Connected Futures Early Years
Stronger Practice Hub

CPD Brochure

Autumn 2026 - Summer 2027



Growing possibilities. Transforming futures.

Professional learning shaped with the early years sector

Specialist input • Practice visits • Peer learning • Networks

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BEST START IN LIFE

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Welcome to the Connected Futures Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Who are we?

The Connected Futures Early Years Stronger Practice Hub is part of the national Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs programme. We're delighted to be starting this journey with early years professionals, settings, childminders, schools, Family Hubs, Local Authorities and wider partners across: **Barnet, Camden, City of London, Enfield, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster.**

We believe that great professional learning starts with listening to the people who know children and families best. By bringing people together, we can share what works, learn from one another and create opportunities to strengthen practice across our communities.

Led by **Dorothy Gardner Nursery School**, our Hub brings together early years settings, childminders, schools, Family Hubs and partners across seven local authority areas. Our programme connects evidence with everyday practice, helping colleagues learn with and from one another to improve experiences for babies, young children and their families. Settings help shape, test and share the offer, building on the expertise already present in our communities.

We want to create a space where early years professionals can connect, learn, share and grow together.

Our Hub will bring together the knowledge, experience and creativity already happening across our communities, while creating opportunities to explore evidence informed practice, develop professional learning and respond to the unique needs of children and families.

This isn't about a one size fits all approach. It's about recognising what already works, being curious about what could work better and learning together.

Our vision and values

Growing Possibilities Transforming Futures

We believe every child deserves the best possible start in life and every family deserves access to support, opportunity and hope. We connect people, practice and possibility so that practitioners feel confident, services work together and children and families experience inclusive, responsive support.

Our Hub grows early years expertise through collaboration, coaching, reflection and evidence-informed learning. We recognise the unique strengths and circumstances of every child, family, practitioner and community. Those working closest to children will help identify priorities and develop approaches that make a meaningful difference.

Respect

We start with people. We listen to children, families and practitioners, value their experience and build relationships based on trust, dignity and belonging. Families are partners in their children's learning.

Unique

We respond to individual strengths, needs and aspirations. Our learning and support will recognise different settings, communities and family circumstances, so colleagues can adapt ideas thoughtfully to their own context.

Grow

We create opportunities to develop knowledge, confidence and leadership. Through professional dialogue and reflection, practitioners can strengthen their expertise and keep improving children's everyday experiences.

Connected Futures

We bring early education, family support, health and community partners together around a shared purpose. By learning across settings and connecting people with the right expertise, we aim to make support easier to access and strengthen our communities.
Our work is guided by six delivery principles: evidence informed, responsive, collaborative, reflective, equitable and rooted in practice.

The difference we want to make

Our success isn't just about how many people we reach. It's about the connections we build, the learning we share and the positive changes we make together.

We want practitioners, settings and partners to feel supported, confident and inspired to strengthen their practice, creating better experiences and outcomes for children and families.



Reaching and including everyone

We want practitioners and providers across all seven local authority areas to feel represented, included and able to access opportunities that meet their needs. We'll listen to feedback, identify gaps in engagement and adapt our approach to make our offer as accessible as possible.



Turning learning into practice

It's not just about gaining new knowledge, but putting it into action. Through reflection, peer learning and shared experiences, we'll explore how practitioners are applying what they've learnt and making meaningful, lasting improvements.



Support that makes a difference

We want settings and childminders to know where to turn for advice and guidance. Our Stronger Practice Advisers will provide focused, practical support, helping colleagues identify priorities, explore solutions and take their next steps with confidence.



Stronger connections, better support

By working closely with Family Hubs, local authorities and wider partners, we aim to strengthen joined-up support for children and families. Together, we'll share expertise, respond to local priorities and help connect colleagues with the right services and opportunities.

Learning, growing and improving together

We want to build a community where good practice is shared, ideas are explored and everyone has something to contribute. Through setting visits, research and collaborative learning, we'll strengthen connections, celebrate what's working and use feedback to continually improve our offer and support lasting change.

Needs analysis and hub remit

Listening to our early years community is at the heart of what we do.

Our local needs analysis has highlighted a committed and experienced workforce, a shared enthusiasm for learning together and key priorities including communication and language, early mathematics, personal, social and emotional development (PSED), and inclusion.

Practitioners have also identified opportunities to strengthen everyday interactions, outdoor learning, practice with babies, transitions and home learning, alongside challenges such as increasing SEND complexity, staffing pressures and limited time for professional development.



Turning local priorities into opportunities

Our programme brings together specialist knowledge, opportunities to see practice in action, peer learning and reflection, helping practitioners make manageable changes that work for their children, families and settings.

We'll continue listening to our members, building on existing strengths and relationships, and adapting our offer to ensure professional learning remains practical, accessible and relevant, including for childminders.

How can I engage with the hub?

Sign up to become a hub member

Be part of our growing early years community.

Whether you're already connected with us or discovering the Hub for the first time, we'd love you to get involved.

From sharing effective practice and exchanging ideas to taking part in events and professional learning, there are lots of ways to connect, contribute and grow together.

