 'school readiness' means for individual children at this age, can help parents and carers understand and how 'early transition strategies' can also support later transitions for their children.

In this session we consider the importance of working in partnership with practitioners, other professionals, parents and carers, to support our youngest children's transition journeys. We reflect on how various 'transitions' are managed, including their experiences of transition to and throughout their time in nursery (or childcare setting).

## Booking code and date:

EY T03

Tuesday 5th May 2026, 9.30am - 12.30pm at The Quadrant

## Facilitators:

Early Years Quality Improvement Team

## Course Cost:

FREE

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Transition - Supporting my Journey 3-5 Years

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

Early years practitioners from PVI settings, schools and Childminders who are supporting children aged 3-5 years with transition.

## **Description:**

This workshop will explore the importance of well supported transitions for children at this crucial stage in their life and as they continue their journey towards school.

This will include discussion on the practicalities of transition visits and information sharing, and exploring how providers can network and make links with partners, schools and settings within their locality or across the city.

We will also consider the importance of working in partnership with professionals and parents and carers, to support children's transition journey to nursery (or the childcare setting), throughout their time in nursery (or childcare setting) and onto school, whilst exploring what the term 'school readiness' means for individual children and all those involved or supporting.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY T35 01</b>	Thursday 30th April 2026, 9.30am - 12.30pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY T35 02</b>	Thursday 30th April 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at The Quadrant

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality Improvement Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

# Transition - Supporting my Journey SEND

Number of places: 15 / 30

## **Course suitable for:**

EY Practitioners from PVI settings, Childminders and SENCoS who are supporting children with SEND with transition.

## **Description:**

This workshop will explore the importance of well supported transitions for children with special educational needs and disabilities, at these crucial stages in their life.

Includes discussion around working with the SENCo, the practicalities and timings of visits and importance of information sharing, completing transition reviews, and ensuring Extended Support Plans and EHCPs are up to date and shared.

We will also consider the importance of working in partnership with professionals and parents and carers at the earliest opportunity, to support children's transition journey to nursery (or the childcare setting), throughout their time in nursery (or childcare setting) and onto school, whilst exploring what the term 'school readiness' means for individual children and all involved.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY TSEN 01</b>	Wednesday 3rd December 2025, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at Manor Community Childcare
<b>EY TSEN 02</b>	Monday 26th January 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at Mansel Primary School
<b>EY TSEN 03</b>	Wednesday 4th February 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at The Circle

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality Improvement Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**FREE**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Transition week

Number of places: Venue dependant

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years professionals supporting transition from nursery to school.

## **Description:**

We are pleased to support you in facilitating transition network events across the city again this year.

These will be a great opportunity to make / develop / enhance links between settings, build upon strong relationships and, ultimately, support the children of Sheffield and their families as they begin to move through to the next part of their early years journey.

We will ask for volunteers to host events over the dates listed below. Requirements for hosting are: a space big enough to accommodate a number of people (e.g. a hall/similar large space) with chairs and tables, accessible parking (this could include parking on the road). We will bring refreshments but ask that hosts provide access to hot/cold water and cups.

We are aiming to facilitate three transition meetings per evening across the city to enable maximum interactions between settings. We understand that some of you may already have strong links with your settings and may not need to attend these events as you have a good transition system in place, we do not wish to impose on this however you are welcome to attend these events as an additional networking opportunity.

Once we have collated all volunteers to host, we will look at locations across the city to ensure fair representation within localities. Host settings will be notified and invites will be sent out via a Microsoft Form. We will then be back in touch to let you know which settings are attending which events to allow you to plan accordingly.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A TRAINING SESSION.**

## **Transition week dates:**

Monday 18th May 2026, 4.00pm - 5.30pm
Tuesday 19th May 2026, 4.00pm - 5.30pm
Wednesday 20th May 2026, 4.00pm - 5.30pm
Thursday 21st May 2026, 4.00pm - 5.30pm

## **Facilitators:**

**Early Years Quality and Access Team, Early Years Quality Improvement Team and Community Early Years Practitioners**

## **Course Cost: FREE.**

**Please respond to the emails sent to organise host settings and attendees at each event.**

# Trauma and Attachment with Educational Psychologists

Number of places:30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCOs, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and leaders.

