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Newsletter

November 2025



Welcome to our November Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Newsletter. As always our Hub is offering recorded, live face to face training and live online early years and SEND networks for all the early years workforce. If you haven't already, please look at our national website for more information of what we offer:

<https://www.strongerpracticehubs.org.uk/hubs/nw/liverpool-city-region-and-beyond-eysph>

We have a padlet of resources for childminders, information on physical development and maths champions you may wish to join. See below our recorded sessions. Please email on SpHubNW@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk if you would like to access any of the recording for your own professional development or to use with colleagues in staff meetings. Our sensory curriculum has been popular so Emma-Louise is developing another recorded session that hopefully should be available before Christmas.

EARLY WRITING 25 minutes with Laura Johnson, Early Years Teacher from Duke Street Nursery School, Chorley.

SELF REGULATION AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTION 25 minutes with Emma Doran, Early Years Co-ordinator from Whitefield Primary School, Liverpool.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, PROMOTING INCLUSION, AND ANTI-RACIST CULTURES IN THE EARLY YEARS 25 minutes with Sian Phillips - Anti-Racism Advocate/ Researcher/Consultant.

MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF PUPIL PREMIUM IN THE EARLY YEARS 20 minutes with Kaya Doyle, Programme Manager.

INSET SESSION 1 TEACHING AND MODELLING LANGUAGE: 30 minutes with Alex Gower-Jones (Independent Consultant). This has an accompany written sheet of activities to support this recorded Inset session.

INSET SESSION 2 TEACHING AND MODELLING VOCABULARY: 30 minutes with Alex Gower-Jones (Independent Consultant). This has an accompany written sheet of activities to support this recorded Inset session.

INSET SESSION 1 EARLY LITERACY – TEACHING SOUND

DISCRIMINATION 30 minutes with Alex Gower-Jones (Independent Consultant).

INSET SESSION 2 EARLY LITERACY – TEACHING SOUND

MANIPULATION 30 minutes with Alex Gower-Jones (Independent Consultant).

INTERACTIVE READING CONFERENCE: Conference from 29th March on Interactive Reading re 1 hour, 30 minutes with Alex Gower-Jones (Independent Consultant).

17 SUSTAINABLE GOALS: Conference from Saturday 22nd March on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals – An Introduction re 2 hours with Diane Boyd.

WORKING WITH 0-3's: An introduction to working with children 0-3 years by Amanda Quirk (Early Years Advisory Teacher).

SENSORY FUN Tiny Happy People sensory fun for babies indoors and outdoors with low cost/no cost activities shared by Denise Wright (Independent Consultant). The webinar shows educators how they can inspire parents to undertake sensory activities at home to support their child's learning and development through play.

INTERACTIVE READING online recorded session by Alex Gower-Jones (Independent Consultant) explores how early years educators can explore interactive reading in their practice.

SKILLS BEFORE WRITING online recorded session by Amanda Quirk (Early Years Advisory Teacher) has put together an online programme for early years educators exploring skills before early writing.

EMOTIONAL REGULATION online recorded session by Maria Beale (SENDCO) and Emma Doran (Early Years Co-ordinator) from Whitefield Primary School, Liverpool. Maria and Emma share how they have worked with children in the early years and their families exploring emotional regulation.

NURSERY RHYMES online recorded session by Faye Johnson, Assistant Headteacher from Everton Nursery School and Family Centre has put together a session on exploring Nursery Rhymes with young children.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE online recorded session by Amanda Quirk, (Early Years Advisory Teacher) has put together an online programme for early years educators exploring communication and language.

OAP (ORDINARY AVAILABLE PROVISION) – Amanda Quirk, (Early Years Advisory Teacher) has put together a recording on OAP (Ordinary Available Provision) in early years.

USING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - Craig and Pip from East Prescott Nursery School, Liverpool have developed an online recording on how to use a range of musical instruments. Childminders across our Hub have the opportunity to borrow a musical instruments bag but many early years educators will have these musical instruments in their provision.

MATHEMATICS RECORDED ONLINE – Rebecca Morgan (Nursery Teacher) from Everton Nursery School and Family Centre has recorded a practical session online to share with colleagues to explore mathematics with under fives.

SENSORY CURRICULUM RECORDED ONLINE - Emma-Louise Scott (Nurture Teacher) from Everton Nursery School and Family Centre shares her experiences and practical examples of a sensory curriculum.

