



News From the Hub

May 2026

Welcome

It's been a busy time since our last newsletter and we have lots of news to share. The SPH funding has been confirmed up until April 2028, with a possible additional year beyond that, which we are thrilled about as it means we can continue to support you over the coming years. Emma and Mary are now officially Co-Directors of the Hub and we are expanding our team to help us to continue to deliver all that you expect from us.



Mary Prest

Early Years Stronger
Practice Hub Co-Director

The team is busy planning our upcoming offer – if you haven't had a chance to feed into our survey about what you would like to see, [please click here](#).

As well as our usual networks (SEND, room leaders and child minders), we will be offering an EYL / setting managers network so register with us for the latest updates. We will also be launching a suite of SPH Professional Development Programmes in the Autumn Term, focussing on Early Language, Maths and PSED.

From January, we will be offering bespoke support to settings which will include face to face in-setting support with developing any aspect of your provision. Look out in the Autumn Term as we will be advertising for some part-time advisory roles to help boost our team with this work. These roles would be ideal for experienced early years leaders & managers to undertake as part of their existing roles, developing their systems leadership skills.

For now though, we are looking forward to our Early Writing conference which is now fully booked so hope to see you there!

Complete our Hub Survey to help us
shape our CPD offer to your needs



[Click Here](#)



We're hiring....

Early Years Learning Leads

EARLY YEARS LEARNING LEADS

REQUIREMENTS:

- 3 specialist Early Years Learning Lead roles (Maths, Language, PSED)
- Ideal for experienced Early Years Leaders/Managers working independently or as part of their existing role
- Deliver high-quality, DfE-approved CPD training
- Provide expert support to Early Years settings
- Network regionally and nationally to drive excellence



CLOSING DATE: 11TH MAY | 12 NOON

Apply
now



Click
Here



Join a community...

Room Leader Networks

Taking place across Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

We are delighted to share our upcoming network events



School Based



PVI settings

Room Leaders Networks – For Managers

Take advantage of this opportunity to join a community of like-minded room leaders within PVI & school based settings, with a focus on developing your skills as a leader, as well as on developing the high-quality provision in your room.

The networks involve coming together with colleagues to learn more about leadership and discover thought provoking ideas about what good practice looks like.

You will have chance to learn about new theories and ideas, reflect on your own practice and take away top tips and suggestions to try in your own rooms. There will be chance to celebrate and share what you have been doing with colleagues and with opportunities to develop relationships and learn from each other over time

Further network dates will be announced in our next newsletter edition... keep your eyes peeled!

Room Leader Networks - Managers!

Derby
Nottingham

Thursday 18th June 2026

Post Mill Centre

9am-2.30pm

South Normanton, Alfreton, DE55 2EJ

Thursday 25th June 2026

Sir Julien Cahn Pavilion

9am-2.30pm

Loughborough Rd, West Bridgford, NG2 7JE



Book Here



Join a community... Childminder Networks

Taking place across the region

Discover how **natural spaces** can be used as **rich learning environments**, where outdoor learning supports key developmental goals, aligns with the EYFS framework, and nurtures resilience, creativity, and a lifelong love for nature in children.



Childminders

DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE



HIGH PEAK BOOKSTORE & CAFE

Brierlow Bar, Buxton, SK17 9PY

Friday 22nd May 26

10:15 - 11:45



LINACRE RESERVOIRS

Linacre Reservoirs, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S42 7AU

Monday 18th May 26

10:00 - 11:30



MARKEATON PARK

Markeaton Park, Markeaton, Derby, DE22 4AA

Monday 1st June 26

10:00 - 11:30

NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



RUSHCLIFFE COUNTRY PARK

Mere Way, Ruddington, West Bridgford, NG11 6JS

Monday 29th June 26

10:15 - 11:45



WOLLATON PARK

Wollaton Park, Wollaton NG8 2AE

Wednesday 3rd June 26

10:30 - 12:00

Tuesday 16th June 26

10:30 - 12:00



TITCHFIELD PARK

Park Drive Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7LU

Thursday 11th June 26

10:30 - 12:00

Wednesday 24th June 26

10:30 - 12:00



You are very welcome to bring your minded children along with you on the day to get involved in the fun! Or you are also very welcome to come along solo!

Further dates will be released soon... we will email you with further details!



Book Here





Fully funded... Maths Champions Programme

With National Day Nursery Association

Empowering Early Years Practitioners to Teach Maths with Confidence!

Maths Champions is an evidence-based, professional development programme delivered by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA). It is aimed at increasing early years practitioner skills, knowledge, awareness and confidence in supporting children's early mathematical development.

This **fully funded** initiative is available to nursery settings in England. Nurseries must have at least one three to four-year-old attending a minimum of 15 hours a week in their setting and that Maths Champions must be at least Level 3 qualified.



For further information, watch this short video.

