



News From the Hub

Summer term 1 2025

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of our Early Years Hub newsletter!

The Stronger Practice Hub is delighted to continue supporting early years practitioners across Derbyshire, Derby City, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City with funded training and support through to March 2026.

We're committed to helping you deliver the very best for young children, and this issue is packed with exciting upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!



Emma Haywood

Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Lead

New

PARTNER

We are thrilled to introduce our New Partner!

Kate Cox, Operations Manager at Little Explorers, an Ofsted-rated Outstanding nursery based in the beautiful grounds of Broomfield Hall, Derby College.



Kate Cox

“With over 30 years of experience in the early years sector, I've worked across PVI settings and further education, supporting both children and practitioners. I'm passionate about raising the quality of early years practice and love supporting professional development within our community.

I have a particular interest in nature-based play and learning, and I'm proud that our nursery offers rich outdoor experiences that spark curiosity and build confidence in young children.

It's a pleasure to be partnering with the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Stronger Practice Hub, and I'm excited to connect with others who share a passion for early childhood education.”

Kate will become a familiar face, as she facilitates at our upcoming Room Leader Networks, and invites you to visit Little Explorers Nursery, on Saturday 21st June!



[Find out more](#)



Recent Reflections

Celebrating the success of our recent event

Setting visit with... Katy Burgess- Sat 22nd Mar 2025

Forest School Approach

Childminder, Katy Burgess, runs a setting in West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, where she has developed a fantastic approach to using natural local spaces.

On Saturday 22nd March, she was joined by over **20 childminders** from the Hub community at Skylarks Nature Reserve to share her expertise on adopting the Forest School approach to transform natural spaces into rich learning environments.

Katy shared how this child-centred approach has promoted **independence, resilience and confidence** with her minded children. The outdoor settings can also be great for “getting back to the basics of learning, as the highly sensory environment is known to improve social interactions, progress problem solving and spatial awareness, as well as develop gross & fine motor skills.”

We would like to thank, not only Katy and her supporter Caroline, but the wonderful childminders who attended and provided invaluable feedback.



What an inspiring morning!

All the activities were so well linked to the EYFS and simple to replicate.

It was great to meet like-minded people and network too.

Fantastic session!

Excellent, simple ideas to take away and try with the children. Great to chat to Katy and hear how passionate she is about outdoor learning. -Great opportunity to network too!

You Shared

WE LISTENED

The feedback from this event, along with our Childminder Conference back in February, showed the value in providing chances for childminders to come together, share experiences & build relationships.

We are running **Outdoor Learning, Childminder networks** across Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire from June 2025 to March 2026!



[Find out more](#)



What's on for all?

Diary and Calendar of Events & CPD

We are delighted to share our upcoming events, with availability.

This includes different networks, taking place across Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire, Setting Visits and online CPD, accessible at any time, via our Padlet.

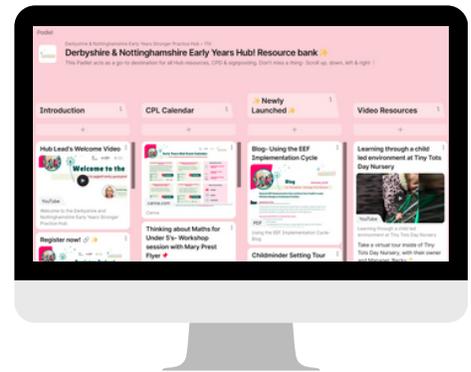


Would you like unlimited access to all Hub resources?



Acting as a one-stop-shop for all things Early Years- make the most of our resource bank!

This is available to those registered with the Hub.



Setting Visit at...

Little Explorers Nursery

Forest Nursery School in Derbyshire

Visit us!

Little Explorers Forest School invites you to explore their '**Outstanding**' setting!

Nursery manager, Kate Cox, will lead engaging discussions around our nature-based pedagogy, transformative environments, and how these approaches can be integrated into various educational settings.



While you are there, there will be opportunities to explore how these environments can positively impact and elevate learning!

Places are limited- find out more & book [HERE](#) to avoid disappointment!



Sat 21st Jun 2025
9.30am - 12.30pm



Little Explorers Nursery
Broomfield Hall Broomfield Estate, Ilkeston DE7 6DN





Join a community... Room Leader Networks

Taking place across Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

We are delighted to share our upcoming network events, taking place between June 2025 & March 2026.



PVI settings

Room Leaders Networks

Take advantage of this opportunity to join a community of like-minded room leaders, with a focus on developing your skills as a leader, as well as on developing the high-quality provision in your room.

The networks involve **three face-to-face days** across the year, where you will come together with colleagues to learn more about leadership and discover thought provoking ideas about what good practice looks like.