Your voice matters, and we want to continue shaping our offer around the experiences, interests and priorities of our early years community.

Not yet registered?

Join the **Connected Futures Early Years Stronger Practice Hub** to stay up to date with upcoming opportunities, events and resources.

Register via this link: Connected Futures Early Years Stronger Practice Hub - Sign Up

Or scan the QR code below:

Connected Futures Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Read our newsletter

Catch up on the latest news, events, professional learning opportunities and inspiring practice from across our early years community.

Explore our newsletters here.

Or scan the QR code below:



Visit our website

Explore our programmes, browse upcoming events, discover resources and find opportunities to get involved.

Explore our website here.

Or scan the QR code below:



Follow us on social media

Follow us on LinkedIn and Instagram for updates, event highlights, shared practice and a glimpse into our growing early years community.

Follow us on LinkedIn here.

Or scan the QR code below:

Follow us on Instagram here.

Or scan the QR code below:

How can I engage with the hub?

Explore our hub offer



Booking Information

Navigating the brochure

Our brochure brings together a range of professional learning opportunities, events and resources designed to support early years practitioners, leaders, childminders and partners.

Explore the different sections to find opportunities that interest you. Each programme or event includes information about what to expect, who it's for and how to get involved.

How do I book?

Ready to take part? You can explore our upcoming events and access booking links through the **Connected Futures** events page.

View upcoming events here.

Alternatively, scan the QR codes below to access the events page.

bit.ly/CFEYSPH-Events

Please note that bookings are made through the individual event registration links (where you will be directed to Eventbrite), rather than directly on our website.

Making the most of your learning

Our ***Practice into Action*** modules follow a four-stage learning journey, bringing together online specialist input, opportunities to see practice in action, reciprocal peer visits and shared reflection.

Each stage builds on the last, helping you move beyond learning new ideas to applying, testing and embedding them in everyday practice.

We encourage you to take part in all four stages wherever possible. While this isn't mandatory, research into effective professional development highlights the importance of revisiting learning, applying new approaches and reflecting on their impact over time.

Taking part in the full journey gives you the best opportunity to build confidence, learn from colleagues and make meaningful, lasting improvements for children and families.

Anyone registered for a specialist input session will receive access to a recording for a limited time, even if they're unable to attend live. Recordings can be used for individual CPD, staff discussions or to support everyday practice.

Keep connecting, sharing and learning

Learning doesn't stop when a module ends! Our wider Hub offer provides regular opportunities to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas and continue developing your practice.

Through our **monthly** and **quarterly networks**, including the **Childminder Staffroom**, ***"Ask the..." Inclusion Network*** and **Leadership Community of Practice**, alongside **setting showcases** and other shared learning opportunities, you can explore new approaches, reflect on experiences and build lasting professional relationships.

We encourage you to make the most of these opportunities alongside your modules, helping you stay connected, build on your learning and continue strengthening practice over time.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a Hub member to attend?

We encourage everyone to become a Hub member to stay connected and make the most of our offer. Please check individual event details for any specific eligibility requirements.

Are events free to attend?

Our Hub-funded professional learning opportunities are free to eligible participants. Any specific requirements will be outlined in the event information.

Can I attend more than one event or programme?

Yes! You're welcome to explore different opportunities and register for those that are relevant to your interests and professional development needs, subject to availability and any programme requirements.

Will sessions be online or in person?

We offer a mixture of online sessions and in-person opportunities. Each event listing will confirm the format, location and timings.

What if I can no longer attend?

