



Best  
Practice  
Network



Apprenticeships

Funded by



Department  
for Education



## Early Years Training Guide – Wildlife edition

Funded training programmes  
for everyone –  
from school leavers,  
to room leaders!

**“The content  
of the course was  
thought provoking and  
changed how I interact  
with children in a  
positive way.”**

Natalie Hothi,  
Early Years Initial  
Teacher Training  
Graduate



## Best Practice Network

Rated "an Exceptional Training Provider" by the DfE



For this edition of our Early Years Training Guide we have gone with a **wildlife theme** because of the **many benefits of exposing young children to nature** – getting out and about is also great for staff wellbeing!

Through garden walks and activities you can encourage a **lifelong interest** in nature and help children develop a love of the great outdoors.

Studies have shown that exposure to nature can **improve children's cognitive development**, including their attention span, memory and problem-solving skills.

Garden walks can also provide children with opportunities to interact with each other and with adults. This can help them to develop **social skills** such as cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution.

The importance of physical, social and cognitive development is a key theme of all of our training and we are sure **we have the perfect course for you!**


All of our training is based on **the latest evidence and research** and delivered by our incredibly passionate facilitators and tutors.

**Funding is available** for all of our courses and our friendly team are here to help at every stage of your application.

Please enjoy the brochure and stickers, we hope to see you on our courses soon!

Warm wishes,

Sian Marsh  
Early Years Director  
Best Practice Network



Get in touch or  
visit our website  
to learn more



# GARDEN WILDLIFE CHECKLIST

How many of these animals can you find in the garden?  
If you don't have a garden, why not get your children to  
pretend to be the animals!

Circle any animals you see or pretend to be!





## Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 2

This apprenticeship is a funded entry-level training programme.

Early Years Practitioners work under the guidance and supervision of an early years educator, teacher or other suitably qualified professional in the early years workforce. They support the planning and delivery of the educational programmes for children in the 0–5 age range.

### Benefits

- ✓ Learn how to support children's early education and development
- ✓ Become more confident in planning activities in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- ✓ Learn how to keep up-to-date records to help track and identify children's individual needs, abilities and progress
- ✓ Promote health, safety and child welfare through effective, informed practice and safeguarding
- ✓ Funded by the Apprenticeship Levy that our team will help you access
- ✓ Receive full support from your apprenticeship tutor with monthly visits and taught sessions

### Programme Structure



Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYP](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYP)

For more information call **0117 920 9428** or email [enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)



"I was looked after every step of the way by Best Practice. The tutor visits were the standout point of the course. I can't wait to do the L3 course in the future and keep working my way up."

## Who is it for?

- An entry level work-based early years training programme, ideal for those wanting to enter a career as a nursery practitioner, classroom assistant or pre-school practitioner
- Suitable for either someone already working in or someone looking for a career in an early years childcare and education setting.

## Entry requirements

- No age restrictions.

### Apprentices must have:

- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Successful completion of screening interview
- Residency in the UK for the last three years.

Next deadline  
13th August



## AT A GLANCE



**Up to 100% funded**



**Blended Training**



**This Course Awards**

Early Years Practitioner Level 2,  
NCFE Level 2 Diploma for the  
Early Years Practitioner



**Course Duration**

Up to 14 months



**Upcoming deadlines**

Apply by 13th August for a  
September start



**Michelle Evans**  
Apprenticeship  
Performance Manager

Michelle has been working in early years since 2011 and joined Best Practice Network in 2021. She has been able to use her vast experience in the sector to support apprentices.

*"The level 2 will equip early years practitioners with skills they need to succeed."*





## Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3

This apprenticeship is a funded mid-tier level training programme.

This programme awards a Level 3 qualification which follows on from the Early Years Practitioner Level 2. The Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 provides staff with the knowledge and confidence to become an Early Years Educator, Nursery Teaching Assistant, Nursery Nurse, Supervisor or Childminder.

### Benefits

- ✓ Learn how to support and promote children's early education and development
- ✓ Plan and provide effective care and learning to prepare children for school
- ✓ Learn how to use assessment to develop informed practice for individual children
- ✓ Funded by the Apprenticeship Levy that our team will help you access
- ✓ Counts towards EYFS level 3 staff:child ratios

### Programme Structure



Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYE](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYE)

For more information call **0117 920 9428** or email [enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)

"The way the course was delivered was great. The tutor who was assigned to me supported my development and progression every step of the way and I can't thank her enough!"

