



News From the Hub

Autumn term 2, 2025

Celebrating a Year of Impact and Collaboration

As 2025 draws to a close, we are proud to reflect on a year of growth, innovation, and shared learning across our region. The Hub has delivered a rich programme of evidence-based professional development, from Maths Champions and communication and language CPD to inspiring Room Leader Networks and webinars. Our conferences continue to fill within an average of just 3 days, with over 240 practitioners attending in 2025.



Emma Haywood

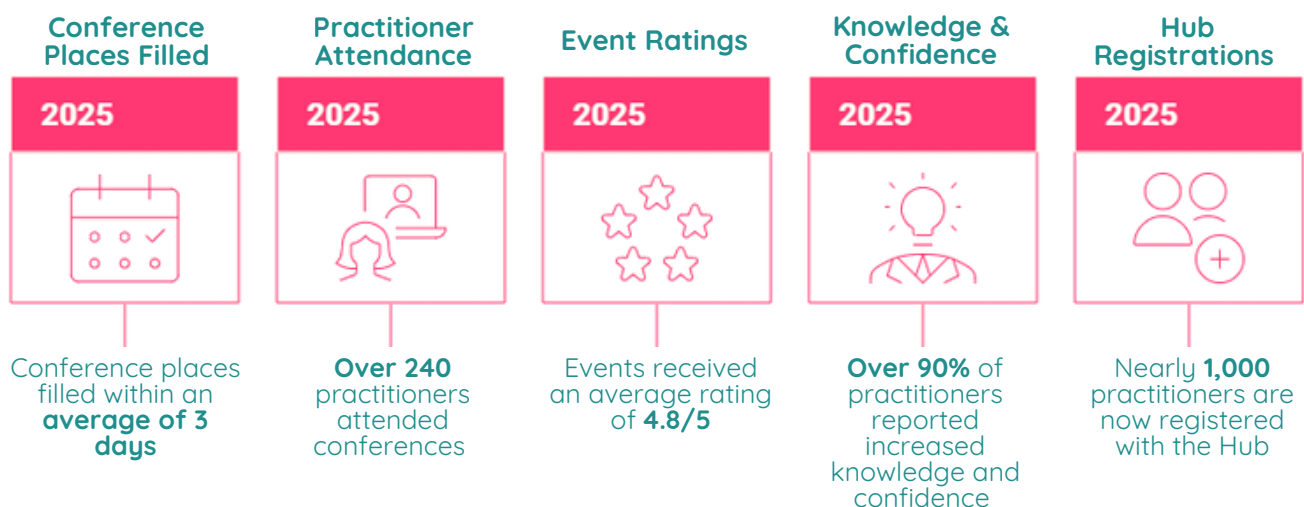
Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Lead

Emma

Our **childminder outdoor learning initiative** has transformed practice across the region, embedding nature-based experiences that boost confidence, resilience, and problem-solving skills for both children and practitioners. We strengthened partnerships with maintained nurseries, PVI's, and childminders, welcoming new collaborators such as **Little Explorers Nursery**, whose expertise in outdoor pedagogy and leadership has enriched our shared work.

Open days and network events saw **record levels of engagement**, fostering peer-to-peer support and showcasing best practice across early literacy, maths, and social-emotional development. Together, we have built a vibrant professional community committed to **improving outcomes for every child**.

This year's impact at a glance:



Thank you to everyone who contributed—your dedication ensures our Hub remains a beacon of excellence and collaboration.



Recent Reflections

Celebrating the success of our recent Networks

Room Leaders Networks- Autumn 2025

Reflections from Kate Cox, Hub Partner & network facilitator

As we continue into Autumn 2, our second round of Room Leader Network sessions are now well underway. It has been inspiring to hear practitioners share how they are using ideas from these sessions to guide and strengthen their practice back in their settings.

A strong theme is emerging across all groups: quiet reflection leading to **long-term, meaningful change**. Delegates have truly embraced this approach.

One delegate shared how she took back the Engagement Ladder and explored it with her manager during supervision. This prompted a **rich discussion** around **staff engagement**, which is now being shared with the wider team to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and deepen reflective practice.

"It helped us look honestly at where we are as a team and how we can grow together."

Another delegate reflected on transitions, drawing on learning from our session on executive function, attachment, and professional love. She described the **positive impact** this is already having on children and their families.

"We are approaching transitions more thoughtfully, and it's clear the children feel more secure."



If you haven't yet joined your local network, there is still time! These sessions offer a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues, share practice, and develop leadership confidence in a supportive space.

Our **Room Leader Networks** are taking place across Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire. **Join your network today!**



[Find your network](#)



Join a community... Room Leader Networks

Taking place across Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

We are delighted to share our upcoming network events, taking place between June 2025 & March 2026.



School Based



PVI settings

Room Leaders Networks

Take advantage of this opportunity to join a community of like-minded room leaders within PVI & school based settings, with a focus on developing your skills as a leader, as well as on developing the high-quality provision in your room.

