

**Online free
CPD for Early Years
Practitioners**



Online free CPD for Early Years Practitioners

OpenLearn courses are available free from the Open University. The following courses are available in the Education and Development section: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses>

Early years team work and leadership – 8 hours study – Level 1: Introductory

This course explores aspects of teamwork and leadership for early years practitioners. You will explore your understanding of leadership and how it operates in your early years setting. You will also consider how you work within a team and how your skills contribute towards supporting leadership.

Children's perspectives on play – 5 hours study – Level 1: Introductory

When children are able to choose what and who they want to play with, as well as where they want to play, they are highly self-motivated and active in their engagements with everything around them. In this course you will think about how you listen to children's perspectives, why it is important and also consider the choices children make about where they play and why.

Understanding children: Babies being heard – 5 hours study – Level 1: Introductory

In this course you will find out some of the things that very young babies can do. Discover how babies can contribute to family life and relationships from birth. You will look at what they need from other adults and children, and what they can learn.

Attachment in the early years – 6 hours study – Level 2: Intermediate

This course covers theory and research in the area of attachment in early childhood. In the 1950s, John Bowlby was the first person to develop a theory about the significance of early attachments between caregivers and very young children. You will learn about his work, the research that has built upon it and the important implications for childcare.

Listening to young children: supporting transition – 5 hours study – Level 2: Intermediate

This course explores ways of listening to children in order to support their experiences of changes or transitions. For children this may involve familiarisation with new cultural practices, the development of new relationships, and potentially a shift in identity, for example from being a 'nursery child' to being a 'pupil'. You will consider how adults can personalise support, and ensure children can become confident, active participants in a new setting.

Understanding early years environments and children's spaces – 6 hours study – Level 2: Intermediate

In this course you will consider some of the different environments children encounter in their early years. It encourages you to develop your reflection of children's environments and provides opportunities for you to investigate and evaluate young children's experiences and your role in supporting them.



Early Education resources (free to non-members)

Early Education PedPods: <https://www.early-education.org.uk/podcasts>

Anni McTavish: Creativity and critical thinking

This 30 minute video clip explores the concept of creativity, what this means in practice and how we can nurture this in children.

Pete Moorhouse: The Wonders of Woodwork

This 30 minute video clip explores the many cross-curricular benefits of woodwork and how to develop this safely within your setting.

Outdoor learning

Outdoors and active

Getting children physically active again will be vitally important once settings reopen. This information, developed from a very successful project in London, helps you to consider how to get children moving outdoors, in whatever space is available. Especially useful are the pages on 'Top tips for physicality in the park' and 'Top tips for everyday physicality', as well as information on developing 'grab and go kits'. Great for childminders too.

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/outdoorsandactive>

Exploring the wider world

Make the most of what's on your doorstep. Ideas for how to develop children's learning and understanding of the world using your local area. Especially useful are sections on looking for possibilities in your area, planning trips, what to do when you are there and when you get back. It also discusses how this links with the idea of 'Cultural capital'.

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/exploring-the-wider-world>

Creativity and Art

Early Arts

<https://earlyarts.co.uk>

This website has lots of ideas for using clay, art, dance, music and mark-making to unleash the children's creativity – look under the resources tab. The blog tab takes you to weekly updates of ideas for families and settings. Currently there are lots of resources that museums and artists have released for families to access for free during lockdown. You can also sign up for the blog to be sent to you in the form of a weekly ebulletin.



<https://earlyarts.co.uk/ebulletin-signup>

Online Talks by Alistair Bryce-Clegg

<https://abcdoes.com/online-training/>

Subversive Teaching – Educators Under Cover

“ As our early education system becomes more about delivering ‘initiatives’ and conditioning children to be still and listen, we are risking the death of creative thinking, imagination and social interaction. We must be subversive in our teaching – fight for the freedom of engagement through quality play.”

Foundations for Learning and Teaching Phonics

Alistair explores all of the very important skills that underpin children’s ability to understand and use phonics. It is key that these skills are introduced, rehearsed and applied before children move on to more formal phonic teaching and learning. Run Time: 36 mins

Cognitive Challenge

One of Kathy Brodie’s Early Years Summits. Alistair chats to Kathy about the importance of cognitive challenge and how children find it in their play. Run Time: 36 mins

Early Years TV with Kathy Brodie

<https://www.kathybrodie.com/>

Sign up for Early Years TV and get access to insights, tips and ideas from leading Early Years experts every week for FREE!

The 2020 Early Years Summit: Speech, Language and Communication FREE CPD · Watch online at your convenience from your own home Monday 1st June - Sunday 7th June

Confirmed speakers include: Pennie Brownlee, June O’Sullivan MBE, Elizabeth Jarman, Maggie Johnson, Jean Gross CBE and many more. Topics include: typical speech and language development, selective mutism, bilingualism, communication without language and environments to encourage speech, language and communication - so you can help every child in your care and make sure that they are getting the right support, right from the start.



