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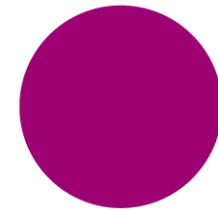
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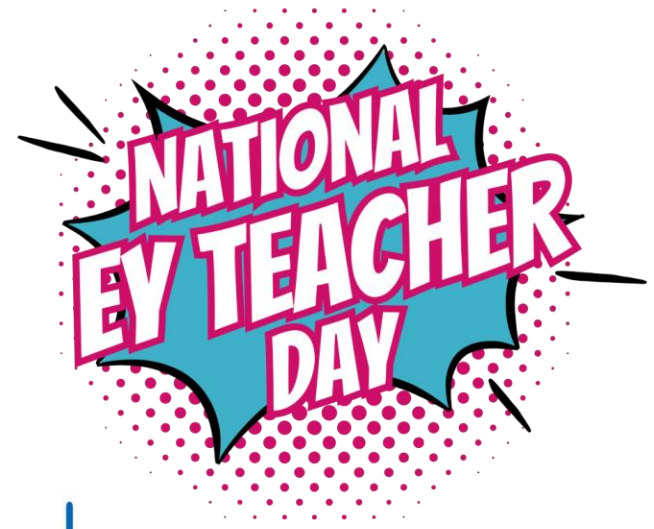
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Developing Strong Early  
Years Teams:  
The Role of Early Years  
Teachers in Your Setting



# Welcome



# Who is this session for?

- Nursery Owners
- Setting Managers
- Early Years Leaders
- Childminder Network Leaders
- Organisations supporting Early Years workforce development



# During this webinar we will discuss



The role Early Years Teachers play within settings

How Early Years Teachers support quality practice and team development

The benefits of supporting staff to progress professionally

Common barriers settings encounter when considering Early Years Teacher training



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# Strong Early Years Practice

Strong Early Years practice depends on:

- Skilled and knowledgeable educators
- Supportive and reflective leadership
- A shared commitment to quality learning
- Environments where children feel safe, confident and curious



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# Take a moment to reflect

- What currently supports strong practice in your setting and team?
- Where do you notice any challenges or variability?



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# The Role of the Early Years Teacher

- Shape teaching and learning practice
- Strengthen pedagogy across the setting
- Support curriculum intent and implementation
- Promote inclusive and responsive practice



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# Early Years Teachers as Practice Leaders

EYTs act as:

- Pedagogical leaders
- Role models for quality interactions
- Drivers of reflective practice
- Supporters of continuous improvement



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# Strengthening Quality Practice across the Team

EYTs support teams by:

- Modelling best practice
  - Coaching and mentoring colleagues
  - Supporting planning and assessment
  - Encouraging reflective dialogue
- Creating shared understanding of quality
  - Supporting professional conversations
  - Building confidence and professional pride
  - Encouraging collaboration



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# Why support progression?



Supporting staff progression benefits:

- Children
- Staff
- Settings and organisations



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# Benefits for children



Children benefit through:

- Higher quality interactions
- More consistent practice
- Greater emotional security
- Improved learning outcomes



# EYT and Children's Outcomes: What the Evidence Shows

## Qualified Early Years Teachers improve outcomes for children

- Settings with graduate-level early years practitioners show **better outcomes at EYFSP**
- Positive impact is seen through to the end of primary school
- Strongest impact for children spending more hours in early years settings

(Ofsted 24/25, Best Start in Life 2025)



# Early Years and Social Mobility

- Closing development gaps
- Best Start in Life (2025) ambition
- Long-term impact on education and wellbeing



*When we understand early years as a lever for social mobility and wellbeing, it becomes clear why **skilled practitioners and strong progression routes** are so important.*



# Government Focus on Early Years



- Expansion of funded childcare
- Increased demand for places
- Workforce central to delivery
- Ofsted 24/25 : Higher Qualifications = Better Quality Practice



*When the workforce is central to delivery, it becomes clear why **investing in people, progression and leadership** in the early years is vital for the future of the sector*

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# EYTs Strengthen Inclusive and SEND Provision

- Higher-qualified practitioners show **stronger understanding of SEND and child development**
- Better quality interactions support **early identification and targeted support**
- Inclusive practice is more consistent where **pedagogical leadership is strong**
- Strong links between qualification level and **meeting diverse needs effectively**

(Ofsted 24/25, Best Start in Life 2025)



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# Benefits for Staff and Settings

Staff and settings benefit through:

- Increased confidence and motivation
- Stronger retention and morale
- Clear career pathways
- Enhanced leadership capacity



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# Early Years Teachers Making a difference!