EARLY EMOTIONS RECORDED ONLINE

Kaya Doyle (Programme Manager) shares an introduction to early emotional health, the issues children face and links to socio-economic backgrounds.

Other updates include:

Ofsted inspection framework and toolkit

The updated Education Inspection Framework will take effect from 10th November 2025. Early years settings will now be assessed using a 5-point scale across key areas: inclusion, curriculum and

teaching, achievement, behaviour and routines, welfare and wellbeing, and leadership and governance. An inspection toolkit and operating guide are available, outlining expectations for each grading level.

School based Nurseries – phase 2 announcement

On 4 September, the second phase of the school-based nurseries programme was launched, having an increased focus on supporting families in disadvantaged areas to access early years provision. This phase supports projects ready to offer new childcare places in 2026/27

State-funded primary schools and maintained nursery schools can apply for up to £150,000 of capital funding to create or expand on-site nurseries. The [online application service](#) opens from the 22 September until 5pm on the 11 December.

Math's Champions Programme

Fully Funded Maths Champions, starting from September 2025. Funded by the Department for Education, places are now available to school-based nurseries, academy nurseries, nursery schools and PVI settings across England. To read more about the programme visit the [NDNA website](#) or watch [this short information video](#). Register your interest [here](#).

Topic: An introduction to...

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84344553323?
pwd=bFiHBYjHryvzbzgaSencs5NdeCVOTqV.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84344553323?pwd=bFiHBYjHryvzbzgaSencs5NdeCVOTqV.1)
Meeting ID: 843 4455 3323
Passcode: 447255

An introduction to is a series of three webinars, each session focuses on one of the prime areas of learning.

The webinars are repeating again on the below dates, all at 3.45-4.45p.m.:

Communication and Language - Wednesday 26th November 2025

Personal, Social and Emotional Development- Wednesday 10th

December 2025

Physical Development - Wednesday 7th January 2026

sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk

November 2025 issue

Welcome, CPD, Early Mathematical Development, Climate Action Plan, Climate Action Plan Audit, Physical Activity Blog Warming Up for Winter, Early Years and SEND Professional Development Network, EYFS Leadership Network, Maths Champion, Nuffield Foundation Achieving high-quality provision, DfE, The Home Office, Ofsted, Operation Encompass, Let Teachers Shine and BERA latest updates.

Are you looking for Mathematics inspiration? Unlock the Building Blocks of Early Mathematical Development!

✨ Join us for an exciting CPD training series designed to explore the fundamental skills that spark a lifelong love of maths — tailored for children aged:

👶 2–3 years

👧 3–4 years

👦 4–5 years

What to Expect:

- Dive into the theory behind key mathematical principles with a clear, evidence-based approach
- Explore real-life examples and learning in action through focused learning walks
- Tackle gap tasks in your own setting, then share and grow through group networking and feedback
- Boost your CPD portfolio with enhanced, hands-on experiences
- Share evidence of learning through bespoke case studies, showcasing progress and inspiring practice.

See it. Do it. Master it. Join a community of practitioners committed to making maths magical for young learners! We are offering a network of 5 sessions for you to attend at Evelyn Street Primary Academy and Nursery, Evelyn Street, Warrington, WA5 1BD. See the dates below. Email the Hub to book a place on any of the sessions sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk

	Focus	Learning Walk and Face to Face training
November 2025	Promoting fluency with numbers and sequences	Thursday 27th November 9.30-11.30
December 2025	Teaching problem solving skills for maths	Thursday 11th December 9.30-11.30

January 2026

Teaching and
modelling how to
make comparisons
and connections

Thursday 22nd
January 9.30-11.30

February 2026

Facilitating
mathematical
language

Thursday 26th
February 9.30-11.30

Don't forget to join our Leadership Network online:

This will be held the first **Tuesday of each month** on Workplace
Zoom

3.45pm – 4.30pm

Meeting ID: 881 3994 7902

Passcode: 005369

The same ID and passcode for every monthly Tuesday meeting.

December 2nd

January 6th 2026

February 3rd

March 3rd

We also have a SEND/Early Years Network:

This will be held the first Thursday of each month on Workplace
Zoom

6.00-7.00pm

Meeting ID: 874 2439 5942

Passcode: 774607

**The same ID and passcode for every monthly Thursday
meeting.**

December 4th

February 5th 2026

March 5th 2026

Please contact sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk to book
place.



