

Early Years Education and Skills Hub Newsletter- January

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Happy New Year 2025

Happy New Year to all of our Doncaster Early Years Providers!

We hope you all had a lovely rest over the Christmas break and ate lots of chocolate and cheese board! The Early Years Inclusion Team are now back in the office. If you are unable to contact a specific member of the team, please see the further details below. The contact details are attached here: [November 2024 Early Years Inclusion Team Contact Details.docx](#)

Please remember the Early Years Inclusion Team are here to help and support you as much as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact the team.

Childcare Works Hub

The HUB has been created for childcare Providers who are working on the rollout of the new childcare entitlements and wraparound care programme.

Explore the HUB and find the support you need to successfully deliver the childcare expansion programme. Use the filters below to find case studies, templates, research reports and government guidance.

The HUB is a bank of resources available to childcare providers. Here you will find a comprehensive library of the resources developed to support the roll-out of the early years and wraparound childcare expansion.

Not only does the HUB have a new layout making it easier to navigate, it also has a growing bank of resources including:

- Actionable strategies to attract and retain high-quality staff for effective recruitment and retention - <https://childcareworks.org.uk/recruitment-and->

[retention-in-early-years-and-wraparound-provision/?_gl=1*11hu8yd*_up*MQ..*_ga*NDExMTg2NzMxLjE3MzM5MDg0ODg.*_ga_0YZDB4EZJ0*MTczMzkwODQ4Ni4xLjAuMTczMzkwODQ4Ni4wLjAuMA](https://childcareworks.org.uk/retention-in-early-years-and-wraparound-provision/?_gl=1*11hu8yd*_up*MQ..*_ga*NDExMTg2NzMxLjE3MzM5MDg0ODg.*_ga_0YZDB4EZJ0*MTczMzkwODQ4Ni4xLjAuMTczMzkwODQ4Ni4wLjAuMA)

- Practical tips for effective leadership and team building - https://childcareworks.org.uk/characteristics-of-effective-leadership/?_gl=1*ntg8ul*_up*MQ..*_ga*NzEyNDQ5NTIzLjE3MzM5MDg0NjA.*_ga_0YZDB4EZJ0*MTczMzkwODQ1OS4xLjAuMTczMzkwODQ1OS4wLjAuMA
- Strategies to attract new families and retain existing ones through effective marketing and promotion - https://childcareworks.org.uk/marketing-and-promotion-finding-and-keeping-customers/?_gl=1*xpbecy*_up*MQ..*_ga*MzAxMjg0NTcwLjE3MzQzNjM1MDY.*_ga_0YZDB4EZJ0*MTczNDM2MzUwNS4xLjEuMTczNDM2NDQwMC4wLjAuMA
- How to conduct difficult discussions openly and constructively to enhance relationships with parents and staff - https://childcareworks.org.uk/supporting-providers-to-have-courageous-conversations/?_gl=1*1jk83n3*_up*MQ..*_ga*NjYyMjM3MTUyLjE3MzM5MDgzOTc.*_ga_0YZDB4EZJ0*MTczMzkwODM5Ni4xLjAuMTczMzkwODM5Ni4wLjAuMA

SEND Assessment Guidance and Resources

Practical, early years SEND assessment resources that you can use to help children with SEND. The resources have been developed by Dingley's Promise in collaboration with the Department for Education.

Practitioners and experts agree that excessive assessment paperwork is not beneficial in the early years as it takes valuable time away from interacting with children and puts unnecessary strain on practitioners. However, for children with SEND, a simple and clear method of assessment to capture where children are, so that you can give them the right support at the right time, is essential.

Effective practice in the early years starts with a carefully planned, high-quality curriculum and all observations and assessments should be linked to the intended learning. When you notice that a child is not progressing through the curriculum as intended, you should shape teaching and learning experiences appropriately so each child can learn what you intend. If a child has not secured the intended learning following adaptations to your practice, this is when you should consider additional methods of support for the child, such as these resources.