## **Description:**

This training from the Educational Psychology Service aims to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of attachment and how disruption to healthy attachment might lead to trauma
- Reflect on theory and neuroscientific evidence for attachments and trauma
- Consider how attachment and trauma may present in behaviour
- Explore strategies staff can use to support children and young people who have experienced trauma
- Consider how staff, in particular, key adults, can implement and use relational approaches and act as Emotionally Available Adults
- Explore whole setting approaches to implement trauma informed practice

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY TA 01</b>	Wednesday 12th November 2025, 9.00am - 12.00pm at The Quadrant
<b>EY TA 02</b>	Tuesday 5th May 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at The Quadrant

## **Facilitator:**

**Educational Psychologists**

## **Course Cost:**

1 token.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Understanding and Developing the Role of the Adult

Number of places: 30

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, teachers, teaching assistants, year 1 teachers and

## **Description:**

In the early years setting, the role of the adult is crucial in fostering a nurturing and stimulating environment that supports children's development and learning.

Warm, sensitive adults provide a safe and secure atmosphere where children feel nurtured, valued and respected. They engage in meaningful interactions, offering encouragement, guidance, and responsive care.

By observing and understanding each child's unique needs and interests, adults can tailor activities through effective communications and interactions that promote curiosity, exploration, and play-based learning. Their role extends to modelling positive behaviour through strategies such as co-regulation, while facilitating high-quality interactions and creating inclusive spaces that respect diversity.

Ultimately, adults play a vital role in laying the foundation for lifelong learning and well-being.

## **Booking codes and dates:**

<b>EY UDRoA 01</b>	Friday 17th October 2025, 9.30am - 4.00pm at Moorfoot Learning Centre
<b>EY UDRoA 02</b>	Tuesday 17th March 2026, 9.30am - 4.00pm at The Circle

## **Facilitators:**

Early Years Quality and Access Team

## **Course Cost:**

2 tokens.

If you are not part of the subscribed package you will be charged to attend the training.

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

## Understanding the Needs of Babies and Young Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability SEN Level 2 Qualification

Number of places: 12 / 20

### **Course suitable for:**

This training is designed to extend the knowledge of any EY practitioner who supports the development of children with SEND. Practitioners from both PVI and school settings would benefit from attending this training. **MUST HOLD MINIMUM Level 2 in Child Development.**

### **Description:**

Aiming to inspire practitioners from across the early years sector, this training offers a balance of theoretical and practical support to enable a practitioner to carry out their role in supporting young children with additional needs. The Sheffield Early Years Quality Improvement team is pleased to offer you the opportunity to attend this training to gain an NCFE CACHE Level 2 accredited award.

The course content includes, understanding:

- Statutory guidance in relation to the care and education of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- How children learn and develop in the Early Years and how to identify needs early
- The impact of transition
- Best practice for meeting the individual needs of young children and creating inclusive environments
- Planning to meet the **individual** stages of babies and young children
- Working in partnership with parents and other professionals

This training is a **three-day** training course delivered face to face (plus a 1hr online APTM introduction session).

Please see dates on the next page.

