

Early Years Connections

North

Professional Development

Edition Two - July 2023

Welcome to the Early Education and Childcare Advisory Services' latest newsletter, bringing together local and national early years professional development opportunities for providers in North Northants.

[Contents](#)

Early Years SEND Forums in North Northamptonshire: September 2023	2
Northamptonshire Baby Room Project - practitioners course	3
East Midlands Stronger Practice Hub	4
Early years child development training via the Department for Education	4
Apply for the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)	5
Apply for the childminder mentor programme by 31 July	5
Early Years SENCO Level 3 via the Best Practice Network.....	5
Early years education recovery programme: Professional development programme phase 3 via Education Development Trust.....	6
Apprenticeships – how to get the staff and skills you need... fast!.....	7
Difference between Parental Conflict and Domestic Abuse webinars	8
Focus on well-being from National Day Nurseries Association	8
North Northamptonshire key contacts for early years providers	10



North
Northamptonshire
Council

Early Years SEND Forums in North Northamptonshire: September 2023

Thank you so much to those of you who joined our inaugural Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Forums online in May, sharing some of the latest developments in SEND across North Northamptonshire.

The first session focused on the new SENIF Plus funding and provided updates on SEND training and development opportunities available for early years providers.

These forums will be held half termly, and the next sessions will be in September 2023.

Monday 18 September: 4pm to 5pm over Teams - Wellingborough and East Northants

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nnc-early-years-send-forum-wellingborough-and-east-northants-tickets-675341694187?aff=oddtcreator>

Tuesday 19 September: 4pm to 5pm over Teams - Corby and Kettering

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nnc-early-years-send-forum-corby-and-kettering-tickets-675349617887>

Tuesday 19 Sept: 6:30 to 7:30pm over Teams - Childminders

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nnc-early-years-send-forum-child-minders-tickets-675356598767>

If you are not able to join your own locality event, please join another group.

The September sessions will provide further information to support settings in applying for SENIF Plus funding through a Q&A session and some early case studies. You are invited to send in any questions, and specifically questions on SENIF Plus to pamela.hobart@northnorthants.gov.uk. This may include queries about applying for SENIF Plus funding, or if you can provide some early case studies, then we can share this information with the Forum. These will be anonymised, so please feel free to ask about anything SEND for Early Years you would like clarification on.

We will also have an update from the Early Years Stronger Practice Hub based at Pen Green in Corby and a discussion on how we can best support children with SEND in their transition to school, in preparation for the new academic year.

The sessions are held by locality, to hopefully serve the needs of each community as effectively as possible. Please do not worry if you can only make the session for a different locality from your own. Everyone is welcome. (Please pass on these details to other local early years colleagues who may be interested in joining us).

Also, look out for the latest edition of our Early Years SEND Newsletter which will be coming soon.

Thank you and hope to see you in September.

Paula Stafford

Early Years SEND Forum Lead

Northamptonshire Baby Room Project - practitioners course

The practitioner course is run by Educational Psychologists and comprises of three half day sessions, each a month apart fostering reflective practice.

Session one: Babies' Brain Development

By being knowledgeable about early development and learning, practitioners can be alert to the importance of paying close attention to the potential of individual babies. Learn how every experience shapes the brain and the brain adapts to the environment it finds itself in.

Session two: Babies' Emotional Development

By being aware of emotional needs, practitioners can respond with sensitivity to babies and support them with loving and meaningful interactions. Understanding how crying is a baby's way of letting you know they are here and need you.

Session three: Babies' Playing and Laughing

By being in tune with individual babies, practitioners can recognise the huge impact early experiences have on holistic development. Learn that playing is learning. Laughing relieves stress. Singing releases 'feel good' chemicals in our brains. It's ok to be playful at work!

Each session combines quizzes, DVDs, group discussion, a baby's journey and making easy resources.

To complete your booking and payment, please follow the link below.