These resources have been created to support a child-centred, strengths-based approach to assessing children's needs. They will support the assessment of the development of each unique child, providing a simple approach to identify and meet their needs as soon as possible.

The resources have been assembled through surveys and consultation with a range of early years professionals. The recommended tools have all been user tested for effectiveness and functionality to ensure they can be applied within your practice.

Click here to view: [Help for early years providers : SEND assessment guidance and resources](#)

SENCO Cluster

Tuesday 4th February 2025 13:00 - 15:00 – Online Microsoft Teams- [Early Years: SENCO Cluster - Afternoon Session | Buy Doncaster](#)

Or

Thursday 27th February 2025 18:30 - 20:30- Online Microsoft Teams - [Early Years: SENCO Cluster - Evening Session | Buy Doncaster](#)

Outline: Spring Term Senco Cluster is being provided by an external provider The Better Health Generation.

Please note - the afternoon session on 4th Feb 2025 will be recorded for use by Doncaster Council to share with SENCOs at an evening session and possible excerpts at other times.

The repeated session on 27/02/2025 will feature the recording facilitated by Area SENCOS who will run the course as the external consultant ran it on 04/02/2025.

The sessions are the same content - please access only 1 on preferred date.

Description: We are pleased to invite Zoe Williams from The Better Health Generation to delivering bespoke training on wellbeing, specifically for SENCOS.

Zoe is a qualified Counsellor and Mental Health advocate dedicated to promoting understanding, support, and resilience in individuals and communities. Her journey began in the retail industry, where she witnessed the toll of stress, burnout, and lack of support on employees, inspiring her to retrain as a Counsellor and Educator. As a University Graduate and non-traditional student, Zoe brings both personal resilience and professional expertise to her work, creating compassionate, non-judgmental spaces for healing and growth. Driven by the belief that mental health deserves equal attention to physical health, she is committed to breaking barriers, educating, and empowering others to navigate life's challenges with hope and confidence.

Outcomes: Zoe will be delivering the following brief: Strategies for supporting staff and themselves (particular focus on SENCO staff).

- Supportive Communication: strategies for having difficult conversations with colleagues and parents, including discussions around early SEND identification.

- Empowerment and Wellbeing: emphasis on rights, self-help, recognising stress, resilience, and self-care to promote wellbeing and job retention.
- Effective Management: time management, and lone working support for different settings.
- Family and Team Support: supporting team members, addressing family stressors, and signposting resources.

Early Years Child Development Training

This free online training provides an overview of child development and offers practical advice for supporting children in your setting, including reception years.

- Module 1: Understanding child development and the EYFS.
- Module 2: Brain development and how children learn.
- Module 3: Supporting children's personal, social, and emotional development.
- Module 4: Supporting language development in the early years.
- Module 5: Supporting physical development in the early years.
- Module 6: Mathematics.
- Module 7: Effective curriculum and assessment.
- Module 8: Supporting individual differences and needs.

Click here to sign up: <https://child-development-training.education.gov.uk/>

Early Years: Refresher in The EYFS for Nursery Practitioners

Please note venue and date changes!!

Day 1: 07/02/2025 | 12:30 - 16:00 at Rossington Family Hub

Day 2: 14/02/2025 | 12:30 - 16:00 at Rossington Family Hub

This course is designed to support practitioners who need a 'new' insight or refresher into Early Years.

We will focus on:

- Basic principles and practice within Early Years,
- Knowledge, understanding and how to support children's learning and development (EYFS 7 Educational Programmes with a focus on prime areas),

- High quality interactions,
- An enabling environment,
- Working with parents and other partners.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

The course aims to refresh the basics needed to understand the EYFS, including examining the revised Statutory EYFS framework and non- statutory development guidance.

The course is run over two sessions which will take attendees from basic principles and practice, supporting high quality interactions and children's development, through to the enabling environment, and working with parents and professionals.

There will be gap tasks for practitioners to carry out between the sessions. It is expected that the Nursery Manager will support and mentor the practitioner during these tasks.