**Delegates must attend the intro session and all three training days, and be aware that all work is to be submitted for assessment at the end of the course, in order to gain the accreditation.**

### **Booking codes and dates:**

**Please see information on the following page.**

### **Facilitators:**

**Community Early Years Practitioners and Early Years Quality and Access Team**

### **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens if subscribed or a discounted cost of £100.00 per attendee to cover assessment costs.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

## Understanding the Needs of Babies and Young Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability SEN Level 2 Qualification

Number of places: 12

### **Booking codes and dates:**

**\*Please note all sessions must be attended, including the APTM introduction session.**

<b>EY L2SEN 01</b>	Friday 3rd October 2025 Introduction ONLINE Zoom session , 10.00am-11.00am Level 2 teaching and study time; Friday 10th October 2025, 9.00am - 4.00pm Friday 24th October 2025, 9.00am - 4.00pm Friday 7th November 2025, 9.00am - 4.00pm <b>Teaching and Study sessions to be delivered at Moorfoot Learning Centre</b>
<b>EY L2SEN 02</b>	Thursday 5th February 2026 Introduction ONLINE Zoom session, 10.00am -11.00am Level 2 teaching and study time; Thursday 12th February 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm Thursday 26th February 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm Thursday 12th March 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm <b>Teaching and Study sessions to be delivered at St Patrick's Catholic</b>
<b>EY L2SEN 03</b>	Monday 1st June 2026 Introduction ONLINE Zoom session, 10.00am-11.00am Level 2 teaching and study time; Monday 8th June 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm Monday 22nd June 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm Monday 6th July 2026, 9.00am - 4.00pm <b>Teaching and Study sessions to be delivered at Little Ark Nursery and Pre-school</b>

### **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens if subscribed or a discounted cost of £100.00 per attendee to cover assessment costs.**

**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

## **Understanding the Needs of Babies and Young Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability SEN Level 2 Qualification**

Number of places: 12

### **Booking codes and dates:**

**\*Please note all sessions must be attended, including the APTM introduction session.**

**These sessions are delivered online and on Saturdays and are ideal for Childminders to attend.**

**The Saturday sessions will not include scheduled study time due to being online and being delivered at the weekend. Support with studies will be available via phone call or group catch up session arranged with the course tutor.**

<b>EY L2SEN 04</b> <b>*Childminder priority</b>	Thursday 8th January 2026 Introduction ONLINE Zoom session , 6.30pm-7.30pm Level 2 teaching and study time, Sessions 1-3 ONLINE Saturday 17th January 2026, 9.30am - 2.30pm Saturday 31st January 2026, 9.30am - 2.30pm Saturday 14th February 2026, 9.30am - 2.30pm
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**We require a minimum of 5 attendees who have committed to attend all sessions above to be able to deliver this training.**

### **Course Cost:**

**2 tokens if subscribed or a discounted cost of £100.00 per attendee to cover assessment costs.**

Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# The Unique Child Project Series

Number of places: 12 per project

## **Course suitable for:**

All early years practitioners, childminders, managers, SENCOs, teachers, teaching assistants, with a passion to develop and influence practice.

## **Description:**

We have seen the positive impact of a longer-term project, through disseminating evidence based research, sharing good practice, supporting practitioner confidence, reflecting on learning environments and ultimately improving children's outcomes. Some settings have even gone so far as to say that the projects have contributed to their excellent Ofsted inspection outcomes, highlighting practitioners' knowledge, skills, and passion, being a key factor.

## **The four projects**

Behaviour Matters: Enhancing Self-regulation in Early Childhood through Relationship-based Practice, Curious Minds: Empowering Maths and STEAM, Nurturing our Youngest Children in the Early Years and The Wonder of Two-Year-Olds.

Each project is delivered over the year, with 7 sessions in total; face to face, and includes a visits session, which allows the opportunity to network, see different environments, and share practice/ideas. Delivered as full days, practitioners are ensured plenty of time for that 'research in action' discussion, professional dialogue, and reflection.

Following each session, practitioners take ownership of the changes and developments they wish to make to their practice, working with their colleagues collaboratively to embed change.

## **Expectations**

The projects work best where both managers, team leaders and practitioner are fully invested, and a genuine commitment to changing or developing practice is agreed. Practitioners should be supported throughout and a learning agreement in place to support providers in identifying a clear vision and plan, which harnesses this coaching and mentoring approach.