You will have chance to learn about new theories and ideas, reflect on your own practice and take away top tips and suggestions to try in your own rooms. There will be chance to celebrate and share what you have been doing with colleagues and with opportunities to develop relationships and learn from each other over time.

	DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE		NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
Babies	Wednesday 16th Sept 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 19th Sept 25	Trent Conference Centre
	Wednesday 26th Nov 25	Post Mill Centre	Tuesday 18th Nov 25	Flying High Partnership
	Friday 30th Jan 26	Post Mill Centre	Friday 16th Jan 26	Flying High Partnership
Toddlers	DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE		NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
	Tuesday 30th Sept 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 26th Sept 25	Flying High Partnership
	Friday 21st Nov 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 14th Nov 25	Flying High Partnership
Thursday 13th Mar 26	Post Mill Centre	Friday 27th Feb 26	Flying High Partnership	
Pre-School	DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE		NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
	Friday 18th Jul 25	Post Mill Centre	Wednesday 9th Jul 25	Trent Conference Centre
	Tuesday 9th Dec 25	Post Mill Centre	Friday 5th Dec 25	Flying High Partnership
Friday 20th Mar 26	Post Mill Centre	Friday 6th Mar 26	Flying High Partnership	

By booking onto these networks, you agree to attend all 3 sessions



Book Here





Outdoor Learning... Childminder Network

Taking place across Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

We are delighted to share our upcoming network events, taking place between June 2025 & March 2026.



Childminders

Childminder Networks

Discover how **natural spaces** can be used as **rich learning environments**, where outdoor learning supports key developmental goals, aligns with the EYFS framework, and nurtures resilience, creativity, and a lifelong love for nature in children.

DERBY CITY & DERBYSHIRE



CORBAR WOODS

Corbar Woods Lane, Corbar Road, Buxton, SK17 6FB

Friday 13th June 25	10:00 - 11:30
Friday 3rd October 25	10:00 - 11:30
Friday 13th March 26	10:00 - 11:30



LINACRE RESERVOIRS

Linacre Reservoirs, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S42 7AU

Friday 27th June 25	10:00 - 11:30
Friday 26th September 25	10:00 - 11:30
Friday 20th March 26	10:00 - 11:30



MARKEATON PARK

Markeaton Park, Markeaton, Derby, DE22 4AA

Friday 4th July 25	10:00 - 11:30
Friday 19th September 25	10:00 - 11:30
Friday 27th March 26	10:00 - 11:30

NOTTINGHAM CITY & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



RUSHCLIFFE COUNTRY PARK

Mere Way, Ruddington, West Bridgford, NG11 6JS

Monday 16th June 25	10:15 - 11:45
Thursday 25th September 25	10:15 - 11:45
Wednesday 4th March 26	10:15 - 11:45



BOUGHTON BRAKE WOODS

Boughton Brake Woods, Brake Lane, New Ollerton, NG22 9NE

Friday 11th July 25	10:15 - 11:45
Friday 10th October 25	10:15 - 11:45
Friday 20th March 26	10:15 - 11:45



WOLLATON PARK

Wollaton Park, Wollaton NG8 2AE

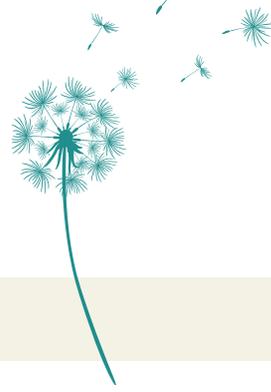
Wednesday 16th July 25	10:15 - 11:45
Thursday 11th September 25	10:15 - 11:45
Wednesday 25th February 26	10:15 - 11:45

By booking onto these networks, you agree to attend all 3 sessions, at one venue



Book Here





Opportunities

Resources & Training to support CPD

Free training, guidance and resources for early years settings!

Equation is working with early years settings across Nottinghamshire to make sure that more children and adults living with domestic abuse can get support.



➤ If you work in a nursery, pre-school, independent school, out of school provision, or as a childminder, they can provide you with free training that will enable you and your team to:

- Spot the subtle indicators of children living with domestic abuse
- Learn how to respond in a safe way
- Know how to refer children and adults for support, and understand the process
- Expand your knowledge of safeguarding
- Learn simple techniques which may help reduce the impact of living with domestic abuse in the 0 - 5 years age range

Make the most of FREE training, guidance & resources!

Equation offer flexibility, allowing you to choose between online or face-to-face sessions- even travelling to you, to deliver training in your workplace.



[Find out more](#)

Can't GET ENOUGH?

If you can't get enough of the Hub, join us on social media!

For 'Top Tips', 'Meet the Team' and the latest Hub updates, you can find us on:



[@DNEYHub](#)



[@earlyyearshub_derbynotts](#)



Search Derbyshire & Notts Early Years
Stronger Practice Hub



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