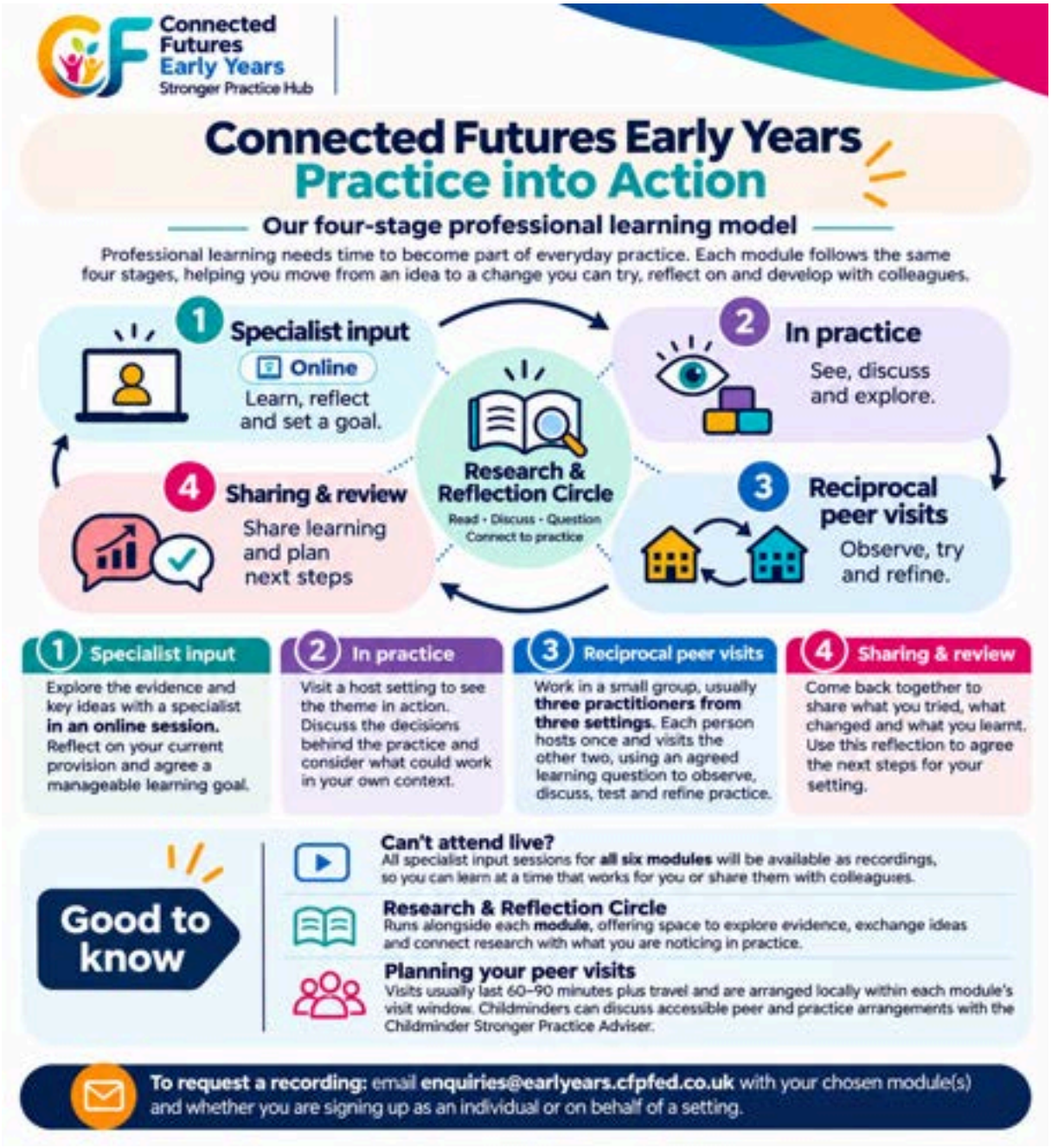
Please let us know as soon as possible so we can manage bookings and offer places to others where appropriate.

Who can I contact if I have a question?

Our team is happy to help. Email us at enquiries@earlyyears.cfpfed.co.uk.

‘Practice into Action’ Programme

Professional learning is most meaningful when it becomes part of everyday practice. Our four-stage programme brings together specialist input, opportunities to see practice in action, peer collaboration and reflection, helping practitioners turn evidence into meaningful change.



Learning through peer review

Connect, share and learn from one another.

Some of the best learning comes from seeing what others do and sharing our own experiences. Peer review gives practitioners the chance to visit other settings, explore different approaches and reflect together on ways to strengthen everyday practice.

Agree a shared focus

Before your visit, agree on something you'd like to explore together, linked to your module and the priorities of your setting.

Observe and explore

Come with an open mind and a willingness to learn. See practice in action, ask questions and exchange ideas through open, supportive conversations.

Reflect and take action

Think about what you've seen and discussed, what you might try in your own setting and the difference it could make. Share your experiences and reflections at the module's final review session.

Learning goes both ways

Everyone has something valuable to share, whatever their role or experience. These visits are about learning with and from each other, building confidence, sharing ideas and making connections that last beyond the module.

Research and Reflection Circle

Explore ideas, share experiences and connect research with everyday practice.

Our Research and Reflection Circle is a friendly, welcoming space to come together, explore new ideas and think about how research connects with what we do every day.

Each session links to one of our modules, giving practitioners and leaders the opportunity to discuss research, share experiences, ask questions and learn from different perspectives.

You don't need to be a research expert! Just bring your curiosity, your experiences and an openness to exploring ideas together.

See individual module pages for details of the linked sessions.

‘Practice into Action’ Programme

Module 1 - Everyday Learning and Curriculum

How do we make everyday experiences count?



Explore how an ambitious curriculum is lived through routines, relationships, play and purposeful interactions. We will consider what we want children to learn, how we build on what they already know and how thoughtful observation helps us respond. The module offers time to look closely at everyday provision and develop a shared understanding of learning across your team.

Your specialist - Jo O’Raw

Jo O’Raw is an early years teacher, leader and consultant with over 30 years’ experience. A former nursery headteacher, she supports teams through training, coaching and mentoring, with particular expertise in curriculum, teamwork, learning environments, play and outdoor learning.

Who it is for

Practitioners, leaders and childminders looking to strengthen their curriculum and make the most of everyday learning opportunities.

What you will take into practice

Identify a curriculum priority; strengthen everyday interactions; use observation to inform your next steps.

Your learning journey

Specialist input	Tuesday 12 January 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online *(Recording available for registered attendees)*
In practice	Tuesday 19 January 2027 | 4:00 - 5:30pm | Dorothy Gardner Nursery School
Reflection Circle	Wednesday 27 January 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online | Themes: Routines, relationships and everyday learning
Peer review visits	February 2027
Sharing and review	Thursday 4 March 2027 | 4:00 – 5.30pm | Online

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‘Practice into Action’ Programme

Module 2 - Environments for Play

What makes an environment invite rich play?