Are you looking for inspiration to write or add to your Climate Action Plan (CAP)?

Have a look at our Sustainable Hub website (designed with content from Highfield Nursery School/East of England Stronger Practice Hub) that has lots of suggestions to help you begin your journey.

<https://www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/climateactionplanning>



Climate Action Plan Audit:

Dr Diane Boyd shares how to set up and audit and put your Climate Action Plan into action.

Tuesday 9th December 2025 6.30p.m. to 8p.m. on Zoom Workplace.

Please email on SpHubNW@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk for the Meeting ID and Passcode.

Physical Activity Blog

Warming Up for Winter

By Alex Gower-Jones

WARMING UP FOR WINTER

How can we support physical development and encourage children in the early years to be physically active during cold, wet winter months?



Alex Gower-Jones has over twenty years of experience in primary education, and has worked across a range of roles from a teacher to a leader and now as an early years consultant. She has experience of developing and delivering evidence-based professional development.

Picture the scene - a crisp winter's morning, bright blue skies, frost twinkling on the grass and children all clambering to be first to access the outdoor provision. Then let's consider some of the realities in our settings during this time of the year. Unpredictable weather, limited staff, muddy resources and a lack of access to appropriate clothing.

The **Educational Programme for Physical Development within the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework**, states that, *'Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives.'* The statutory framework also references the **UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines, 2019**. These guidelines recommend that children aged 1-5 years old should be aiming to move for at least 180 minutes per day.

However, in **Ofsted's Best Start in Life Part 2: The 3 Prime Areas of Learning**, the report states that *'Research tells us that some children do not get the physical development opportunities and support they need at this vital early stage.'*

So how, as early years educators, can we encourage the children in our settings to be physically active, particularly throughout those cold, wet winter months?

At Reddish Vale Nursery School in Stockport, the team have worked hard to establish a culture that motivates children to be physically active all year round, despite the challenges that winter throws at them. **The Education Endowment Foundation** sets out an evidenced-based approach that educators can use to promote physical activity. This approach includes the practices of participation, repetition, combining learning opportunities, sparking or tempting, suggesting and experimenting. So let's consider what that looks like in practice for the children at Reddish Vale Nursery.

Participation

The staff do their best to **participate** in physical activity with enthusiasm. They embrace the variety of weather offered up by the change in seasons. If it's wet, they make it wetter! They add colour to puddles, where the children then use tools which develop fine and gross motor skills. In this picture, a teaching assistant was excited about throwing huge buckets of water into the air and dancing and splashing with the children in the pools of water she created.



Repetition

Adults provide **repeated** opportunities for children to take part in physical movement. Putting on winter clothing, and making this part of the daily routine, is a perfect opportunity to work on those fine motor skills.



Combine Learning Opportunities

At Reddish Vale, they see mud as a wonderful learning resource. The children use mud for 'cooking', writing, scooping and squelching. The natural resources outdoors, provide **combined learning opportunities**. For example, pine cones are used for mathematics, role play, art and design and much more!



Sparking or Tempting

Children's interests are often used as a great way to **spark and tempt** children to be physically active. They take part in superhero workouts to become warm, and use tools to release dinosaurs which are trapped in ice.



Suggesting

One of the Nursery team noticed the bird feeders were empty and talked about how birds find looking for worms difficult in the winter. A child commented, "Need food", so staff **suggested** the child used a wheel barrow to transport the seed tub around the outdoors and fill up the feeders. The child was very determined when he came to a difficult manoeuvre but persisted with a little verbal encouragement.



Experimenting

To encourage the children to **experiment** with different movements, some balloons were strung up outside. The children were encouraged to use different movements to see if they could pull the balloon down.

As you can read, winter doesn't mean putting physical activity on ice. Katie Bennett, the headteacher at Reddish Vale, said that the impact of fostering this positive culture towards physical activity, has been that children are well on their way to reaching their daily goal of 180 active minutes. In addition to this, she has also seen a positive impact on children's emotional well-being, their play, ability to build friendships and in their independence in self-care.

Motivating children to keep moving to support their all-round development is vital. You could consider using the practices of **participation, repetition, combining learning opportunities, sparking or tempting, suggesting and experimenting**, to provide opportunities for children to be physically active.