**Practitioners must be able to commit to all sessions.**

## **Booking codes and dates:**

**Please see flyers on following pages for individual project overviews and dates.**

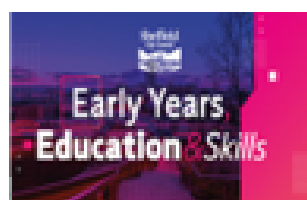
**Facilitator: Early Years Quality Improvement Team**

## **Course Cost:**

**To attend the 7 professional development days for each individual project, with specialist training, resources to support learning, individual reflective diaries and journals, a protected opportunity to network and peer support with like minded professionals and visits to settings.**

**£125.00**

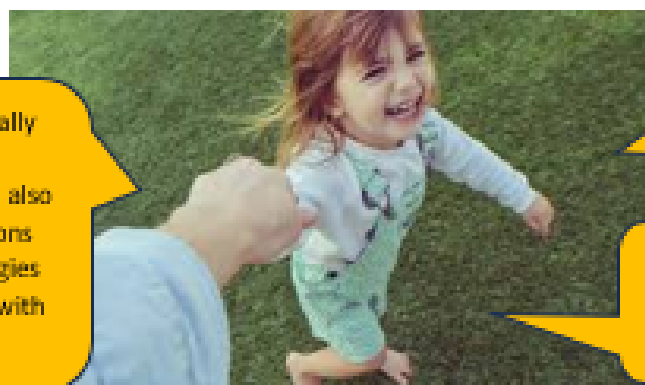
**Email: [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**



## Behaviour Matters: Enhancing Self-regulation in Early Childhood through Relationship-based Practice 2025/26

Children's brains are shaped by their early experiences and supportive, relationships of emotionally available adults.

For practitioners supporting children of all ages



"I have learnt a lot personally and reflected how I speak/treat others. I have also used some of the discussions and shared positive strategies for working with children with my team.

The new research and neuroscience is fascinating and insightful.

PACE is ACE! One of several great strategies. It is really effective and will be used extensively.

The Unique Child "Behaviour Matters: Enhancing Self-regulation in Early Childhood through Relationship-based Practice" is a comprehensive, year-long professional development initiative designed to deepen early years practitioners' understanding of how early experiences, interactions with caregivers, and the child's environment, all play crucial roles in shaping behaviour and fostering self-regulation skills.

### Neurobiology- The Developing Brain

Understanding how children's brain development is closely linked to the ability to manage emotions, thoughts, and behaviours. Exploring how individual experiences shape a child, understanding trauma and its impact on young children's ability to learn and develop and the adult role in co-regulation.

### Responsive Relationships and Enabling Environments

The vital role of responsive and positive relationships in supporting young children's behaviour and self-regulation. Explore a range of theoretical and practical approaches, including attachment theory, brain development, the impact of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), and the PACE model (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy). Build practitioner confidence in using relationship-based strategies to create calm, connected, and emotionally supportive environments.

### Peer Coaching, Reflective Practice, Developing and Sharing Resources

An integral part of the project is the opportunity for practitioners to engage in peer coaching. Working alongside others, practitioners can reflect on their practices, share insights, and implement improvements tailored to their specific settings. Throughout the year, participants will contribute to a shared resource portfolio fostering a community of practice. The final session will be a celebration of practitioners' valuable contributions and achievements in recognition of their professional development.

### The Unique Child- Behaviour matters: Enhancing self-regulation in early childhood through relationship-based practice

Intro 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10-11.30 (Mon) online	Session 1- 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	Session 2- 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F
Session 3- 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	Session 4- 9 <sup>th</sup> March 9.30-10.30 online + visits	Session 5- 13 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F
Session 6- 1 <sup>st</sup> June 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	Session 7- 8 <sup>th</sup> July 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	<b>NB: All sessions must be attended.</b>

Cost to attend all sessions £125.00

NB: All face to face (F2F) sessions will be held at Bole Hill Nursery, The Unity Centre, 85 Bole Hill Rd, Sheffield S6 5DD

NB: Limited places. To book a place please email [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)



## Curious Minds: Empowering Early Maths and STEAM 2025/26

Fostering essential skills, boosting confidence, and cultivating a lifelong love of learning.