- Specialists in 0-5
- Developed subject knowledge of EYFS and National Curriculum
- Best practice for teaching approaches and styles
- Positive impact on children's outcomes!!
- Leading practice and supporting professional development for others
- Building strong relationships with other professionals, parent's and carers



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# Common Barriers to gaining EYTS

Common challenges include:

- GCSE requirements
- Time and workload pressures
- Confidence and readiness
- Limited mentoring capacity



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# Addressing GCSE Requirements

Options include:

- GCSE equivalency tests
- Comparability e.g. ENIC
- Clear guidance and support



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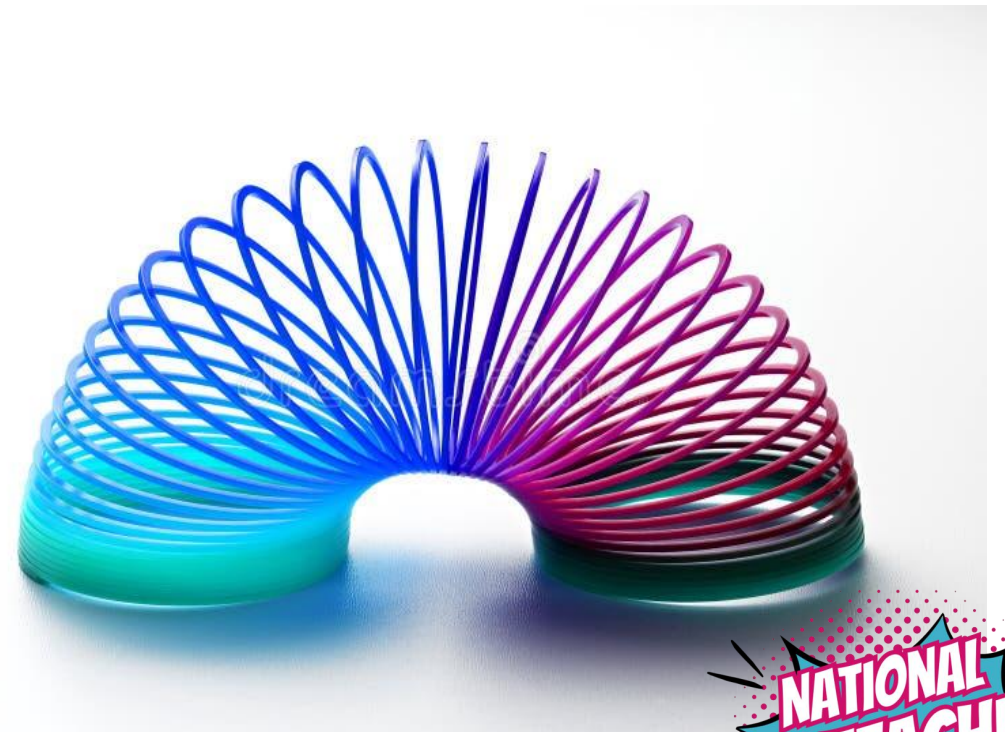


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# Flexible Mentoring Support

Support can include:

- External mentoring from training providers
- Shared responsibility between setting and provider
- Reduced pressure on internal leaders



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# Developing Future Mentors in Settings

Long-term benefits:

- EYTS can strengthen your mentoring capacity
- Stronger internal leadership
- Sustainable professional development
- Grow-your-own mentoring capacity



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# Working in Partnership



Effective partnerships involve:

- Open communication
- Flexible approaches
- Shared commitment to quality
- Realistic expectations



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# Sophie Hayter – Qualification Lead at Kido



# Reflect and Consider Next Steps



- Who in your team has potential to progress?
- What support would they need?
- What conversations could you begin?



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# DfE Webinar 15<sup>th</sup> April at 12pm



**Best Practice Network**

**WEBINAR**

**Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship:**  
Key information & what to expect from the programme

**NATIONAL EY TEACHER DAY**

**Department for Education**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 12-1PM**

A promotional banner for a webinar. The top half features a photograph of a female teacher with long blonde hair sitting on the floor, interacting with two young children (a girl and a boy) who are playing with colorful toys. The background is a bright, modern classroom. The bottom half of the banner is a dark blue gradient with white and pink text. It includes the Best Practice Network logo, a 'WEBINAR' badge, the title of the webinar, the National EY Teacher Day logo, the Department for Education logo, and the date and time of the event.

**Best Practice Network** **Department for Education**

**WEBINAR**

**Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship:**  
Key information & what to expect from the programme

**NATIONAL EY TEACHER DAY**

A smaller version of the promotional banner seen in the previous block, positioned horizontally. It features the same photograph of the teacher and children, the Best Practice Network and Department for Education logos, a 'WEBINAR' badge, the webinar title, the National EY Teacher Day logo, and the event details.

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# Closing Thoughts



- Skilled educators and leadership underpin quality
- Early Years Teachers strengthen practice and teams
- Supporting progression benefits children and settings
- Partnerships make EYTS achievable



Thank you for attending.



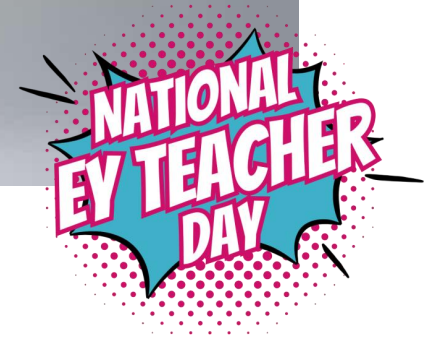
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# Any questions?



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