Click here to book: <https://buy.doncaster.gov.uk/Event/245375>

The Supervised Tooth Brushing Club – Doncaster

Nearly 33% of children aged 5 in Doncaster have experienced tooth decay, which is much higher than the national average.

That's why here at Doncaster Council to improve the oral health outcomes of our children we help to establish FREE Supervised Tooth Brushing Clubs – this is where children (aged between 2-6 years) brush their teeth daily at their early year setting! All training and resources are free and provided by the Public Health team.

If your setting is interested in starting their own FREE toothbrushing club or would like to know more about how the club runs – please contact STBC@doncaster.gov.uk

Good oral health is vital for the best start in life 😊

Active Start

Active Start is a programme of training and resources for staff who work with children aged 2 to 5, to support them to integrate physical activity and movement into all areas of the **Early Years framework**, supporting children's physical and holistic development. It was created to inspire and increase activity levels in the early years through physical activity and active play, helping children and their families, to be healthy, learn well and be active for life. Across South Yorkshire working with the CYP alliance as part of the South Yorkshire ICB, Yorkshire Sport Foundation will

deliver and develop numerous opportunities linked to Active Start across 2024 and 2025.

Active Start develops the ability to support a child's physical development, help them to develop a wide movement vocabulary and be inspired to deliver creative and progressive active play and movement sessions. Activities will also underpin children's wider development, including how physical activity can support learning during the essential early years, communication, and social skills as well as school readiness.

As part of the programme, we are delivering a **one day Active Start Workshop in Doncaster** and are searching for looking for up to 16 individual practitioners within Early Years Settings who have a passion for physical activity and physical development (places are limited to one staff member per setting). These could be teachers, support staff, childminders, or nursery staff. We would provide you with training and free resources to use the Active Start programme in your own setting with other staff and to deliver a range of activities for children and their families across the rest of the academic year. As part of this we will provide you with a one-day CPD course to support your understanding and any programme requirements. This training will allow staff to become more confident and competent in delivering Active Start activities and discussing physical development and physical activity.

If you are passionate about the power of movement to support 2–5-year-olds and would like to help us on the mission of allowing all children to become more active, more often then, we would love to hear from you.

Please register your expression of interest below and we will be in touch to confirm your engagement in the Active Start programme.

Name: Doncaster Active Start- EY Practitioner Training

Dates: 22nd January 2025

Time: 9am-4pm

Venue: Sunnyfields Primary School, Rose Crescent, Doncaster, DN5 9EW

Cost: Places are FREE to attend

Dress: Please dress ready to take part in physical activity and play

Places are limited to 16 and therefore please express your interest in the programme via the below link and we will confirm if you have been allocated a place:

<https://yorkshire.sportsuite.co.uk/forms/view/activestart-doncaster1>

If you have any questions around the course or Active Start programme, please contact adam.fuller@yorkshiresport.org

Early Years: Essential Knowledge Briefing

Wednesday 26th February 2025

Afternoon session 2pm-4pm – [Early Years: Essential Knowledge Briefing - Afternoon Session | Buy Doncaster](#)

Evening session 6:30pm- 8:30pm - [Early Years: Essential Knowledge Briefing - Evening Session | Buy Doncaster](#)

This meeting is delivered by the Early Years Inclusion Team, along with guest speakers in subject specific areas. A termly meeting to share local and national updates. The meeting is to update the sector on:

- EYFS Framework – including best practice and guidance.
- Ofsted support, advice, guidance, and updates.
- Care and Welfare updates.
- Safeguarding information.

It is strongly advised that all providers are represented at this meeting to gain up to date information to complement their own quality improvement process.

The session is targeted at Early Years Providers, Childminders, Doncaster Council Staff, Schools.

RWM Doncaster: Manipulatives

The effective use of manipulatives is of key importance to securing deep learning in mathematics. This workshop will explore the current research and theories in maths, contain practical activities and resources to use in the classroom and cover in depth subject knowledge for the participants.

Click below to view the flyer:

[Flyer Manipulatives EYFS and KS1.pdf](#)