For practitioners supporting children age 3-4yrs

"We are adding more loose parts play to our outdoor area to enhance maths knowledge and language."



"Junk modelling is great for critical thinking, I feel I can now develop this further"

"Very informative good to share ideas interact with other nurseries and practitioners".

The Unique Child "Curious Minds: Empowering Early Maths and STEAM" is a yearlong professional development initiative aimed at enhancing practitioners' understanding of supporting learning and development needs of 3–4-year-old children. This project focuses on integrating early mathematics and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) into the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), fostering children's mathematical skills and scientific curiosity.

### Creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration

Learning through Maths and STEAM activities aims to encourage exploration, experimentation, and engagement with materials in a playful way. Facilitate and scaffold children' learning by following their interests, self-directed play and exploration, enabling children to discover concepts naturally.

### Keeping maths and STEAM in context

Discover the importance of connecting maths and STEAM to everyday life experiences of children to ensure a strong understanding of numbers, shapes, space, and measures and how encouraging mathematical talk can become part of everyday language. Reflect on practitioner attitudes, explore effective support strategies, and enhance knowledge of the curriculum and environment to create enriching and fun experiences for young learners, giving children a range of transferable skills they can use in everyday life, for life.

### Peer Coaching, Reflective Practice, Developing and Sharing Resources

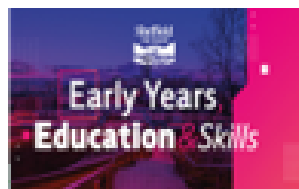
An integral part of the project is the opportunity for practitioners to engage in peer coaching. Working alongside others, practitioners can reflect on their practices, share insights, and implement improvements tailored to their specific settings. Throughout the year, participants will contribute to a shared resource portfolio fostering a community of practice. The final session will be a celebration of practitioners' valuable contributions and achievements in recognition of their professional development.

The Unique Child- Curious minds: Empowering early maths and STEAM		
Intro 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 10-11.30 (Mon) online	Session 1 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	Session 2 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F
Session 3 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 9.30-10.30 online + visits	Session 4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2026 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	Session 5 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2026 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F
Session 6 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	Session 7 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 9.30-3.30 (Mon) F2F	<b>NB: All sessions must be attended.</b>

**Cost to attend all sessions £125.00**

NB: All face to face (F2F) sessions will be held at Burngreave Family Hub, 19 Spital St, Sheffield, S3 9LB

NB: Limited places. To book a place please email [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)



## Nurturing our Youngest Children in the Early Years 2025/26

The first 1001 days of a child's life, from conception to age two, is a window of opportunity in which you are key (DHSC 2021).

For practitioners supporting babies and children under 2 years

"I learnt about schemas in more detail".

"Strengthened my practice, made us look, as a team, at the provision and how we could improve/ what we could improve".



"Very informative, good to interact with other nurseries and practitioners".

"Thank you for the ideas and knowledge and would love more courses like this one!"

The Unique Child "Nurturing Our Youngest" is a comprehensive, year-long professional development initiative designed to deepen early years practitioners' understanding of babies and children under two. The project emphasises the critical importance of the first two years in a child's development, focusing on fostering secure attachments, creating nurturing environments, and supporting individualised care and learning.

**Understanding Developmental Milestones**-foundational knowledge which is crucial for tailoring care and learning experiences to each child's unique needs.

### Building Secure Attachments and Positive Relationships

The importance of personalised care and development -forming strong, trusting relationships with babies. By meeting their needs promptly and consistently, practitioners can foster emotional security, which is essential for healthy social and emotional development.

### Creating Nurturing, Sensory and Language Rich Environments

Designing environments that feel warm and nurturing as well as stimulating sensory exploration and language development. Ensuring interactive play to support cognitive and communication skills.

