

Early Years, SEND and Childcare Service

Continuous professional development programme: Autumn term 2026

We are delighted to offer a comprehensive programme of training, networks and professional development opportunities for Early Years and Childcare providers, Family Hub staff, wider professionals, and volunteers working with children and families in Reading. Designed to support those working across the sector, the programme aims to strengthen knowledge, skills and confidence across a range of key areas, enabling services to deliver high-quality care, education and support for children and their families.

Whether you are looking to enhance safeguarding practice, strengthen leadership, develop inclusive provision, or support children's wellbeing, our training opportunities are designed to promote continuous improvement and professional collaboration. Alongside training, our network meetings provide valuable opportunities to connect with colleagues, share best practice, stay informed about local and national developments, and contribute your views to help shape future services and support.

If you cannot find the training or support you are looking for, please let us know. We welcome your feedback and suggestions and will continue to develop our offer to meet the needs of the workforce.

We look forward to working with you to support the best possible start for all Reading's children.

Booking information:

Early Years – earlyyears@reading.gov.uk

Childminders – childminding@reading.gov.uk

Wraparound and Out of School providers - wraparoundchildcare@reading.gov.uk

SLA – <http://www.readingeducationservices.co.uk/>

Safeguarding				
Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
Safeguarding Workshop 2 – Unconscious Bias	This is the second in a series of six safeguarding workshops designed to build on the knowledge gained in the Universal Safeguarding Training. An opportunity, through practical activities and discussion with your peers, to support an open and positive safeguarding culture that puts children's interests first. Unconscious bias in safeguarding involves automatic stereotypes – based on race, gender, age or class that can cause professionals to misinterpret risks, overlook abuse, or treat individuals unequally. The workshop will help you to actively challenge assumptions to ensure equitable protection for all. Book via email or the SLA.	9 September 2026 6.30-8.30pm	Civic Centre	FREE

Domestic Abuse Awareness Training – Level 1 Reading Borough Council	- Definitions and prevalence of domestic abuse - Stages of coercive control - How might someone present who is experiencing abuse - Domestic abuse during the pandemic, challenges and safely asking the question - Overview of DASH (domestic abuse, stalking and harassment) and MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) Book on via the application form.	24 September 2026 9.30am-12.30pm 17 November 2026 9.30am-12.30pm	Teams	FREE
Universal Safeguarding Children EY Advisors	Essential training for all staff whose work brings them in to contact with children. Book via email or the SLA.	7 October 2026 6-9pm 22 October 2026 6-9pm	Civic Centre	FREE

Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
DASH & MARAC Training – Level 2	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence (DASH) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	7 October 2026 1.30-4.30pm	Civic Centre	FREE

Reading Borough Council	Understanding the dynamics of domestic abuse • What is a DASH risk assessment • What should a good DASH look like? • What does high risk mean? • MARAC and referral processes It is recommended to attend the DA Level 1 training before attending the DASH and MARAC training. Book on via the application form.	7 December 2026 1.30-4.30pm		
Designated Safeguarding Lead Training	The Local Authority is in the process of moving to a new model of safeguarding partnership arrangement, this has meant that a lot of the processes, training and thresholds are currently under review. Reading will not be offering a new to DSL or the refresher course during the Autumn term. In the meantime, several professional organisations, including the Out of School Alliance, Early Years Alliance, Coram PACEY and NDNA, offer DSL training. If you are a member of any of these organisations, you may be able to access training free of charge as part of your membership benefits.	N/A	N/A	N/A

	<u>See Designated Safeguarding Leads & Officer Network under Leadership for updates</u>			
Threshold of Need Bitesize Briefings One Reading Partnership	The online briefing is available on demand and aimed at anyone who works with children, young people and families in Reading to refresh their knowledge and understanding of the Reading Threshold of Need. To register and receive the presentation please email OneReading@reading.gov.uk.	On demand	Online	FREE

Leadership				
Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
Childminder Network	We invite all Childminders to join us at our Childminder network meeting. This is a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow childminders, share best practice, exchange ideas, and discuss the latest developments within the sector. Book via email or the SLA	15 September 2026 6.30-8.30pm	Civic Centre/ Teams	FREE