The networks involve **three face-to-face days** across the year, where you will come together with colleagues to learn more about leadership and discover thought provoking ideas about what good practice looks like.

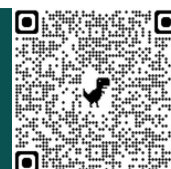
You will have chance to learn about new theories and ideas, reflect on your own practice and take away top tips and suggestions to try in your own rooms. There will be chance to celebrate and share what you have been doing with colleagues and with opportunities to develop relationships and learn from each other over time.

Babies	DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE		NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
	Wednesday 17th Sept 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 19th Sept 25	Trent Conference Centre
	Wednesday 26th Nov 25	Post Mill Centre	Tuesday 18th Nov 25	Flying High Partnership
	Friday 30th Jan 26	Post Mill Centre	Friday 16th Jan 26	Flying High Partnership
Toddlers	DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE		NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
	Tuesday 30th Sept 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 26th Sept 25	Flying High Partnership
	Friday 21st Nov 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 14th Nov 25	Flying High Partnership
	Friday 13th Mar 26	Post Mill Centre	Friday 27th Feb 26	Flying High Partnership
Pre-School	DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE		NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
	Friday 18th Jul 25	Post Mill Centre	Wednesday 9th Jul 25	Trent Conference Centre
	Tuesday 9th Dec 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 5th Dec 25	Flying High Partnership
	Friday 20th Mar 26	Post Mill Centre	Friday 6th Mar 26	Flying High Partnership

By booking onto these networks, you agree to attend all 3 sessions



Book Here





Join a community... **SEND Network**

Taking place across Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

Take advantage of this opportunity to join a community of like-minded practitioners, with a supportive space to deepen your understanding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.

Through a series of **four face-to-face** focused sessions, across the year, participants will explore the foundations of SEND in the EYFS context, develop a clear picture of what effective universal inclusive provision looks like, and gain practical, evidence-based strategies to support inclusive practice in their settings.

These sessions aim to build confidence, share best practice, and promote truly inclusive learning environments for all children, where you will come together with colleagues to learn more about leadership and discover thought provoking ideas about what good practice looks like.

DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE



COSY DIRECT

Fauld Industrial Estate, Unit 316-318, Tutbury, Burton-on-Trent DE13 9HS

Tuesday 4th November 25 13:00 - 16:00

Monday 12th January 26 13:00 - 16:00

Thursday 5th March 26 13:00 - 16:00

Tuesday 5th May 26 13:00 - 16:00

NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



EDWINSTOWE HOUSE

High Street, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9PR

Wednesday 5th November 25 13:00 - 16:00

Wednesday 14th January 26 13:00 - 16:00

Wednesday 4th March 26 13:00 - 16:00

Wednesday 6th May 26 13:00 - 16:00

Session breakdown:

- **Session 1: Inclusive Universal Provision**
- **Session 2: Graduated Response/Adaptive Teaching**
- **Session 3: Awareness of Schemas and SEND**
- **Session 4: Inclusion Self Evaluation**



If you missed session 1, you can click [here](#) to catch up.



Book Here



By booking onto these networks, you agree to attend all sessions, at one venue





Fully funded... Maths Champions Programme

With National Day Nurseries Association

Empowering Early Years Practitioners to Teach Maths with Confidence!

Maths Champions is an evidence-based, professional development programme delivered by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA). It is aimed at increasing early years practitioner skills, knowledge, awareness and confidence in supporting children's early mathematical development.

This **fully funded** initiative is available to nursery settings in England. Nurseries must have at least one three to four-year-old attending a minimum of 15 hours a week in their setting and that Maths Champions must be at least Level 3 qualified.



For further information, watch this short video.

Proven impact

Independent evaluation by Durham and York universities found that children in participating settings made, on average, **three months' additional progress** in maths and language.

Register Interest Here



Virtual



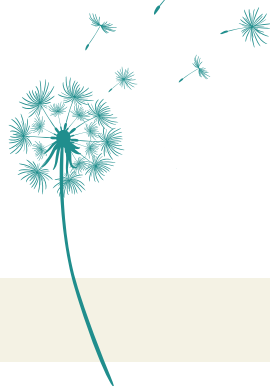
School-based & PVI
Nurseries



“ The difference the Maths Champion programme has made for our setting, our team and the children has been fantastic. The confidence in our teaching has increased and we embraced the programme as a team to provide a maths rich environment. Who knew we would all become so excited about maths!

St Michaels Nursery





Opportunities

Resources & Training to support CPD

Newly Launched Resources

We are excited to share **3 new blogs**, launched over the Autumn term:

Blog October 2025
Ruth Heath, Alferton Nursery School

Bend, Balance and Bear Hunts
- Building Physical Literacy Through Story

INTRODUCTION

My name is Ruth Heath and I am the Physical Development Lead at Alferton Nursery School. A sensory suite of enhancement opportunities for children with physical development challenges, led to the development of our Bend and Balance sessions. The principles behind these sessions could be easily implemented into any early years setting, leading to opportunities for children to explore physical development through a creative narrative that is both captivating and familiar.