This practical and inspiring webinar will explore what really matters when creating indoor and outdoor learning environments that truly act as the third educator and encourage rich, deep, and challenging play. She will focus on environments that inspire curiosity, creativity, and concentration in play while also promoting early mathematics and literacy learning.

Kym is co-author of ‘The Place to Learn: Developing a Stimulating Learning Environment’. Drawing on her extensive experience supporting schools and early years settings across the world, she will share a wealth of photographs illustrating excellent practice, alongside practical ideas.

Your specialist - Kym Scott

Kym Scott supports schools, nurseries and local authorities across the UK and internationally. Her experience combines strategic leadership with time alongside practitioners and children, bringing a practical understanding of child development, play and evidence-informed provision.

Who it is for

Practitioners, leaders and childminders developing indoor or mixed-use spaces.

What you will take into practice

Review access and choice; consider the adult’s role; evaluate how one environmental change affects play.

Your learning journey

Specialist input	Tuesday 2 February 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online *(Recording available for registered attendees)*
In practice	Wednesday 10 February 2027 | 4:00 - 5:00pm | Tachbrook Nursery School
Reflection Circle	Wednesday 24 February 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online | Themes: Play, environments and adult involvement
Peer review visits	March 2027
Sharing and review	Thursday 22 April 2027 | 4:00 – 5.30pm | Online

‘Practice into Action’ Programme

Module 3 - Outdoor Communication and Language

How can outdoor play deepen talk and thinking?



Explore how outdoor environments create rich opportunities for children's communication and language development. Discover the benefits of outdoor learning, what developmentally appropriate provision looks like and how thoughtful environments and responsive adult interactions can encourage meaningful conversations. Reflect on ways to strengthen your own outdoor practice.

Your specialist - Dr Helen Bilton

Dr Helen Bilton is an internationally recognised outdoor learning specialist, author and adviser. A National Teaching Fellow, she brings research and practice together, taking a holistic approach to outdoor learning, from physical development and planning to the role of the adult.

Who it is for

Practitioners, leaders and childminders looking to develop children’s communication and language through outdoor learning.

What you will take into practice

Ideas to enhance your outdoor environment; strategies for supporting speaking and listening through adult interactions; tools to review and strengthen your outdoor provision and practice.

Your learning journey

Specialist input	Monday 1st March 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online *(Recording available for registered attendees)*
In practice	Wednesday 10 March 2027 | 4:00 - 5:00pm | Tachbrook Nursery School
Reflection Circle	Wednesday 17 March 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online | Themes: Developing language and responsive interactions outdoors
Peer review visits	Mid-April – Mid-May 2027
Sharing and review	Thursday 10 June 2027 | 4:00 – 5:30pm | Online

‘Practice into Action’ Programme

Module 4 - Inclusion and Belonging

How do we ensure every child can participate?



Inclusion starts with a genuine welcome and a commitment to build and strengthen every child’s sense of belonging, by being understood, valued, and celebrated for who they are. This session will take a close look at why ‘a sense of belonging’ is so central to inclusive practice. It will reflect on how having a deeper understanding of individual children’s experiences and how they have shaped their early development can support all practitioners to be more confident in making a difference as part of whole setting inclusive practice.

Your specialist - Julie Revels

Julie Revels is an Early Education associate, independent consultant, speaker and trainer specialising in early child development. Her work includes Five to Thrive and My Babies Brain training, professional learning for Stronger Practice Hubs, and support relating to Best Start in Life and SEND reforms.

Who it is for

Practitioners, leaders and childminders looking to strengthen inclusive practice and ensure every child feels welcomed, valued and supported to develop a strong sense of belonging.

What you will take into practice

A deeper understanding of how children’s early experiences shape their development; practical ways to foster belonging and participation; strategies to strengthen inclusive practice.

Your learning journey

Specialist input	Tuesday 20 April 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online *(Recording available for registered attendees)*
In practice	Thursday 29 April 2027 | Time TBC | Venue TBC
Reflection Circle	Wednesday 5 May 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online | Themes: Inclusion, belonging, and participation
Peer review visits	Mid-May - Mid-June 2027
Sharing and review	Thursday 24 June 2027 | 4:00 – 5:30pm | Online

‘Practice into Action’ Programme

Module 5 - Responsive Baby Practice

What does sensitive care look like throughout the day?



Are you working with babies? This webinar will shine a light on the incredible development and learning that goes on in the first year of life, providing the foundations for later learning and development. It will focus on the role all practitioners have in shaping early brain development through their relationships and interactions with babies they care for.

The session will be informed by the work of Harvard Centre on The Developing Child, The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood and most recent research and findings of the Babyroom research project.

Your specialist - Julie Revels

Julie Revels is an Early Education associate, independent consultant, speaker and trainer specialising in early child development. Her work includes Five to Thrive and My Babies Brain training, professional learning for Stronger Practice Hubs, and support relating to Best Start in Life and SEND reforms.