[Northamptonshire Baby Room Project - Practitioners course Tickets, Tue 12 Sep 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite.](#)

Dates	Session	Time	Venue	Cost
Tuesday 12 September 2023	1	10am-12:30pm	Moulton Community Centre, Sandy Hill, Reedings, Northampton, NN3 7AX	£165 per delegate
Tuesday 10 October 2023	2			
Tuesday 7 November 2023	3			

This course is for practitioners who work within nurseries, childminding, or other early years settings only, at the moment we are only offering the training to settings within North and West Northamptonshire. For any queries or support please email northantsbabyroom.ncc@westnorthants.gov.uk.



East Midlands Stronger Practice Hub

Stronger Practice Hubs support early years settings and childminders to improve outcomes for children in their local area across the Early years foundation stage, but specifically focusing on areas of development that research informs us have been most impacted by COVID-19: personal social and emotional development (PSED); communication and language, and early literacy and maths.

The East Midlands Stronger Practice Hub have recently developed resources based on supporting maths in the early years with the use of schema theory. The latest blog will introduce Schemas and Maths, strengthening an understanding of Schemas and Maths in early years and the ways in which they present themselves. Featuring current examples from practice, these resources will help you to support and plan for the children in your early years setting. Read more at [East Midlands Stronger Practice Hub Newsletter \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://campaign-archive.com).

For further information, please visit [Stronger Practice Hub | Pen Green Children's Centre](#). Here you can access their newsletters, blogs and case studies and read more about the training on offer.

Early years child development training via the Department for Education

The Department for Education have added a new module on 'Supporting physical development in the early years' to the [Early Years Child Development training](#).

This module covers:

- the typical stages of physical development in the early years
- potential factors that can affect physical development
- how physical skills impact on learning, development, and behaviour
- the importance of curriculum, environment, and relationships for promoting physical development

To start this module, you will need to complete the first 3 modules of the training. Once you have completed these modules, Module 5: Supporting physical development in the early years will show as available on the [My modules page](#). You will also be able to access Module 4: Supporting language development in the early years.

This flexible online training:

- provides a greater understanding of child development
- gives practical advice for supporting children in early years settings
- reinforces understanding through videos, learning check questions and end of module tests
- allows users to pause and restart the training at any time

- offers the chance to download certificates of achievement for each module

If you need any help, please contact child-development.training@education.gov.uk.

Apply for the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)

The Department for Education are looking for candidates to start the NPQEYL this October. Read this blog [National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership \(NPQEYL\): is it for you? - Foundation Years](#) to learn about three leaders' experiences of the NPQEYL and how it could benefit you.

The NPQEYL is free, flexible, and designed by sector experts to help leaders and aspiring leaders across the early years sector develop their career. It trains leaders to support children impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as helping them to lead effectively through:

- creating and implementing a vision and policies
- improving staff recruitment, development, management, and appraisal
- marketing your setting
- working in partnership with parents and carers

Find out more at [Early years leadership NPQ \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.education.gov.uk/early-years-leadership-npq).

Apply for the childminder mentor programme by 31 July

Applications for childminders to request support from the Department for Education's childminder mentor programme for the Autumn term are now open, until Monday 31 July 2023. This support is free and available across the country.

The childminder mentor programme offers bespoke support to childminders across England. Experienced early years professionals will support childminders to help children recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes narrowing the gap between disadvantaged children and others. Trained early years professionals will provide support to childminders in the roles of area lead and mentor.

Find out more and apply for [Support for Childminders \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://www.campaign-archive.com).

Early Years SENCO Level 3 via the Best Practice Network

The [Early Years SENCO - Level 3 via the Best Practice Network](#) qualification is for a level 3 practitioner in a private, voluntary, or independent setting. It is also appropriate for Ofsted-registered childminders. This is an important role to ensure the best possible educational outcomes are achieved for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

All early years providers are required to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with SEN (Special Educational Needs) or disabilities and to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care, as set out in the [Early years foundation stage](#) (EYFS). The qualification is designed to meet the requirements of the EYFS Framework and provide Early Years SENCOs and aspiring Early Years SENCOs with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to perform the role effectively. The programme is accredited and funded by the Department for Education (DfE). Training will be delivered to cohorts of trainees between October 2022 and August 2024. Each cohort will run for four months.

