

**Free Online
CPD for Early Years
Teachers/Support
Staff**



Free Online CPD for Early Years teachers/support staff

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.

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 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 fo 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’. <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 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.

Outdoor Learning

www.muddyfaces.co.uk/outdoor-hub

This company's website includes an outdoor hub, which is a free and open resource containing sections on:

- Activities to try – including ones linked to the curriculum, to food outdoors, art and creating, growing and gardening, health and well-being, farms and animals and many more. Particularly useful for ideas is the 'Inspirations' section.
- Events
- Links to research, case studies, news
- Useful links to resources from other organisations in the field of nature and the outdoors
- Forest school information
- Mud – includes a link to a free downloadable book 'Making a mud kitchen' and inspirational pictures from 'World Mud Day'.

Learning through landscapes www.ltl.org.uk

The resource section of this website contains lots of great ideas for activities outside, for a variety of age groups including Early Years. They are also currently presenting webinars through their You tube channel and you can keep up to date with what they are offering, including ideas for home learning by following them on twitter.

STEM in the Early Years and Supporting early language and literacy

Free courses developed for the Scottish Government by the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) (you will need to create a login). These courses support early years practitioners in further developing their skills, knowledge and confidence. The in-depth courses use a mix of learning tools including, power points, video clips, professional articles and reflections on trainees' own practice and provision in early years.

www.open.uws.ac/login/index.php

- Supporting the development and progression of children's early language and literacy
- STEM in the Early Years

The Learning Environment

www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library

This company's website includes a learning library area, which contains a large selection of useful articles, blogs, videos, case studies and training resources (which could be used for staff meetings/CPD sessions). Particularly useful are the selection of booklets on topics such as learning outdoors, woodwork, two's environments, baby room, imaginative play and many more. The booklets can be downloaded or you can order free hard copies.

The Solihull Approach – for parents/carers

Cumbria County Council have invested in award winning, quality marked, evidence based online courses by the Solihull Approach (a national NHS organisation).

These courses are for ALL parents-to-be, parents, grandparents or carers of any child from the antenatal period to age 18 years. **They would also be useful for staff working in Early Years settings, both for understanding children's behaviours and for supporting families.**

You don't need to be struggling to do these courses. The courses are relevant to parents/carers of all children, including those with special needs, autism, ADHD etc.

We would encourage you to take advantage of this time limited opportunity. These courses are normally £19-£39 per person, but are FREE with the access codes below to all residents of CUMBRIA.

Go to www.inourplace.co.uk and apply the relevant access code:

- Understanding your child age – Access code: WORDSWORTH
- Understanding your pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby – Access code: WORDSWORTH
- Understanding your baby – Access code: WORDSWORTH
- Understanding your teenager's brain – Access code: WORDSWORTH

You will be asked to create an account so that you can resume the course where you last left off. Once you have accessed the courses using this code you will have access even after the code expires. You will also be asked to verify that you are legitimately entitled to use the access code by entering your postcode.



The Solihull Approach – Advanced Practitioner Training

These modules are available for anyone who would like to access them for CPD - the knowledge base on the Practitioner courses will be greater than the parent/carer ones above, but there is no requirement for you to do them in any particular order.

There are three modules, with each taking around 3-4 hours to complete. A certificate is issued for each completed module. Upon being awarded all 3 certificates you will gain Solihull approach advanced trained practitioner status.

The three modules are:

- **Understanding Trauma** – covering type 1 and type 2 trauma, the window of tolerance, going through a traumatic experience, neurology and trauma, recognising trauma, recovery from trauma and more...
- **Understanding Attachment** – for practitioners who want to understand more about attachment and how containment and reciprocity underpin the quality of an attachment
- **Understanding Brain development** – for practitioners who want an introduction to brain development from the antenatal period to adolescence.

To access these courses go to www.inourplace.co.uk

Sign in and click 'unlock professionals courses'. Once registered as a professional, use the access code WORDSWORTHPRF

EEF Covid-19 Resources – Useful for teachers of all year groups

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/#nav-covid-19-resources>

In response to the unprecedented closure of schools to most pupils, the EEF has produced a set of resources designed to be used by schools and parents/carers to support home learning. These are all based on the evidence-based recommendations of our Guidance Reports.

For schools, there are helpful planning prompts and other practical tools. There are also useful resources for schools to share with parents who are looking to support their children's learning - from establishing home learning routines to shared reading help, to handy tips for supporting maths in the home.

Best evidence on supporting students to learn remotely:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/best-evidence-on-supporting-students-to-learn-remotely/>

A useful planning template for teachers:

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_schools/Home_learning_approaches_-_Planning_framework.pdf

ResearchED Home 2020

The best and brightest minds in education beamed into your homes every weekday of the Summer term. Some of these are relevant to all teachers, some aimed more at those teaching older age groups. You can watch live at 11 am **or catch them later on their Youtube channel**. No registration, no charge, anyone is welcome. Check the programme here <http://bit.ly/2RNI79k> Follow them on Twitter (@researchEDHome) for up-to-date information. <https://researched.org.uk/researched-home-2020/>

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 nasen member, but bronze level membership is free. <https://nasen.org.uk>

NASEN Miniguides

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.