### Peer Coaching, Reflective Practice, Developing and Sharing Resources

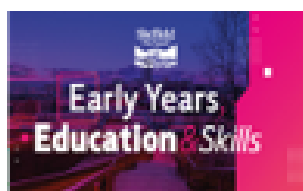
An integral part of the project is the opportunity for practitioners to engage in peer coaching. Working alongside others, practitioners can reflect on their practices, share insights, and implement improvements tailored to their specific settings. Throughout the year, participants will contribute to a shared resource portfolio fostering a community of practice. The final session will be a celebration of practitioners' valuable contributions and achievements in recognition of their professional development.

The Unique Child- Nurturing Our Youngest in the Early Years		
Intro 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 10-11.30 (Fri) online	Session 1 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 9.30-3.30 (Fri) F2F	Session 2 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 9.30-3.30 (Fri) F2F
Session 3 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 9.30-10.30 online + visits	Session 4 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 9.30-3.30 (Fri) F2F	Session 5 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2026 9.30-3.30 (Fri) F2F
Session 6 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 9.30-3.30 (Fri) F2F	Session 7 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 9.30-3.30 (Fri) F2F	<b>NB: All sessions must be attended.</b>

**Cost to attend all sessions £125.00**

NB: All face to face (F2F) sessions will be held at First Start Family Hub 35 GH.

NB: Limited places. To book a place please email [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)



## The Wonder of Two-Year-Olds 2025/26

Challenge your thinking on the needs of two-year-olds! How can you support this critical and sensitive period?

For all practitioners supporting 2-year-olds

"Made me more confident to talk to staff and parents".

"I really enjoyed the course; I've found sharing my own experiences and listening to others has helped me to change and develop my own practice".



"Brilliant tips and ideas to bring back to my nursery."

A great support network - giving validation that you are doing things right as well as learning new things." Thank you!!

The Unique Child "The Wonder of Two-Year-Olds" is a comprehensive, year-long professional development initiative designed to deepen early years practitioners' understanding of caring for and supporting the development of young children aged two. Interactive sessions focusing on the unique child and the prime areas of learning. To ensure that we are providing a solid foundation for future learning.

### Understanding Developmental Milestones

Foundational knowledge which is crucial for tailoring care and learning experiences to support the uniqueness of our two-year-olds. Recognising this period of rapid growth and increasing independence, where caring adults support children's developing self-regulation and asserting autonomy.

### Creating Sensory and Language Rich Environments

Exploring enabling environments that promotes holistic development ensuring we are following children's interests and unique learning styles. Reflecting on the vital role the environment has on supporting children's independence, emotional well-being and communication and Language skills

Explore the importance of working together with parents and professionals to support early identification. Examine how providing support and intervention at the earliest opportunity and at this critical and sensitive age, can ensure solid foundations for future, lifelong learning.

### Peer Coaching, Reflective Practice, Developing and Sharing Resources

An integral part of the project is the opportunity for practitioners to engage in peer coaching. Working alongside others, practitioners can reflect on their practices, share insights, and implement improvements tailored to their specific settings. Throughout the year, participants will contribute to a shared resource portfolio fostering a community of practice. The final session will be a celebration of practitioners' valuable contributions and achievements in recognition of their professional development.

The Unique Child- The Wonder of Two-Years-Olds		
Intro 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 9.30-11.00 (Wed) online	Session 1- 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 9.30-3.30 (Wed) F2F	Session 2- 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9.30-3.30 (Wed)F2F
Session 3- 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan 9.30-3.30 (Wed) F2F	Session 4- 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 9.30-3.30 (Wed) visits	Session 5- 15 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30-3.30 (Wed) F2F
Session 6- 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 9.30-3.30 (Wed) F2F	Session 7- 8 <sup>th</sup> July 9.30-3.30 (Wed) F2F	<b>NB: All sessions must be attended.</b>

Cost to attend all sessions £125.00

NB: All face to face (F2F) sessions will be held at Burngreave Family Hub, 19 Spital St, Sheffield, S3 9LB