As a part of the DfE Education Recovery Package, Best Practice Network has been allocated 5000 funded places. These places will be prioritised in line with DfE's guidance of the greatest need and impact. You can register online for the next intake. Training places are prioritised to settings that meet one or more of these criteria:

- provide to at least one child with an Education and Health Care Plan or Disability Access Fund indicator
- provide to at least one child in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium
- provide to at least one disadvantaged two-year-old

Early years education recovery programme: Professional development programme phase 3 via Education Development Trust

The Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP) is an exciting opportunity for early years practitioners to improve their understanding and skills in supporting the development of the most disadvantaged children between the ages of 2 and 4.

Funded by the Department for Education in England and delivered by Education Development Trust, the EYPDP is a tailored professional development programme and forms part of the government's Early Years Education Recovery Plan which aims to address the continued effects of the pandemic on young children.

EYPDP is available to practitioners nationally, targeted at reaching disadvantaged children. EYPDP is designed to support practitioners qualified to at least a level 3 and who are currently working with 2–4-year-olds.

Eligibility for the programme:

Pre-reception practitioners and childminders from schools and private, voluntary, and independent settings (PVI's) who offer childcare to children between 2 and 4 years are eligible, with priority given to applications from settings that meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Provide to at least one child with an Education, Health and Care Plan or Disability Access Fund indicator
- Provide to at least one child in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

- Provide to at least one child taking up the disadvantaged two-year-old

The training is available to eligible practitioners, and we are recruiting for the next cohort due to start in September 2023. This programme is free to access. Support with backfill costs will be made available to settings to help complete the training.

For more information and to check eligibility visit: [Early Years Professional Development Programme – Currently registering interest for September 2023 starts \(earlyyearsdpdp.com\)](https://earlyyearsdpdp.com).

Please note practitioners who have already completed a previous version of the Early Years Professional Development Programme delivered by Education Development Trust will not be eligible to apply.

Apprenticeships – how to get the staff and skills you need... fast!

There are two types of Early Years Apprenticeships.

- 1) Apprenticeships for somebody who is recruited for your early years setting
- 2) Apprenticeships for staff and managers who are part of your existing workforce

That means apprenticeships can be used in two totally different ways.

- 1) As a fast and free recruitment service to help you attract talented local people to your setting
- 2) A way of giving your existing team the skills they need to take on more responsibility, develop new skills or work more independently

CT Skills is working with North Northamptonshire Council to offer early years settings in the region the following qualifications:

- Early Years Practitioner Level 2 – for people who work and interact with children daily who support the delivery of play and educational activities
- Early Years Educator Level 3 – for people who want to become highly trained professionals who play a key role in helping children learn and develop and are kept healthy and safe
- Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5 – for people who skilfully lead the day-to-day activities of the setting including the line management of other people, adapting the service to meet the individual needs of all children, and reporting to the head of setting.

Please do not hesitate to contact CT Skills if you think any of the services below will help you or your early years setting:

- fast recruitment of apprentices (fully funded by the Department for Education)
- starting an apprenticeship yourself to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of Early Years best practice (funded through the Apprenticeship Levy)
- enrolling some of your team members onto an apprenticeship (funded through the Apprenticeship Levy)

If you need apprenticeship advice and support to make the best decisions around recruiting apprentices or upskilling your team, refer to [CT Skills | Home | Apprenticeships and Career Skills](#) for contact information.

Ross Braker – CT Skills

Difference between Parental Conflict and Domestic Abuse webinars

This is a quarterly webinar to help East Midlands professionals explore the difference between domestic abuse and parental conflict. It is open to any East Midlands professional that works with children, young people, or families. Capacity is 480 per session so it is freely available for as many practitioners as possible. These are a repeat session, so if previously attended, there is no need to register again.