## Who is it for?

- Suitable for either someone already working in, or someone looking for a career in an early years childcare setting
- Ideal for someone looking to pursue a career as an early years educator, nursery teaching assistant, nursery nurse, supervisor, or childminder.

## Entry requirements

- No age restrictions

### Apprentices must have:

- GCSEs in English and maths at Grade C (4) or above or able to achieve Level 2 English and maths whilst on programme
- Successful completion of screening interview
- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years.

Next deadline  
13th August



## EYE AT A GLANCE



**Up to 100% funded**



**Blended Training**



**This Course Awards**

Early Years Educator Level 3.  
NCFE Diploma for the Early  
Years Workforce (EYE). Award  
in Paediatric First Aid OR  
Emergency Paediatric First Aid



**Course Duration**

Up to 18 months



**Upcoming deadlines**

Apply by 13th August for a  
September start



**Tracy Clement**  
Apprenticeship Director

Tracy is passionate about apprenticeships and the opportunities they bring for new and existing staff to gain knowledge and skills in the workplace.





## Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 5

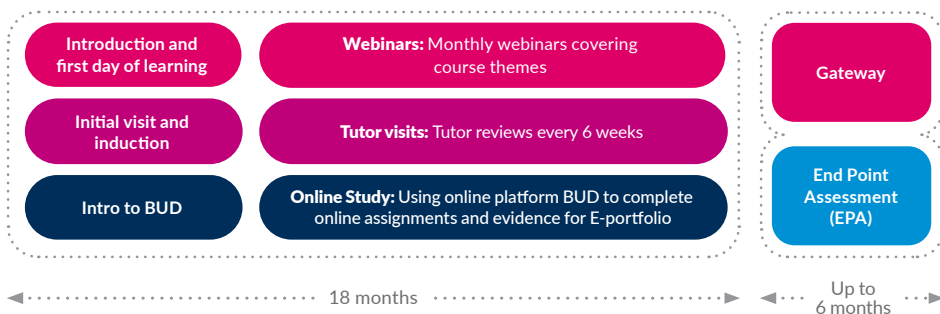
This apprenticeship is a funded training programme for experienced practitioners caring for children from birth to 8 years.

Building on our entry level programmes and using our industry expertise to create a programme for those wanting to further their knowledge and careers.

### Benefits

- ✓ Be responsible for supporting the quality of learning and development in your setting
- ✓ Learn how to lead day-to-day practice at an operational level
- ✓ Be involved with sector developments in your local area and nationally
- ✓ Work in partnership with parents, carers and colleagues for each child's development
- ✓ Funded by the Apprenticeship Levy that our team will help you access

### Programme Structure



Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYLP](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYLP)

For more information call **0117 920 9428** or email [enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)



Apply by  
13th of August  
and start  
this September!

## Who is it for?

- Suitable for someone already working in, or aspiring to work in early years childcare, with responsibility for leading other practitioners or groups
- An active practitioner looking to advance their career and be an effective role model of play-based learning, supporting others in the development of their own practice and being responsible for the quality of the learning and development in their setting

## Entry requirements

- No age restrictions

### Apprentices must have:

- Level 3 Early Years Educator or equivalent qualifications/extensive experience in a leadership position
- GCSEs in English and maths at Grade C (4) or above or able to achieve Level 2 English and maths whilst on programme
- Successful completion of entry interview
- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years.



## AT A GLANCE



**Up to 100% funded**



**Online Training**



**This Course Awards**

Early Years Lead  
Practitioner Level 5



**Course Duration**

Up to 24 months



**Upcoming deadlines**

Apply by 13th August for a  
September start



**Sarah Bishop**  
Apprenticeship  
Performance Manager

Sarah has 8 years of experience working within the childcare sector focussing on early years and 4 years as an Apprenticeship Trainer.