Proven impact

Independent evaluation by Durham and York universities found that children in participating settings made, on average, **three months' additional progress** in maths and language.

Register Interest Here



Virtual



School-based & PVI
Nurseries



“ The difference the Maths Champion programme has made for our setting, our team and the children has been fantastic. The confidence in our teaching has increased and we embraced the programme as a team to provide a maths rich environment. Who knew we would all become so excited about maths!

St Michaels Nursery





Follow our Eventbrite Page!

Dates for your diary- Events & CPD

We are delighted to share our new booking system!

Here you can book different networks, taking place across Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire, Conference's and online CPD, accessible at any time, via our Eventbrite page!

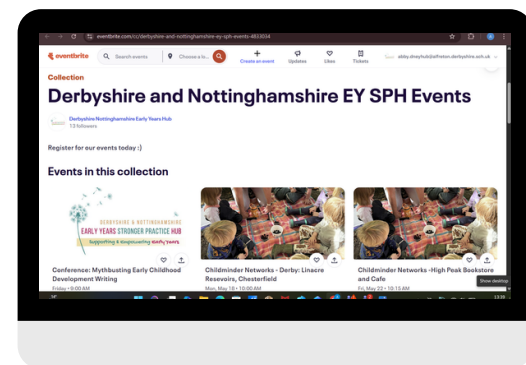


Would you like unlimited access to all Hub resources?



Acting as a one-stop-shop for all things Early Years- make the most of our resource bank! This is available to those registered with the Hub.

Follow our Eventbrite page by clicking [here](#).



DERBYSHIRE & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
EARLY YEARS STRONGER PRACTICE HUB
Supporting & Empowering Early Years

Work WITH THE HUB

Is there a particular area of your practice that you are most proud of?

Would you like to share this with others & generate some income for your setting?

We are looking to work with practitioners and settings to share best-practice, via open-days and the production of different resources.

These should be accessible for all early years educators with rich exemplification linked to evidence and practice. We aim to share a variety of resources, covering a multitude of topics, so that exceptional practice can be shared across the sector.

Working with the hub provides you with the opportunity to **showcase your setting**, expand on your good practice and **inspire others!**



[Guidance pack](#)



Key:



Childminders



PVI settings



School nursery settings

Free local offers to engage with....

EEF Research Projects

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is inviting early years settings to take part in funded research trials focused on improving language, self-regulation, and early maths skills. Programmes include professional development for nursery staff and targeted support for Reception pupils.

By taking part, settings can access free or subsidised programmes while contributing to evidence on effective early years practice. Search your setting to check eligibility and see which projects are available.



Education
Endowment
Foundation

Learn more by clicking [here](#).

DfE Early Years SENCO Level 3



Department
for Education

The Early Years SENCo Level 3 course equips practitioners to identify and support children with SEND, working with families to achieve the best outcomes. This fully funded, flexible 6-month online programme is designed for Level 3 practitioners and childminders, with expert tutor support. Learners gain practical skills in early identification and creating effective support plans using the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process.

Learn more by clicking [here](#).

NACE Experience Day – Alfreton Nursery School



Wednesday 10th June
2026



A Challenge Award Experience Day hosted by NACE offers schools the chance to explore a nursery's 'Challenge for All' approach through a presentation, tour and Q&A. Limited places are available, with the first 10 free — ideal for schools interested in inclusive, high-quality provision.

Learn more by clicking [here](#).



Key:



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settings

Free local offers to engage with....

Connecting national guidance with local delivery: Embedding the Home Learning Environment in Best Start Family Hubs



Thursday 7th May 2026
9.30am-10.50am

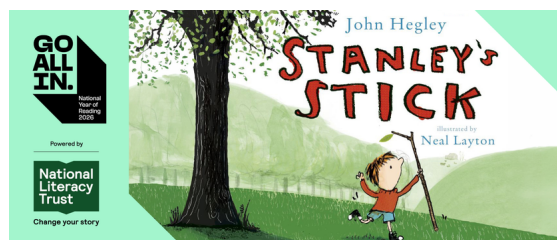


Join this webinar to explore how national guidance on the Home Learning Environment can be applied in local Best Start Family Hubs. It will highlight practical approaches, partnership working, and support available to strengthen early language and school readiness.

Learn more & register by clicking [here](#).

Where sticks become stories: A musical journey

Delivered by the National Literacy Trust as part of the National Year of Reading 2026, this interactive event brings Stanley's Stick to life through music and storytelling for Early Years and KS1 children. It's a fun way to spark imagination and support language development, with follow-up resources available for settings.



Learn more & register by clicking [here](#).

Nottingham Trent University: Early Years CPD Event



Thursday 12th May 2026
6pm-8pm



Nottingham Trent
University

Join the Early Years Apprenticeship Team to explore how the Solihull approach can support positive relationships, emotional development and confident everyday practice.

Learn more by clicking [here](#).