Who it is for

Baby-room practitioners and leaders, and childminders caring for babies.

What you will take into practice

Reflect on babies’ cues; strengthen responsive routines; review the quality of everyday interactions.

Your learning journey

Specialist input	Tuesday 4 May 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online *(Recording available for registered attendees)*
In practice	Tuesday 11 May 2027 | 4:00 - 5:30pm | Dorothy Gardner Nursery School
Reflection Circle	Wednesday 19 May 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online | Themes: Babies, positive attachments, responsive care
Peer visits	June 2027
Sharing and review	Thursday 8 July 2027 | 4:00 – 5.30pm | Online

‘Practice into Action’ Programme

Module 6 - Families and Home Learning

How do we build meaningful partnerships with families?



Explore how trusting relationships with families support children’s learning, wellbeing and continuity between home and setting. We will consider how to listen to family knowledge, value home languages and share ideas that are manageable and meaningful. The module offers space to reflect on communication, transitions and the ways every family can feel included in their child’s learning.

Your specialist - Jo O’Raw

Jo O’Raw is an early years teacher, leader and consultant with over 30 years’ experience. A former nursery headteacher, she supports teams through training, coaching and mentoring, with particular expertise in curriculum, teamwork, learning environments, play and outdoor learning.

Who it is for

Practitioners, leaders and childminders working in partnership with families.

What you will take into practice

Build on family knowledge; review home-learning communication; strengthen continuity through transitions.

Your learning journey

Specialist input	Tuesday 8 June 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online *(Recording available for registered attendees)*
In practice	Tuesday 15 June 2027 | Time TBC | Venue TBC
Reflection Circle	Wednesday 23 June 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online | Themes: Family knowledge, home languages and transitions
Peer review visits	End of June – Mid-July 2027
Sharing and review	Thursday 15th July 2027 | 4:00 – 5.30pm | Online

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Leadership in the Early Years

Community of Practice - Leadership

A safe, collaborative space for early years leaders to connect, reflect and learn together. Starting with the questions, ***"What is leadership?"*** and **"What makes leadership effective?"**, we will explore how leadership supports change.

Bring a question, experience or challenge from your setting - these will help inform and shape the sessions. Together we will explore different perspectives, reflect on the evidence and take one idea into practice, returning to share what we have learnt. Trust, respect, listening and supportive challenge will shape the group, with agreed confidentiality and every voice valued.



Who it is for

Leaders across early years settings and childminding, including those developing their leadership role.

What you will take into practice

Greater confidence in your leadership role; opportunities to build relationships, network and collaborate with other early years leaders; shared learning and practical ideas to address challenges, strengthen practice and support positive change in your setting

Session 1	Friday 15 January 2027 | 10–11am | Online
Session 2	Friday 5 March 2027 | 10–11am | Online
Session 3	Friday 16 April 2027 | 10–11am | Online
Session 4	Friday 21 May 2027 | 10–11am | Online
Session 5	Friday 2 July 2027 | 10–11am | Online

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Childminders

Childminder Staffroom

A welcoming and supportive space for childminders to meet colleagues who understand the rewards and realities of working independently. Co-hosted with Sarah, our hub's Childminder Early Years Stronger Practice Advisor, our quarterly **Childminder Staff Room** sessions will explore everyday practice, offer peer support and help shape an accessible Hub offer. Bring a question, experience or challenge from your setting - these will help inform and shape the sessions. Meetings will initially be taking place online and will alternate between Saturdays morning and Tuesday evenings.

Network Schedule

Session 1 - Launch and listening event	Saturday 21 November 2026 | 10.15–11:15am | Online
Session 2	Tuesday 9 February 2027 | 7–8.15pm | Online
Session 3	Saturday 15 May 2027 | 10.15–11:15am | Online
Session 4	Tuesday 6 July 2027 | 7–8.15pm | Online



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Childminders

Developing our hub offer for childminders

At Connected Futures EYSPH, our aim is to develop and expand the support we offer to childminders, with more opportunities to connect, share practice and access high-quality professional learning – both online and in person. We would love to hear directly from childminders about what would make our wider offer useful, relevant and accessible. We would love to hear your views on:

Support: What types of support, advice and opportunities would you find most valuable?

Current provision: What support do you already access through your local authority and other organisations?

Sharing best practice: What experiences, ideas or approaches would you be interested in sharing through a blog, case study, showcase or networking event?

Gaps and priorities: What support is currently missing, and what are your key priorities for the year ahead?

CPD and professional learning: What topics, training and development opportunities would you like access to?

How we connect: What would work best for you – online sessions, in-person events, networking opportunities, resources or something else?

Get in touch and have your say - we would love to hear from you! Complete our **'Connected Futures Early Years Stronger Practice Hub: Strengths and Needs Analysis'** form to help us better understand your strengths, current challenges, goals and needs.