Practitioners say they want to support families in relation to parental conflict but say sometimes they are reluctant to do so as they worry about misinterpreting a family's situation, fear they may make a situation worse though 'inadvertent collusion with a perpetrator of abuse.' Attendees will explore the language used to describe both parental conflict and domestic abuse, the critical difference between the two concerns, why and how they look different from an affected person's perspective and what destructive and constructive conflict looks like. This webinar will include conversations around coercive control and attendees will gain a better understanding of what this looks like and how it feels to be a victim/survivor. This webinar will also explore what practitioners should do with their concerns.

Tuesday 1 August 2023 at 9.15am (90m)

[EM RPC / The differences between domestic abuse and parental conflict Registration, Tue 1 Aug 2023 at 09:15 | Eventbrite.](#)

Monday 6 November 2023 at 2.30pm (90m)

[EM RPC / The differences between domestic abuse and parental conflict Registration, Mon 6 Nov 2023 at 14:30 | Eventbrite.](#)

Thursday 8 February 2024 at 12.00pm (90m)

[EM RPC / The differences between domestic abuse and parental conflict Registration, Thu 8 Feb 2024 at 12:00 | Eventbrite.](#)

Presented by Emily Nickson-Williams, Amity Relationship Solutions.

Focus on well-being from National Day Nurseries Association

Increasing levels of well-being in the first five years of a child's life is key to their future mental health. The National Day Nurseries Association have created a range of free well-being resources that early years practitioners can read, download, and use at their settings for the benefit of their children.



Visit the [Children's well-being and staff well-being resources from NDNA - NDNA](#) to access:

- free children's well-being policy template
- free factsheet with top tips on supporting children's emotional well-being
- free well-being training course
- free children's well-being guide e-book



North Northamptonshire key contacts for early years providers

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP)

The NSCP offers 25 e-learning courses through the Virtual College. These range from introductory and refresher courses to specific subject areas including CSE, FGM, Domestic Abuse and many more.

Website: [Training for Early Years and Childcare Professionals - Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board \(northamptonshirescb.org.uk\)](https://northamptonshirescb.org.uk)

Email: NSCP@northnorthants.gov.uk

Northamptonshire Inclusion Mentoring Partnership (NIMP)

Northamptonshire Inclusion Mentoring Partnership (NIMP) has been set up to support SENDco practitioners across Northamptonshire. Headed up by a committee of experienced SENDco childcare professionals, they aim to facilitate mentoring relationships across a network of practitioners that you and your team can access to achieve the levels of quality and care we all strive for every day.

Email: abigail@littlefishes.org.uk

Website: [Northamptonshire Inclusion Mentoring Partnership | A network of SENDco Practitioners across Northamptonshire \(nimp.org.uk\)](https://nimp.org.uk)

Social media: [Northamptonshire Inclusion Mentoring Partnership \(NIMP\) | Facebook](#)

Northamptonshire Early Years Partnership (NEYP)

The Northamptonshire Early Years Partnership (NEYP) has been set up in partnership with West and North Northamptonshire Council. The group is made up of Childminders, PVI managers, Maintained Nursery Schools, and other early years professionals within the local authority from the Early Education and Childcare Advisory Service, School Effectiveness Team, and Specialist Support Service. This sector led group aim to offer training, networking, and peer support by sharing effective practice to lead improvement within the early years sector and improve outcomes for children.

Email: northantsEYPartnership@gmail.com

National Association for Special Educational Needs (nasen)

nasen is the National Association for Special Educational Needs - a charitable membership organisation that exists to support and champion those working with, and for, children and young people with SEND and learning differences.

nasen provide free resources and support for all members, leading targeted programmes and projects to deliver widespread improvements, offering a structured programme of professional development, accredited training, and conferences as well as a package of SEND services throughout the UK and internationally.

Website: [Home page | Nasen](#)

Help for early years providers - Department for Education

Guidance for people who work in early years, from the Department for Education.

Website: [Help for early years providers - Department for Education](#)