So as the days grow shorter and the weather becomes less inviting, take some time to reflect on this final question: How will you promote physical activity with children in your setting to support this key area of development?

Book on to our Reddish Vale Learning Walk

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub are offering educators the opportunity to see these approaches in action at Reddish Vale Nursery School. Katie Bennett will talk about how the team at Reddish Vale encourage children to be active outdoors during winter. You will then have the opportunity to look around the Nursery, ask questions and consider how this approach could work in your own setting.

The learning walk will take place on Thursday 13th November from 9.30am-11.30am. To book your place please email us at sphubnw@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk.

Interested in learning more?

If you are interested in learning more about this approach to supporting physical development in the early years, you can find further information on the **Education Endowment Foundation's Evidence Store** [here](#).



You can read the **UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines, 2019** in full [here](#) and **Ofsted's Best Start in Life Part 2: The 3 Prime Areas of Learning** [here](#).

The **Movement Environment Rating Scale (MOVERS)**, found [here](#), is an evidence-based tool which can be used by early years educators. It offers a method of measuring the quality of the environment and pedagogy in which young children are encouraged to move and be physically active.

Early Years and SEND Professional Development Network

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub have an Early Years Professional Development Network for the Early Years Sector

The aim of this network is to offer bitesize training, legislation and policy updates, a safe space to ask questions to other professionals and share best practice.

Audience: Childminders, early years educators and those working in practice with under 5s.

This will be held the **first Thursday of each month** on Workplace Zoom **6.00-7.00pm**

Meeting ID: 874 2439 5942

Passcode: 774607

The same ID and passcode for every monthly Thursday meeting.



- **August 7th**
- **September 4th**
- **October 2nd**
- **November 6th**
- **December 4th**
- **February 5th 2026**
- **March 5th 2026**



EYFS Leadership Network

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Stronger Practice Hub have an Early Years Leadership Network for the Early Years Sector.

The aim of this network is to offer, legislation and policy updates, updates on training for your staff teams, a safe space to ask questions to other professionals and share best practice.

Audience: School leaders, EYFS Coordinators, Nursery Manager, Childminder Leads, LA reps

This will be held the first **Tuesday of each month** on Workplace Zoom
3.30pm – 4.15pm

Meeting ID: 881 3994 7902
Passcode: 005369

The same ID and passcode for every monthly Tuesday meeting.

- **August 5th**
- **September 2nd**
- **October 7th**
- **November 4th**
- **December 2nd**
- **January 6th 2026**
- **February 3rd**
- **March 3rd**

Maths Champion

Maths Champions Programme

Maths Champions is an online professional development programme with 12 months access developed by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA). The programme consists of nine steps which can be completed flexibly around your schedule.

The aim of the programme is to increase practitioner knowledge, awareness and confidence in supporting early mathematics in order to improve outcomes for children. Participating nurseries will nominate a Maths Champion and Deputy Maths Champion who will lead the programme supporting and driving improvement.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) evaluation report found that:

- + Children in Maths Champions setting made, on average, the equivalent of three months' additional progress in maths and language attainment compared to a control group**
- + Children eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) made, on average, the equivalent of six months' additional progress in maths attainment**
- + Maths Champions received the EEF's highest possible security rating for the strength of the evidence and the low cost to settings.**

Our own research found that:

- + 100% of settings said that their knowledge of supporting children's mathematical development improved during the course of the programme**
- + 100% of settings said that the programme had a beneficial impact on the staff in their setting**
- + 95% of settings said the programme was good value for money**
- + 95% of settings would recommend the programme to others.**

**Find out more at:
ndna.org.uk/maths-champions**





As an NDNA Maths Champion you will support your team to evaluate and develop their knowledge, understanding and practice in relation to early year's mathematics, in order to increase their confidence in supporting and teaching children in this area.

You will support staff to develop an enabling environment resulting in high quality maths experiences being available throughout the day, providing children with the best possible start in their mathematical development.

The Maths Champions Programme contains nine steps for you to work through during your enrolment. A brief outline of these steps can be found below.

Step 1: Initial Tasks

This section includes important information about the programme and what is expected throughout. It also allows us to get to know you better.

Step 2: Reflective Learning Journal

This section contains an optional learning journal that you can use throughout the programme to record your reflections, training, development plans and achievements.