Blog October 2025
Amanda Hubball, Alferton Nursery School

Meta Maths Matters
"Amanda, I know what metacognition skills I used in my maths challenge".

A clear and confident assertion by an enthusiastic 4 year old, which qualified the application of metacognition to the teaching of maths, that had been implemented over the course of several terms.



Blog November 2025
Louisa Thompson, Childminder

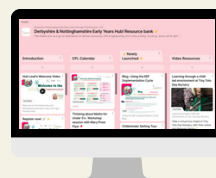
Physical Development
- Squeezing and squashing Physical Development into and out of everything we do

INTRODUCTION

As a childminder with 17 years of experience, the always knowledge physical development (PD) was important. But engaging in sustained, high-quality professional development helped me to truly understand the why behind it. It's not just about catching balls or threading beads—it's about laying the neurological and muscular foundations for life.



All resources can be found in our resource bank!



Join our...

Certificated Programme

Maths Pilot

Supporting mathematical Development for Under 5s



We are currently working with the DfE and two other Stronger Practice Hubs to develop a short PD Programme focussed on supporting practitioners to improve their knowledge and understanding of Mathematical Development for Under 5s.

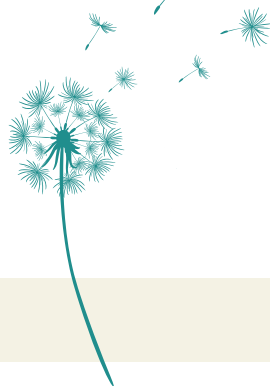
This programme will be certificated and will run during the first half of 2026, led by Mary Prest. It will consist of **3 face-to-face training days**, with interim support provided to settings in between sessions. It will focus on **building knowledge** and understanding of how the youngest children develop their **mathematical thinking**, as well as providing lots of ideas and tips about how to develop your practice and provision to support this. If you think you might like to be involved in this fully funded project, please complete our Expression of Interest Form. By completing the form, you are not committing to do the project, only to finding out more about it (e.g. by attending an engagement event) with a view to potentially signing up, once you have found out more.



[Express interest](#)

enquiries@DNEYhub.org

0115 989 1915



Opportunities

Resources & Training to support CPD

Bespoke

SUPPORT SESSIONS

We are proud to be launching our online support sessions.

These are 30-minute online 1-1 sessions with an advisor of your choice, where you can be supported through professional dialogue to talk through any specific challenges which you may be facing in your setting.

We have a choice of experienced advisors including Emma Haywood (Head Teacher – Alfreton Nursery School), Mary Prest (Former Head Teacher and Early Years Advisor), Rebecca Betts (Experienced Local Leader for Early Years), Sarah Smith (Childminder Expert for the Childminder Experts Programme), Kate Cox (Experienced PVI Leader).

Our advisors are available to talk with you about any aspects of pedagogy and practice but please note, we are not able to offer business or safeguarding advice.

Book your 30min advisory session, with an advisor of your choice here:



[Book here](#)

Work

WITH THE HUB



DERBYSHIRE & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
EARLY YEARS STRONGER PRACTICE HUB
Supporting & Empowering Early Years

Is there a particular area of your practice that you are most proud of?

Would you like to share this with others & generate some income for your setting?

We are looking to work with practitioners and settings to share best-practice, via open-days and the production of different resources.

These should be accessible for all early years educators with rich exemplification linked to evidence and practice. We aim to share a variety of resources, covering a multitude of topics, so that exceptional practice can be shared across the sector.

Working with the hub provides you with the opportunity to **showcase your setting**, expand on your good practice and **inspire others!**



We have developed a guidance pack around this

Please read through the guidance, fully, before using the link referenced to register your interest.

We look forward to working with you!



[Guidance pack](#)



Self-Regulation & Executive Function **EEF Webinar Series**

Virtual training to support Early Years Practitioners

Join Early Years Specialist Rebecca Betts for the continuation of our EEF Webinar Series, where she will expand on EEF guidance and materials to support effective implementation in your setting.

All sessions are recorded & made available on our Youtube channel & resource bank!

1

Introduction to Self-Regulation and Executive Function

[Click here to watch](#)



2

Creating and Navigating Challenge



Wed 17th Dec 2025
1.00pm - 2.00pm

3

Monitoring and Self-Awareness



Wed 14th Jan 2026
1.00pm - 2.00pm

4

Creating a Community of Collaborative Learners & Physical Activity



Wed 11th Feb 2022
1.00pm - 2.00pm

5

Talk about Learning



Wed 11th Mar 2026
1.00pm - 2.00pm



Childminders, School-based & PVI Settings



Book Here



Did you miss the Summer webinars?

Don't worry! [Click here](#)
to view Mary's session
focusing on **STAIRS**.



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