



Department
for Education

Early Years Learning Leads (EYLL) programme

**Application support pack: bespoke support to
settings**

July 2026

Introduction

The introduction of Early Years Learning Leads (EYLLs) in every Early Years Stronger Practice Hub (EYSPH) will set children up for success at school and help more children meet their Early Learning Goals (ELGs), particularly those associated with these three areas of learning and help narrow the disadvantage gap.

EYLLs deliver a coherent programme of subject-specific support (Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), early language and early maths) for early years settings and individual educators, designed to strengthen practice and improve outcomes.

Bespoke support

As part of this EYLLs provide bespoke, subject-specific support underpinned by coaching approaches, modelling of practice and opportunities for reflection.

Group-based, school-based, PVI early years settings and childminders are all able to apply for support.

EYLLs will:

- working alongside settings to gain an understanding of their needs and current practice
- provide coaching support to enable educators and settings to reflect on and improve their practice
- supporting settings to identify strengths and agree clear, achievable next steps based on their individual needs

Support is provided for one term only, up to a maximum of 3 days per setting. In exceptional circumstances, it may be appropriate for support to be extended.

Settings will receive support in one area of learning at a time. In exceptional cases, and where justified, support across multiple areas may be agreed by the hub.

Bespoke support is most likely to benefit settings that:

- have identified a specific area of practice they would like to strengthen
- are able to commit leadership and staff time to engage with coaching and reflection
- are seeking support that goes beyond attendance at training or CPD
- are willing to test and embed changes in practice over time

Selection of settings for support

We aim to support settings where there is both strong evidence of need and a clear commitment to engaging with support.

If hubs receive a high volume of applications, the following will be considered when prioritising settings for support:

1. **Strong evidence of need**
2. **Setting demographics** e.g. high proportion of children eligible for early years pupil premium (EYPP), children with SEND, children with English as an additional language (EAL), Looked After Children or Children in Need
3. **Capacity and willingness to engage** with the support offered
4. **Alignment with other support** already in place

If the EYSPH is unable to provide support to your setting this term, your application will be retained and considered for future terms.

Submitting an application

To apply, please complete the online form here: <https://forms.gle/Udp2weiyBHh1Np246>

If you have any questions regarding the application form, or the EYLL programme in general, please contact your local Early Years Stronger Practice Hub.

Information submitted will only be reviewed by the EYSPH and the Department for Education. No information will be made publicly available.