Step 3: Online Training

This section contains three bespoke online training courses designed to enhance and consolidate your current knowledge and support staff and children to improve outcomes.

Step 4: Children's Observational Assessment

This section contains a tracking tool to record the impact of changes made throughout the programme on a chosen sample of children.

Step 5: Audits

This section contains a learning environment and staff confidence audit tool to help you evaluate your current practice and identify areas for improvement that you can focus on.

Step 6: Action Plans

This section contains action plan templates allowing you to record key priorities identified in the audits. These can be used throughout the programme to improve practice and record your achievements.

Step 7: Core Activities

This section contains core play based activities to be carried out with children in your setting. The aim of these are to increase staff's understanding and confidence and to benefit children's attainment through every day activities.

Step 8: Measuring Impact

This section requires you to revisit the tracking tool in step four and the audits and action plans in steps five & six to identify the areas where you have made improvement and evaluate the impact of this and success of the programme.

Step 9: Case Study

This section contains a case study for you to complete focussing on an area that you have been developing throughout the programme. This is your opportunity to share the success you have had.

The programme includes two online training courses specifically created by Dr. Sue Gifford for the Maths Champions Programme. These cover the key aspects of maths in the early years including priorities, predictors from research, the progression of big ideas in early number sense and the key aspects of shape, space and measures. You will also explore developmentally appropriate teaching approaches and investigate different methods for observing, assessing and planning for maths across the different ages of children in the setting.

You will also receive ongoing support throughout the 12 months on the programme through:

- + **An initial live induction to take you through the programme steps and how to log in with opportunity for questions**
- + **Monthly one-to-one support to discuss your progress, any obstacles and any further support we can offer**
- + **Regular live webinars on emerging topics with opportunities to network and ask questions.**

You can also gain access to an extensive Resource Bank with hundreds of additional activities, handouts and useful links.



 Songs & Rhymes	 Role Play & Small World	 Construction & Block Play	 Outdoor M
 Cooking	 Holidays & Festivals	 Maths & IT	 Maths at H
 Useful Links	 Printable Resources	 Research & Articles	 Webina

What our champions are saying...



"The observational assessment breaks down the areas of maths further than we have ever looked at them before and has helped so much with staffs understanding and also unpicking children's knowledge and understanding. As a result, it showed children in our setting have made good improvement with mathematics, showing more interest in mathematics around them and in their environment."

+ PVI Pre-School

"The core activities provided carefully structured learning opportunities, designed to be rehearsed and consolidated. They supported the EYFS ethos of learning through play, and so the children never tired of them. They were eager to repeat them throughout the week, thus ensuring mathematics skills and understanding were embedded."

+ Nursery Class



"The programme was really well set out and the format was great – quick and easy to use."

+ PVI Pre-School

"Being involved in the Maths Champion programme has been an amazing experience and one which will impact on the children and staff for years to come."

+ Nursery School



Find out more at:
ndna.org.uk/maths-champions



Maths Champions Information Sheet

National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) are delighted to have secured funds to deliver the Maths Champions programme through the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Department for Education (DfE). The 12 month online programme has been evaluated by the EEF with York and Durham University and has been proven to boost children's Maths and Language attainment by an average of [3 additional months](#).

About the Programme

The programme aims to improve maths attainment of children in an early years setting by training a Maths Champion and Deputy Maths Champion (MC and DMC) in key mathematical concepts and increasing staff confidence. After completing a live induction and online training modules the MC will lead on completing a staff confidence and nursery environment audit and action plan to improve the mathematical learning environment and confidence of all staff. They will also lead on implementing 10 or more core activities with children that build on the key areas of maths learning. MCs will then be able to revisit their audits and review the outcomes of the core activities. Throughout the 12 months the MC and DMC will have access to ongoing one-to-one support from an Early Years Expert as well as regular webinars on arising topics.

As part of this DfE-funded scaled delivery, the programme will be available at no cost to participating settings.