NB: Limited places. To book a place please email [EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Testimonials

“We were well prepared to 'back ourselves' when OFSTED came in March - they were really impressed that we sought support from the Local Authority and loved that we were actioning the feedback from them in a realistic way (not all at once!). As a result, we got a glowing write up for our EYFS” *Dore Primary School*

“I will share with colleagues about tuning in and rethinking strategies for behaviour, how to be inclusive and adapting for all children, giving more thought about how the children are feeling and what they need to help them regulate in various situations.” *Evaluation for Behaviour and Big Feelings Training*

“... incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about the Early Years and its pedagogy. Thank you for a brilliant course! I can't wait to start my role in FS2!” *Evaluation for New to EYFS, rebranded as Building Confidence across your EYFS for 2025/26*

“I would highly recommend the EYFS Leader training. The training has increased my confidence and given me lots of strategies to use in the classroom and with the staff that I work with. I now have a fantastic support network with other Early Years leaders that I can go to for support and guidance. I also recently had an Ofsted inspection and I felt more prepared from having been at the training.” *Wybourn Community Primary and Nursery School*

“The baby project has truly been one of the most rewarding courses I've attended in a long time. It has positively transformed how I approach my work and how our setting operates. Our environment has become a warm, welcoming, and loving space where babies can flourish and grow. I've noticed that our connections with the babies have deepened, and parents have been thrilled with some of the ideas we've implemented—they're even trying some at home! The loose parts areas in the nursery have been particularly popular, and it's been wonderful to see our little ones thinking and exploring with everyday items.

Our planning has become so much more straightforward, and this course has shown me that babies don't need rigid plans; rather, spontaneous activities in a vibrant, enriched environment filled with fun and love foster their development most effectively. I've gained so much from this course, learning about pedagogy, curriculum, baby development, and creative activities. I cannot recommend this course highly enough to anyone working in a baby room—it's truly invaluable!” *Evaluation for Nurturing our Youngest Children in the Early Years Project, Brierley Field Children's Nursery*

“I'm feeling very inspired after the Planning for Potential Project, looking forward to getting back and re-thinking our Maths provision.. Would highly recommend being part of this project!” *Evaluation for Planning for Potential Project*

“I feel more confident to sign post to parents about various things going on in Sheffield and the Start Well programme.” *Evaluation for Start Well for Professionals*

“The briefings are very thorough, the team really do help to answer questions and settle debates / keep us updated at other times via email.” *Evaluation for Sheffield Early Years Together Briefing and Network*

“Training providers were friendly, helpful and engaging.”

“A really engaging set of training sessions, knowledgeable staff who could not only support me with training content but answered other questions and supported me with issues I have at my setting in a professional way.”

“The training was really knowledgeable and helped me gain a better understanding on how I can fulfil my role and support the children within my setting .” *Evaluation for New to SENCo Role Training*

If you wish to subscribe to the Early Years Professional Development Training

Package, please email :

**[EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

Subscribed settings are assigned tokens which they can 'spend' to book on any number of courses up to their token allocation for as many staff members as they wish to attend without additional charge, e.g. for a 1-token course, you could send multiple people on it and only be charged one token (capacity dependent of the training course and venue).

However, non-attendance of additional people will incur a £50.00 charge.

If you wish to purchase additional training tokens you will be charged accordingly.

Enquiries about booking procedures should be made by contacting the Early Years Business Support Team -

**[EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

Please note that course bookings will **NOT** be accepted over the phone. A booking form is provided with this booklet for you to complete and return to

**[EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

Please complete the booking form fully and accurately in order to be booked onto training or to attend **FREE** network events or training opportunities (those who are not subscribed to the package but wish to attend networks, briefings or FREE training opportunities are also required to complete a booking form).

Restrictions on numbers of people who can attend each training session is noted on the top of each training overview page.

Training sessions, network meetings and briefings will not be delivered if there are less than 5 attendees booked on and may not be guaranteed to be delivered again.