You can access the form here or scan the QR code below:

Alternatively, you can:

Drop us an email: enquiries@earlyyears.cfpfed.co.uk
Give us a call: 020 3329 0201 (Essendine Primary School Office)

Childminders

Early Years Stronger Practice Advisers (EYSPA) Programme - Bespoke Support for Childminders



SEN and Inclusion

"Ask the..." Inclusion Network

A series of monthly Q&A drop-in sessions with inclusion & SEND specialists

Our **"Ask the..." Inclusion Network** offers a practical space to ask questions, build confidence and explore how we help every child participate. We will be joined each session by a different inclusion or SEND specialist to discuss a focused area and respond to questions from early years colleagues. The aim is to use these shared discussions to consider practical strategies and resources, next steps and appropriate signposting. The proposed rotating line-up includes **SENCOs, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and educational psychologists**. Specialists and themes will be confirmed as the series develops, informed by the questions and needs of settings and childminders.

How can I get involved?

- Tell us which SEN and inclusion specialists you would like to hear from
- Submit a question in advance for one of our upcoming drop-insessions to enquiries@earlyyears.cfpfed.co.uk. Please keep questions anonymous and avoid sharing identifiable information about children or families.
- Book your place to attend one of the drop-in sessions and hear the specialist answer questions on their area of expertise

Network Schedule

Introduction to the "Ask the..." series	Friday 20 November 2026 | 1:00 – 1:30pm | Online
Session 1	Thursday 3 December 2026 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online
Session 2	Tuesday 12 January 2027 | 10-11:00am | Online
Session 3	Thursday 11 February 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online
Session 4	Tuesday 9 March 2027| 10-11:00am | Online
Session 5	Thursday 15 April 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online
Session 6	Tuesday 11 May 2027 | 10-11:00am | Online
Session 7	Thursday 17 June 2027 | 4:00 – 5:00pm | Online
Session 8	Tuesday 6 July 2027 | 10-11:00am | Online

Sharing effective practice in the early years

Showcases at our hub partner settings (in-person)



Some of the most valuable learning comes from seeing what others do and sharing ideas together. Our **in-person setting showcases** offer opportunities to step inside early years environments, see effective practice in action and hear directly from the practitioners and leaders behind it.

From **exploring learning environments** and **everyday interactions** to **understanding the thinking behind different approaches**, these visits are a chance to ask questions, share experiences and take away ideas that could work in your own setting.

We're keen to celebrate and share the wealth of expertise across all seven of our local authority areas. Every setting has something valuable to contribute, and we'd love to hear from practitioners, childminders and leaders who are interested in opening their doors, sharing their experiences or showcasing an aspect of their practice.

From inspiration to action

Seeing practice in action is just the beginning. We encourage practitioners to reflect on what they've observed, consider how ideas might work in their own context and explore opportunities to build on their learning through our *Practice into Action* modules, peer visits and wider Hub networks.

Interested in sharing your practice?

We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch at enquiries@earlyyears.cfpfed.co.uk to explore opportunities to contribute to a future showcase.

Explore our upcoming showcases

Discover our confirmed setting visits, find out what each showcase will explore and book your place through our events page.

View upcoming events and showcases

Or scan the QR code below:

Children and Family Hubs

Community of Practice - Family Hub and Stay and Play

What's working in your drop-in? What are you trying next? The **Family Hub and Stay and Play Community of Practice** brings together anyone who plans, leads or supports drop-ins for young children and their families. It's a welcoming space to share what's working, learn from each other and talk through the challenges we face in our day-to-day practice.

We'll share practical ideas and resources, demonstrate new activities and approaches, and explore what **Best Start in Life (BSiL)** developments mean for our sessions and the families who attend them. It's also a chance to build relationships across Family Hubs and Stay and Play providers, visit each other's sessions and see where we can work together.

Members will shape what we focus on - you might bring a question, share an activity that families have enjoyed, or ask others for feedback on an idea you're developing. Together, we'll decide which topics to explore, what we'd like to see in practice and what we can take back to our own drop-ins.

*Led by **Lyndsy Killip, Strategic Lead of Queen's Park Family Hub** and **Connected Futures Early Years Stronger Practice Hub.***

Who it is for

Anyone who **plans, leads or helps deliver Stay and Play sessions or other drop-ins for babies, young children and their families.** This includes: Family Hub and children's centre teams, early years practitioners, community and voluntary sector providers, and volunteers who support sessions.

Whether you're new to running drop-ins or have been doing it for years, you're welcome to bring a question, share an idea or show others something that's working well with families..

Session 1	Wednesday 13 January 2027 | 3:30–4:30pm | Online
Session 2	Wednesday 24 March 2027 | 3:30–4:30pm | Online
Session 3	Wednesday 26 May 2027 | 3:30–4:30pm | Online
Session 4	Wednesday 14 July 2027 | 3:30–4:30pm | Online

