

A CPD guide for childminders

Clear, supported pathways for professional development



“The EY SENCO programme has been transformative — not just for me, but for my entire team. It enhanced our ability to support children with SEND and improved our collaboration with families.”

Learn. Share. Grow.

Introduction

Childminders play a vital role in Early Years education. You work independently, build strong relationships with families, and support children with a wide range of needs, often without the day-to-day support found in larger settings.

Professional development matters, but for many childminders it is not always clear which training is relevant, achievable, or recognised for home-based practice.

This short guide brings together structured CPD routes designed to support childminders at different stages of their career. It focuses on programmes that fit around your setting, respect your experience, and help you build confidence in your role.

Whether you are looking to strengthen SEND leadership or explore teacher status, this guide helps you see what is possible and where to start.

Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) - Childminder Route

About

This exclusive route has been developed to recognise the uniqueness of childminders, offering reasonable adjustments, where necessary, that align with individual working patterns and your business needs.

Childminders on the EYITT programme benefit from:

- Pre-interview guidance to discuss eligibility, funding and programme expectations
- Personalised programme planning to map out your journey through our programme
- Monthly networking sessions designed specifically for childminders, focusing on leadership, reflective practice and partnership working
- Weekly check-ins with a Personal Tutor, available via text, email or phone
- Communication logs to document professional discussions and strengthen evidence for planning and leadership
- Dedicated monthly meetings bring together childminders completing EYITT to create a strong network, explore sector-specific topics and share good practice
- A Personal Tutor who has a clear understanding of your unique setting to ensure their support reflects the home-based early years context

Placement arrangements

Placements are structured to meet EYITT age range requirements while considering the realities of the childminding setting. Each childminder will be caring for different age groups in their setting, so placements will be planned to offer contrasting age groups.

Funding and incentives

Childminders are eligible to receive the fully-funded training grant to complete the EYITT programme provided by the Department for Education.

Please note that sole traders and business partners are considered self-employed by HMRC and therefore not eligible for the extra employer incentive payment for Early Years Settings.

However

If the sole trader employs their staff on PAYE then the employed member of staff would be eligible for the employer incentive. We'll guide you through the process and confirm your eligibility during application.

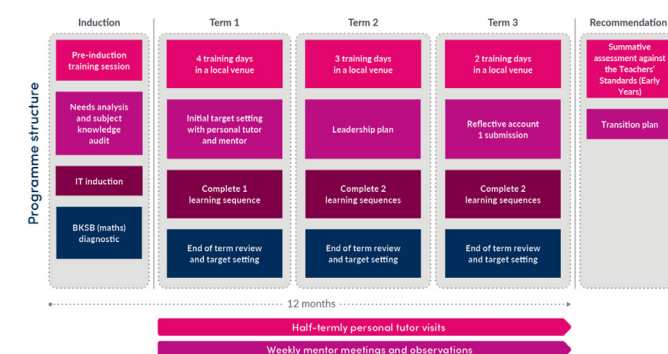
"This course has given me the opportunity to revisit my earlier early years learning and to explore new theories that have deepened my understanding and strengthened the ethos I already use in my practice. It has helped me connect theory to the values that underpin my work with children and families, providing fresh insight into why I approach my role in the way that I do."

- Lorraine | Childminder and EYITT Graduate

Supporting every childminder to succeed

With placement support, tailored learning, and sector-specific knowledge, Best Practice Network ensures every childminder has the opportunity to achieve Early Years Teacher Status – while continuing to make a difference in their communities and lead the way in Early Years education.

Programme structure



"I hugely appreciate all of your help and support. I can already feel your positive input into my own sense of wellbeing and self-esteem; I am loving this course! Thank you for everything you are doing in guiding me through everything. (It's a bit like having my very own Fairy Godmother - my motivation has no bounds!)"

- Marion Harding | Childminder



"What I liked about working with Best Practice Network was the outstanding support and all the information they shared with us"

- EYSENCO Graduate

Early Years SENCo Level 3

The Level 3 Early Years SENCo qualification is suitable 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 to actively engage with children and their families using the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process
- ✓ Understand 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
- ✓ Gain the and techniques to identify SEND at the earliest point

Programme structure

Weeks 1 - 12	Weeks 13 - 24	Weeks 24 - 26
Unit 01 Roles and responsibilities of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator in the Early Years	Unit 02 Strategies and techniques for supporting children and families	Post-delivery Assessment period and submission to NCFE
Online taught sessions		
Online study units		
Assignments 1-8		

Who is it for?

- Ideal for Childminders or Childminder Assistants due to take up the role of EYSENCo
- Suitable for Ofsted registered Childminders and Childminder agencies that hold a level 3 qualification

Entry requirements

- Must hold a full and relevant Level 2 Early years qualification and:
 - Have completed at least one Level 3 qualification module
 - Have some experience in Early Years SEND
- Or, have a full and relevant Level 3 Early Years qualification with experience in Early Years SEND

Check to see if your qualification is full and relevant here:
www.check-an-early-years-qualification.service.gov.uk

Learn more and register at bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYSENCO

AT A GLANCE

- Fully funded by the DfE**
- Online training**
- This course awards**
NCFE Level 3 Award for Special Educational Needs Coordinators in Early Years Settings
- Course duration**
6 months
- Upcoming deadlines**
View our website for the latest information and to register for updates



Anna Watson
Head of Early Years SEN

Anna has worked in Early Years for 23 years in a thriving setting and for 7 years with Best Practice Network as part of the EYITT and Apprenticeship programmes. She leads the Early Years SENCO programme and is passionate about improving outcomes for children and their families.

Funded by



Department
for Education



Best
Practice
Network

Take the next step with confidence

Choosing CPD should feel supportive, not overwhelming. You do not need to have everything planned before you begin. Our team is here to help you explore what fits your goals.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our childminder pathways, funding eligibility, and upcoming information sessions.



Learn more and register at
bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYSENCO



Learn more and apply at
bestpracticenet.co.uk/eyitt-childminder

Learn. Share. Grow.

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 **Apprenticeships**