Special Educational Needs

NASEN webcasts

A total of 20 different webcasts covering topics such as early identification, role of the key person, graduated approach and much more. To access these Early Years webcasts you must be signed up as a nesen member, but bronze level membership is free. <https://nazen.org.uk>

NASEN miniguide

These are also available to anyone with the free bronze membership and are downloadable. There are 4 Early Years specific titles:

- Children with medical needs: What schools and settings need to know
- Identifying and Supporting Children with SEND in the Early Years: PVI and governing body-led early years settings
- Identifying and Supporting Children with SEND in the Early Years: Childminders
- Identifying and Supporting Children with SEND in the Early Years: Reception classes

SEND gateway videos

<https://www.sendgateway.org.uk/whole-school-send/find-wss-resources/nqt-videos.html>

This suite of SEND guidance video clips include information on **ADHD, Acquired Brain Injury, Autism, Downs Syndrome, Dyscalculia, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Hearing Impairment, Physical Disability, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Visual Impairment.**

Whilst the videos are aimed at newly qualified teachers and are not early years specific, they provide useful knowledge for all practitioners working with children with these specific conditions. They include ideas for suitable resources and tips for supporting children with SEND.

Inclusion development programme

<https://www.idponline.org.uk/>

A suite of materials aimed at supporting practitioners to increase their knowledge and skills in working with children & young people with a range of special educational needs. Choose from early years specific courses on:

- Supporting children with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties
- Supporting children on the autism spectrum
- Supporting children with speech, language and communication needs

(N.B. These resources were originally created as an interactive DVD tool. Depending on your browser and internet connection speed, the films may take some time to start playing.)

Speech, language and communication needs

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/professional-development/online-short-course/>

This online short course is **free** and a great place to start learning about children and young people's speech, language and communication development. It looks at how you can support the development of these skills on a day-to-day basis in your setting, and how to spot children and young people who might be struggling to develop these important skills. There is a specific early years pathways so that the training is tailored to your needs. **The course takes approximately half a day to complete.**

Autism Spectrum Condition

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>

A very useful source of information on autism in the early years. Once you have signed up, the following materials are freely available on the website:

- Early years autism standards
- Early years autism competency framework

These have been recently updated to include new developments in autism. There are useful web links for further reading and CPD.

<https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/right-from-the-start>

Although this guide is aimed at parents, it is a very useful source of information about autism for early years' practitioners. There are also web links for further reading and CPD.

Physical disabilities

<https://pdnet.org.uk/pdnet-level-1-training/>

This is a free level 1 training course which raises awareness of the needs of children with a physical disability.

Health and Wellbeing

PANCo Free Taster Video Series from PurpleBee

<https://www.purplebeelearning.com/>

The Physical Activity and Nutrition Coordinator (PANCo) qualification and specialist role is a beacon for quality provision in the Early Years and has been designed as a wellbeing-in-action intervention that promotes positive nutrition and physical activity to support the prevention of obesity within Early Years settings. The PANCo qualification gives Early Years educators a robust knowledge base and the skills to lead and support change within the setting.

Get up to Speed with PANCo in 15 minutes

This course includes three 5 minute videos

- Video 1: Promoting wellbeing-in-action.
- Video 2: The role of the PANCo.
- Video 3: Together we can build a healthier future.

Once completed you will be able to download the free PurpleBee infographic '12 vital signs your Early Years setting is fostering wellbeing' A great introduction to the Starters Guide to Wellbeing-in-action in the Early Years

Leadership and Management

www.purplebeelearning.com

Get up to Speed with Mentoring in 15 minutes

This course includes three 5 minute videos

- Video 1: The magic of mentoring: Why mentoring might be the answer you are looking for.
- Video 2: Mentoring myth busting: Why it's easier than you thought!
- Video 3: Mentoring strategies that work: How we can help you get started.

Once completed you will be able to download the free PurpleBee infographic '10 reasons why Early Years mentoring works'

Get up to Speed with Positive Leadership in 15 minutes

This course includes three 5 minute videos

- Video 1: What is Positive Leadership?
- Video 2: What does Positive Leadership mean in practice?
- Video 3: Four Secrets of Success.

Once completed you will be able to download the free PurpleBee infographic '7 qualities of a positive leader.'

Safeguarding

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)

<https://www.cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/LSCB/training/elearning.asp>

eLearning Safeguarding Training. Follow the link below and click on 'Create a new account' to register as a new user

<https://cumbria.learningpool.com/login/index.php>

As well as Safeguarding and Child Protection Level One courses include:
Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Neglect and many more.

ACEs Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences

Early Trauma Online Learning

<https://www.acesonlinelearning.com/>

This free course takes approx. 50 mins and has been funded by the Home Office Early Intervention Fund. The course is suitable for practitioners, professionals and volunteers who work with children, young people and their families. On completion you can download a certificate if you answer 90% of the 'Knowledge Check' questions correctly.