Booking is essential for all courses and briefings. All cancellations must be made at least 2 weeks in advance (unless in exceptional circumstances) and must be made via email.

Registers will close 2 weeks prior to the training delivery date to ensure all participants have relevant joining details and pre course materials or to share cancellation details due to low attendance.

Please note bookings sent to Team Managers or Officers will not be accepted and you will be asked to complete a booking form.

**[EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsBusinessSupport@sheffield.gov.uk)**

Training tokens that are not spent within the academic year 2025/26 will not be carried over, all tokens must be 'spent' before August 31st 2026.

**This year, once again, we have made the difficult decision that non-attendance at pre-booked events will be subject to a charge.**

This is due to training sessions being at capacity at registration, resulting in waiting lists being put in place and people not being able to access sessions or events. Not all participants arrive for their booked places which can result in sessions not running to full capacity. Payment of external facilitators and venue hire where necessary are also taken into account.

If you are subscribed to the package, the missed session will be used within your subscription allocation.

If the course has a cost attached and you are not subscribed you will be charged the cost of the course you did not attend or send apologies for.

A number of our courses are provided free of charge but places are in demand, therefore, if you fail to attend this training once your place has been confirmed a charge of **£50.00** will be payable to Sheffield City Council and an invoice issued.

# Our Training Venues.

**Venue - The Quadrant, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WG**

**Parking** - Participants should park in the visitors car park (car park up the steep ramp) and then add car registration details to the electronic parking system on arrival in the reception area.

**Please note, if you do not park in the visitors car park this can result in you receiving a parking fine.**

**Venue - St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane, Sheffield, S2 4QZ**

**Parking** - Participants should park in the venue car park and report to reception to pick up a permit to place on their dashboard.

**Venue - The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield, S1 4FW**

**Parking** - Car parks are available in the City Centre to use for this venue.

**Venue - Moorfoot Learning Centre, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PL**

**Parking** - Car parks are available in the City Centre to use for this venue.

**Venue - First Start Family Hub, 441 Firth Park Rd, Sheffield, S5 6QQ**

**Parking** - Small car park on site or street parking is available.

**Venue - Primrose Family Hub, Creswick St, Sheffield, S6 2TN**

**Parking** - Street parking available.

**Venue - St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Barnsley Rd, Sheffield, S5 0QF**

**Parking** - Street parking available.

**Venue-** Bole Hill Nursery, The Unity Centre, 85 Bole Hill Rd, Sheffield S6 5DD

**Parking**– Parking available on site or street parking is available.

# Our Training Venues.

**Venue – Phillimore Community Primary School, Phillimore Rd, Sheffield, S9 5EF**

**Parking** - Street parking available.

**Venue – Sheffield United Football Ground, Bramall Lane, Sheffield, S2 4SU**

**Parking** - Parking spaces available in the stadium car park. Free Parking for event attendees.

**Venue - Mansel Primary School, 157 Chaucer Rd, Parson Cross, Sheffield, S5 9QN**

**Parking** - Street parking available.

**Venue – Learn Sheffield, Suite 6, Albion House, Savile St, Sheffield, S4 7UD**

**Parking** – Parking available on site.

**Venue - St Marie’s Primary School, 375 Fulwood Rd, Sheffield, S10 3DQ**

**Parking** - There are four spaces outside the school and four spaces directly opposite that people can park in.

Parking on the road is restricted, please be mindful not to park in the bus bays. There is parking on Endcliffe Vale Road which is around the corner from the school and has no restrictions.

**Venue – Little Ark Nursery and Pre-school, Bernard Rd, Sheffield, S2 5BQ**

**Parking** - Parking available on site and across the road from the venue. Park and ride car parking also available near the venue.

**Venue – Manor Community Childcare, 33 Vickinglea Rd, Sheffield, S2 1BE**

**Parking** - Limited parking available on site, street parking available.

**Venue – Burngreave Family Hub, 19 Spital St, Sheffield, S3 9LB**

**Parking** - Street parking available.