*"The Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner focusses on advancing practice, taking early years educators to the next level in their leadership, knowledge, skills and behaviours."*





## Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT)

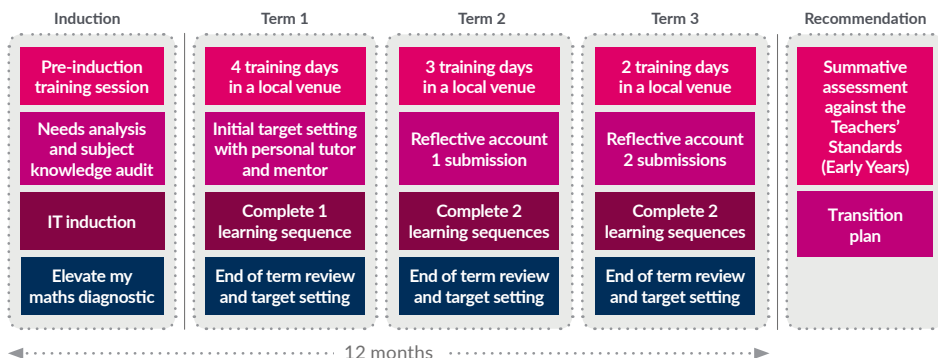
The only teacher training focused on the birth to five age range.

EYITT leads to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) and is designed for those who wish to specialise in early childhood development and work with children from birth to the age of five.

### Benefits

- ✔ Raise the quality of your setting's early years provision
- ✔ Help close the attainment gap and improve children's life chances
- ✔ Access the latest research and teaching resources
- ✔ Gain a qualified Early Years Teacher who will inspire the practice of others
- ✔ Receive an employer incentive of £7,000 to cover training-related costs
- ✔ Train for free - the programme is fully funded by the DfE

### Programme Structure



Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/EYITT](https://bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/EYITT)

For more information call 0117 920 9428 or email [enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk)

"I wanted to deepen my understanding of child development and make a positive and lasting impact on the children's education experience."

## Who is it for?

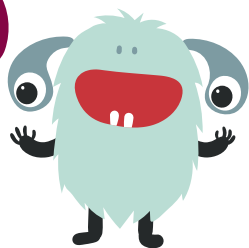
- Graduate early years practitioners who may work in a range of settings across the birth to five, including nurseries, schools, home-based settings
- Graduates who want to join the early years sector
- Full-time undergraduates on early childhood studies degree programmes.

## Entry requirements

- A degree on entry (from any area of study)
- GCSEs Grade C or above (or recognised equivalent) in English, maths and science.

If candidates do not have these qualifications then we can advise on completing an equivalency test instead.

Apply by 18th July,  
start this autumn!



## AT A GLANCE



### Fully funded by the DfE

Plus £7,000 bonus for a trainee's setting



### Online Training & Setting Placements



### This Course Awards

Early Years Teaching Status (EYTS)



### Course Duration

Up to 12 months

### Training Events

9 days



### Upcoming deadlines

Apply by 18th July for the Autumn 2023 Intake



**Helen Royston**  
EYITT Programme Lead

Helen has specialised in early years for 18 years. She worked as an Early Years Teacher across a wide range of provisions, including schools and children's centres. Currently, she uses her skills and expertise to inspire Early Years Teachers of the future.

Funded by



Department  
for Education



## Early Years SENCO Level 3

The Level 3 Early Years SENCO qualification is for a level 3 practitioner in a private, voluntary or independent setting.

It is also appropriate for Ofsted-registered childminders and Ofsted-registered childminder agencies. This is an important role to ensure the best possible educational outcomes are achieved for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

### Benefits

- ✓ Learn how to identify when SEN is occurring in children with EAL
- ✓ Explain how to actively engage the child and the child's parents/carers using the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process
- ✓ Explain what an effective support plan should include and why clear outcomes are important
- ✓ Accredited and fully funded by the Department for Education, Limited places available based on DfE eligibility criteria

## Programme Structure

### Months 1 & 2

#### Unit 01

Roles and responsibilities of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator in the early years

### Months 3 & 4

#### Unit 02

Strategies and techniques for supporting children and families

Online Taught sessions

Online Study Units

Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/early-years-SENCO](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/early-years-SENCO)

For more information call 0117 920 9428 or email [enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)

"This is a crucial programme within our early years education recovery package, addressing the impact of the pandemic on the youngest and most disadvantaged children."