bit.ly/CFEYSPH-Events

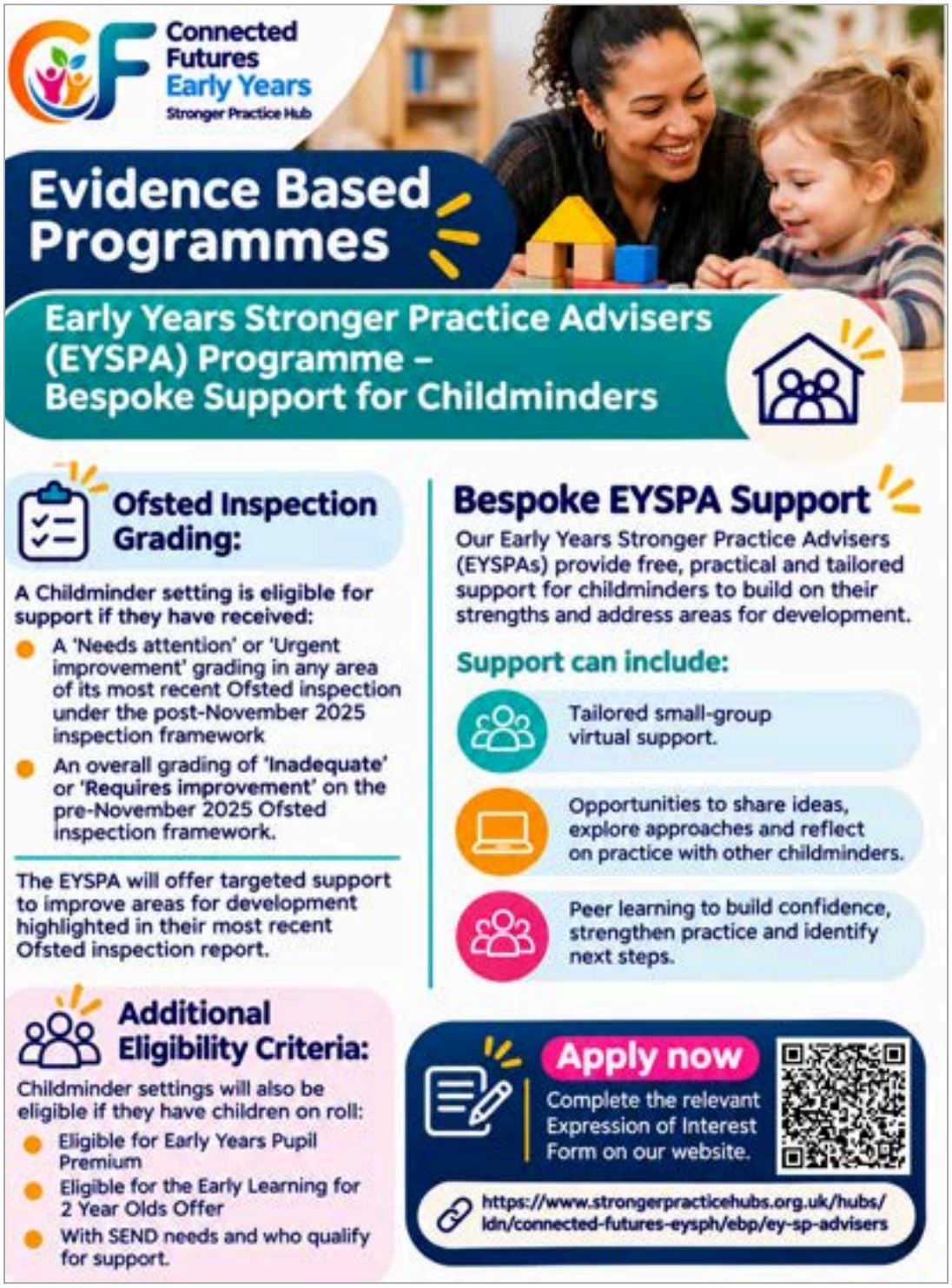
Evidence Based Programmes

Early Years Stronger Practice Advisers (EYSPA) Programme - Group-based Settings



Evidence Based Programmes

Early Years Stronger Practice Advisers (EYSPA) Programme - Bespoke Support for Childminders



Evidence Based Programmes

Early Years Learning Leads (EYLL) Programme -

Subject-specific (PSED, early language, and early maths) CPD and bespoke support



Visit our website here for more information and to apply.

Full CPD Calendar

November 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location
Fri 20 Nov	**Introduction to the "Ask the…" series**	1:00–1:30pm	Online
Sat 21 Nov	**Childminder Staffroom – Session 1: Launch and listening event**	10:15–11:15am	Online
Mon 23 Nov	**Information session - EYSPA and EYLL**	10:00 - 10:45am	Online
Tues 24 Nov	**Setting Showcase - Dorothy Gardner and Mary Paterson**	4.00–5.30pm	In person – setting visit
Thurs 26 Nov	**Information session - EYSPA and EYLL**	4:00 - 4:30pm	Online

December 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location
Wed 2 Dec	**Setting Showcase - Tachbrook**	4:00–5:00pm	In person – setting visit
Thu 3 Dec	**Ask the… Inclusion Network – Session 1**	4:00–5:00pm	Online

January 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
Tues 12 Jan	**Ask the… Inclusion Network – Session 2**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Tues 12 Jan	**Module 1: Specialist input – Everyday Learning and Curriculum,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online

January 2027 (Continued)