Programme steps:

- ▶ STEP 1: Initial Tasks
- ▶ STEP 2: Reflective Learning Journal
- ▶ STEP 3: Online Training
- ▶ STEP 4: Children's Observational Assessment
- ▶ STEP 5: Self Assessment Audits
- ▶ STEP 6: Action Plans
- ▶ STEP 7: Core Activities
- ▶ STEP 8: Measuring Impact
- ▶ STEP 9: Case Study

To take part in the programme you must:

- Be a private, voluntary, or independent (PVI) nursery, maintained nursery school or children's centre, or state funded school-based nursery with children accessing 3- and 4-year-old places attending for at least 15 hours per week
- Be able to nominate a level 3 practitioner to be the Maths Champion, who will run the programme in your setting and nominate another level 3 practitioner to be the Deputy Maths Champion, who will support the Maths Champion.
- Not currently be using the NDNA Maths Champions programme or have taken part in the programme in the last two years
- Be committed to completing the mandatory steps of the programme over the 12-month period to the best of your ability
- Have onsite access to a computer with internet connection
- Be based in England
- Be ready to begin on programme between February and June 2026.

Delivery will commence from February 2026. For more information on the programme please visit the [NDNA website](#)

To register your interest please follow the link [here](#) or scan the QR code below to complete the short Expression of Interest form. If you meet the criteria above you will then be sent the full registration materials.

Please note: Where MOUs are received from settings with more than 10% of children in receipt of EYPP these will be prioritised to the programme.



As part of NDNA's recruitment of settings for the Maths Champions programme, we are holding a number of information sessions. Led by our team of expert Early Years Advisors, these sessions will provide a comprehensive explanation of the programme, the eligibility criteria for settings to take part, and the commitment involved. There is also an opportunity for settings to ask direct questions to the Early Years Advisors, followed by clear instructions of next steps and how to sign up.

Below are the dates we have scheduled, and additional dates will be added in November.

Maths Information Sessions

November

Tuesday 18th November 14:00-14:30

Friday 21st November 10:00-10:30

Wednesday 26th November 10:00-10:30

Thursday 27th November 15:30-16:00

December

Thursday 4th December 14:00-14:30

Friday 5th December 10:00-10:30

Tuesday 9th December 11:00-11:30

Wednesday 10th December 15:30-16:00



[Achieving high-quality provision in the baby room of English nurseries](#)

This project will bring together evidence on what quality early years provision looks like for children aged 0-2 years in the baby rooms of English nurseries, and at childminders.

- DfE's [review of the impact of its financial incentives pilot scheme](#) to encourage recruitment of early years staff found that the scheme was not successful at increasing recruitment.
- DfE has published the latest of its [pulse surveys of providers](#). Findings include that there was little improvement on recruitment and retention challenges, that most expansion in places for under 3s is from settings already catering to that age group and that waiting lists have grown.
- DfE's latest report on [requests for delayed admission to Reception for summer-born children](#) shows an continued small increase in the number of local authorities agreeing to all requests, with 95% of requests being agreed overall. Requests come mainly from white households with above the mean income.
- The Home Office and DfE will be delivering webinars on Martyn's Law in the coming weeks - [Understanding Martyn's Law: What It Means for Education Settings - Educate Against Hate](#). The webinars will be covering an overview of the Act and how it will apply to education, the next steps for implementation and what settings need to consider. The law will only apply to settings with over 200+ individuals in attendance, so only larger settings need attend.
- Ofsted has published a [blog](#) giving feedback on pilot inspections using the new framework. They have noted that "In maintained nursery schools, we noticed that it was more difficult to evaluate impact during the autumn term, especially when most children were 3- and 4-year-olds who had only recently started. So, going forward, we'll be scheduling inspections for these settings in the spring and summer terms only, when there's more evidence of progress over time."
- Operation Encompass has been operating across all police

• Operation Encompass has been operating across all police forces to date on a voluntary basis. From 7 November, the police will have a statutory duty to notify a child's educational setting when they attend a domestic abuse incident in a child's home, including children who were not physically present at the incident. The scheme recognises children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. This new duty places no new responsibilities on educational settings. Further information on Operation Encompass generally can be found on page 155 of [Keeping children safe in education 2025](#).

- Teachers in the North of England can apply for grants of up to £25,000 for projects that help disadvantaged young people to realise their academic potential. The funding is being made available through the [Let Teachers Shine competition](#). Teachers in schools and nurseries are eligible. Closing date: 14 January 2026.

- BERA has published a themed "blog special issue" on [Reimagining a just early childhood education and care sector in England: Voices from the margins](#).

Liverpool City Region and Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Feedback Form

If you have attended any of our conferences or face to face training, please scan the QR code and send us feedback. Many thanks.



0151 233 1969

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Check out our site [→](#)