The Minister for School Standards

## Who is it for?

- Ideal for Early Years SENCOs, or aspiring Early Years SENCOs
- Suitable for someone with a level 3 qualification in private, voluntary or independent settings, or Ofsted registered childminders or Ofsted registered childminder agencies.

## Entry requirements

- Must hold an existing level 3 qualification and the support of an appropriate setting
- Maintained settings are not eligible for this programme.



We are the only provider of the DfE-funded EY SENCO in the country

## AT A GLANCE



**Fully funded by the DfE**



**Online Training**



**This Course Awards**  
Level 3 Early Years SENCO



**Course Duration**  
4 months



**Monthly starts**



**Sian Marsh**  
Early Years Director

Sian has specialised in early years education for the last 19 years and has worked with the team at BPN for over 10 years. She is experienced in developing blended programmes and currently manages teams delivering national training programmes in early years at all levels.

Funded by



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for Education

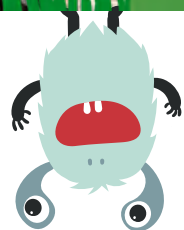




## National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)

NPQEYL is a professional development course, which has been designed with leaders and practitioners in mind.

It is designed to support early years leaders to develop expertise in leading high-quality education and care, as well as in effective staff and organisational management.



### Benefits

- ✔ Establish an effective culture across the nursery
- ✔ Deliver a high-quality and ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of all your learners and ensures all children experience success
- ✔ Support staff to engage in effective professional development
- ✔ Manage resources effectively
- ✔ Work successfully with parents, services and other early years settings

### Programme Structure

#### 1. Introduction

Introductory module and seminar for programme members to outline the programme.

#### 3. Group seminars

Focused on applying and contextualising learning and an opportunity to share practice and collaborate.

#### 5. Implementation

Practice implementing a small improvement. Tightly contained, and focused on impact in school.

#### 2. Self-directed study

Online learning focused on building core knowledge and interim tasks and practice, includes personalised pathways.

#### 4. Conferences

Twice during the programme. Opportunity to revisit and build on content from the curriculum, as well as collaboration.

#### 6. School visits and 1:1

Facilitate a visit to a different school/setting to allow programme members to observe and understand expertise in context.

Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/NPQEYL](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/NPQEYL)

For more information call **0117 920 9428** or email [enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)

“The NPQEYL is a really exciting opportunity to deliver meaningful change in your individual setting from creating an effective culture to aligning staff to the overall mission.”

## Who is it for?

- Suitable for someone who is, or is aspiring to be, a manager of a private, voluntary and independent nursery, headteacher of a school-based or maintained nursery, or a childminder with leadership responsibilities.

## Entry requirements

- A full and approved Level 3 Early Years qualification or higher
- The qualification should have valid, reliable assessment and awarding procedures and must include an element of assessed performance evidence
- If you do not hold a full and approved level 3 early years qualification you will be asked to provide a minimum of 100 words (max 200) detailing your experience relating to Early Years, Childcare or Play work.

## AT A GLANCE



**Fully funded by the DfE**



**Online Training & Face to Face Events**



**This Course Awards**

NPQ in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)



**Course Duration**

18 months



**Autumn and Spring Intakes**



**Nicola Bostock-Hayes**  
Programme Lead

For 16 years Nicola has worked predominantly in secondary education and for the past 10 years on school senior leadership teams. She is passionate that children and young people are at the heart of all that we do within education and that educationalists have access to high-quality training to secure the best outcomes for all.

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Apprenticeships

## How to Apply

### STEP 1

Visit our early years page at  
[bestpracticenet.co.uk/ey](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/ey)

### STEP 2

Select the webpage for the programme  
you would like to complete.

### STEP 3

Click **Apply Now** to sign up!  
You will need to setup an account  
if you don't already have one.

### STEP 4

It takes about 20 minutes to apply for  
most of our courses. Our friendly team  
is available to help you.

### STEP 5

If you are applying for an apprenticeship  
our early years team will assist with  
accessing funding.

We can  
help with  
**recruitment!**

Let us match an applicant  
for your position.

Contact us if you  
have a vacancy.



Our Early  
Years Advisors  
are here  
to help!

## Learn more

0117 920 9428

[enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)

[bestpracticenet.co.uk/ey](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/ey)