Date	Event	Time	Location
Wed 13 Jan	**Family Hub and Stay and Play Community of Practice – Session 1**	3:30 - 4:30pm	Online
Fri 15 Jan	**Leadership Community of Practice – Session 1**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Tues 19 Jan	**Module 1: In practice at Dorothy Gardner - Everyday Learning and Curriculum,** Practice into Action Programme	4.00–5.30pm	In person – setting visit
Wed 27 Jan	**Module 1: Reflection Circle – Everyday Learning and Curriculum,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online

February 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
All month	**Module 1: Peer Review Visits - Everyday Learning and Curriculum,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings
Tues 2 Feb	**Module 2: Specialist input – Environments for Play,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Tues 9 Feb	**Childminder Staffroom – Session 2**	7:00–8:15pm	Online
Wed 10 Feb	**Module 2: In practice at Tachbrook - Environments for Play,** Practice into Action Programme	4.00–5.00pm	In person – setting visit
Thurs 11 Feb	**Ask the... Inclusion Network – Session 3**	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Wed 24 Feb	**Module 2: Reflection Circle – Environments for Play,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online

March 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
All month	**Module 2: Peer Review Visits - Environments for Play,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings
Mon 1 March	**Module 3: Specialist input – Outdoor Communication and Language,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Thurs 4 March	**Module 1: Sharing and Review - Everyday Learning and Curriculum,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00 - 5:30pm	Online
Fri 5 March	**Leadership Community of Practice – Session 2**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Tues 9 March	**Ask the... Inclusion Network – Session 4**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Wed 10 March	**Module 3: In practice at Tachbrook - Outdoor Communication and Language,** Practice into Action Programme	4.00–5.00pm	In person – setting visit
Wed 17 March	**Module 3: Reflection Circle – Outdoor Communication and Language,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Wed 24 March	**Family Hub and Stay and Play Community of Practice – Session 2**	3:30 - 4:30pm	Online

April 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location
Mid-April - End of April	**Module 3: Peer Review Visits - Outdoor Communication and Language,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings

April 2026 (continued)

Date	Event	Time	Location
Thurs 15 April	**Ask the... Inclusion Network – Session 5**	4.00–5.00pm	Online
Fri 16 April	**Leadership Community of Practice – Session 3**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Tues 20 April	**Module 4: Specialist input – Inclusion and Belonging,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Thurs 22 April	**Module 2: Sharing and Review - Environments for Play,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00 - 5:30pm	Online
Thurs 29 April	**Module 4: In practice at location TBC - Inclusion and Belonging,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	In person – setting visit

May 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
Start of May - Mid-May	**Module 3: Peer Review Visits - Outdoor Communication and Language,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings
Tues 4 May	**Module 5: Specialist input – Responsive Baby Practice,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Wed 5 May	**Module 4: Reflection Circle – Inclusion and Belonging,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Tues 11 May	**Ask the... Inclusion Network – Session 6**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Tues 11 May	**Module 5: In practice at Dorothy Gardner - Responsive Baby Practice,** Practice into Action Programme	4.00–5.30pm	In person – setting visit

May 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sat 15 May	**Childminder Staffroom – Session 3**	10:15–11:15am	Online
Mid-May - End of May	**Module 4: Peer Review Visits - Inclusion and Belonging,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings
Wed 19 May	**Module 5: Reflection Circle – Responsive Baby Practice,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Fri 21 May	**Leadership Community of Practice – Session 4**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Wed 26 May	**Family Hub and Stay and Play Community of Practice – Session 3**	3:30 - 4:30pm	Online

June 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
Start of June - Mid-June	**Module 4: Peer Review Visits - Inclusion and Belonging,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings
All month	**Module 5: Peer Review Visits - Responsive Baby Practice,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings
Tues 8 June	**Module 6: Specialist input – Families and Home Learning,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Thurs 10 June	**Module 3: Sharing and Review - Outdoor Communication and Language,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00 - 5:30pm	Online

June 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
Tues 15 June	**Module 6: In practice at location TBC - Families and Home Learning,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	In person – setting visit
Thurs 17 June	**Ask the... Inclusion Network – Session 7**	4.00–5.00pm	Online
Wed 23 June	**Module 6: Reflection Circle – Families and Home Learning,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00–5:00pm	Online
Thurs 24 June	**Module 4: Sharing and Review - Inclusion and Belonging,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00 - 5:30pm	Online
End of June	**Module 6: Peer Review Visits - Families and Home Learning,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings

July 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
Start of July - Mid-July	**Module 6: Peer Review Visits - Families and Home Learning,** Practice into Action Programme	TBC	Visits between participating settings
Fri 2 July	**Leadership Community of Practice – Session 5**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Tues 6 July	**Ask the... Inclusion Network – Session 8**	10:00 - 11:00am	Online
Tues 6 July	**Childminder Staffroom – Session 4**	7:00–8:15pm	Online

July 2027

Date	Event	Time	Location
Thurs 8 July	**Module 5: Sharing and Review - Responsive Baby Practice,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00 - 5:30pm	Online
Wed 14 July	**Family Hub and Stay and Play Community of Practice – Session 4**	3:30 - 4:30pm	Online
Thurs 15 July	**Module 6: Sharing and Review - Families and Home Learning,** Practice into Action Programme	4:00 - 5:30pm	Online

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