



Factsheet: Early Years Recovery Package

As part of the autumn Spending Review announcement, the Chancellor has committed to further invest in helping children, young people, and families recover from the effects of the pandemic. The DfE press notice is available here:

[All schools and colleges to receive extra funding for catch up - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-schools-and-colleges-to-receive-extra-funding-for-catch-up)

This follows the £1.4 billion commitment made on 2 June 2021, which included £153 million to build a stronger, more expert workforce in the early years sector. We are now able to share details of how the early years workforce, children and families will benefit from this investment.

Key messages

- We know that the earliest years are the most crucial stage of child development, that early education supports children's social and emotional development, and lays the foundation for lifelong learning.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the outcomes gap, and set back children's learning and development - particularly in language and maths - and hit those from disadvantaged backgrounds hardest.
- Improving training for early years practitioners is one of the key levers for driving up quality in early education settings.
- We are determined to build back fairer from the pandemic by recognising the impact on the youngest children's social and personal skills as well as their early literacy and numeracy.
- This £153m investment in Early Years Education Recovery will build a stronger, more expert workforce, enabling settings to deliver high quality teaching and address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest children, with a focus on the most disadvantaged areas.
- These proposals build on our reforms to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to accelerate and embed real change for young children, which is more important than ever in light of the impact of the pandemic.
- This £153m package, together with the previously-announced Nuffield Early Language Programme (£17m), and further investment (£10m) in the second phase of the Professional Development Programme, represents an investment of up to £180m of recovery support in the early years sector.

The Early Years Education Recovery Programme will:

- Deliver a universal training offer, together with targeted support to leaders and practitioners, to create a more sustainable, self-supporting system;
- Strengthen specialist expertise and leadership in the sector by boosting skills to develop children's early language and maths, as well as their personal and social development;
- Improve the capacity of the early years workforce to support children with special educational needs; and
- Train practitioners to support parents with home learning, which is one of the biggest drivers of early outcomes and future attainment.

Early Years Education Recovery Programme delivery:

1. A **Stronger Practice programme**, comprising three elements –
 - a. New, **universally accessible online training** to upskill practitioners and improve their knowledge of child development, so they are better able to support the development of children in their care.
 - b. For those settings in need of most support, access to **mentoring** support for early years practitioners to help strengthen children's learning and development, along with bespoke whole-setting and leadership support, again targeted at settings most in need.
 - c. EY **innovation** programme to provide opportunities for settings to explore innovative practice, help grow the evidence base and facilitate cross-sector sharing.
2. An expansion of the **Professional Development Programme** for frontline practitioners, to provide national coverage.
3. A **review of Level 3 qualifications**, leading towards a reformed, evidence-based L3 qualification.
4. An expansion of training to increase the number of staff in group-based providers, and childminders, with an **accredited Level 3 SENCO** qualification. This will lead to better identification of SEND, and better support for children with SEND.
5. Substantially expanded numbers of places for **initial teacher training in EY**, to increase the supply of qualified graduates to the sector.
6. Programmes to train early years practitioners to support parents with **home learning**, giving priority to families that would benefit the most. These include intensive home visiting programmes and group-based interventions, proven by trials to improve children's early language and social and emotional development.