Wraparound and Holiday Network	We invite all Primary Schools and Primary Age Childcare Providers to join us at Reading's termly network meeting. This event provides an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the sector, share best practice, exchange ideas, and discuss the latest developments affecting children, families, and childcare provision Book via email or the SLA	22 September 2026 10.30am-12pm	Teams	FREE
Early Years SENCO coffee morning	New Ofsted framework and Inclusion Discussions - Learning & Sharing from Inspections Come and join us at our relaxed coffee morning for an opportunity to chat, network and share ideas. It will be great to see you all there! Book via email or the SLA	7 October 2026 9.30-11.30am	Civic Centre	FREE
Stronger Practice Hubs Network Meeting	Join the Thames Valley and South Central Early Years Stronger Practice Hub for an Early Years Network meeting designed for leaders of school nurseries and reception classes located in Reading Local Authority. This event offers opportunities to network with peers, gain valuable insights into effective early years practice, access professional development, and hear local updates. Book by emailing: admin@tveysph.org	8 October 2026 19 November 2026 2-4pm	TBC	FREE

Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
Business Planning for Success: Training for Wraparound Providers Families First	Don't miss out on our upcoming Business Planning for Success training, designed to help wraparound leaders strengthen sustainability, build financial resilience, and future-proof their provision. We encourage all leaders, managers and coordinators to attend and share with colleagues who may benefit. Register via Families First or through the SLA.	21 October 2026 9.30-11.30am or 6.30-8.30pm	Zoom	FREE
Designated Safeguarding Leads & Officer Network	The team would like to invite Designated Safeguarding Leads and Officers to join us for updates on the local safeguarding offer, national developments and legislative changes, hear from safeguarding partners and network with colleagues to share insights and best practice. Book via email or the SLA	19 November 2026 6.30-8.30pm	Civic Centre	FREE

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
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Trauma Virtual Reality Programme (All sessions are limited to 6 people)	The programme is designed to enable users to understand the impact of trauma, abuse and neglect through the eyes of the child from prebirth to adolescence to improve the care, support and guidance that children and young people are provided with. Please note: the films are not designed to be easy viewing & some may find difficult to watch. Book via email	11 September 2026 10am-12pm 24 September 2026 6.30-8.30pm 16 October 2026 10am-12pm 12 November 2026 10am-12pm 16 December 2026 6.30-8.30pm	Civic Offices	FREE (subsidised by the EY team. £60pp non-attendance/cancellation fee applies)
Togetherness for Professionals	Togetherness (formally the Solihull Approach) is an evidence-based programme that promotes emotional wellbeing, child development and positive family relationships. Courses are developed by clinical	On demand	Online	FREE

	psychologists, health specialists and parents and are designed to be accessible, reflective and practical. Benefits for practitioners (free CPD) The professional licence provides practitioners across Berkshire West with free, unlimited access to specialist Togetherness training modules. These support trauma-informed, attachment-aware and neurodevelopment-aware practice, with CPD certificates and ongoing learning resources include: • Understanding trauma • Understanding attachment • Understanding brain development Foundation training in children's emotional development Further information can be found on the Togetherness website (PRF) Access Code: BWFAMILIES_PRF			
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Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
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Togetherness for Parents and Carers	Families will have free access to more than 15 online pathways, sometimes described as courses, covering: • Baby bonding and antenatal/postnatal support • Understanding your child / young person • Support for additional needs • Teen brain development and feelings • Parental wellbeing and relationships Information is available in multiple languages, including voiceovers and built-in evaluation, and is associated with improvements in: • Parent–child relationships • Children’s prosocial behaviour • Parental confidence • Reductions in stress, anxiety and behavioural difficulties Further information can be found on the Togetherness website (PCGT) Access Code: BWFAMILIES	On demand	Online	FREE
Trauma Informed Level 1	All levels of staff and volunteers. Basic knowledge and skills to develop an awareness of trauma and impact. Access via the NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Flexible self-paced learning available on demand:	On demand	Online	FREE

	• Approx 20 minutes • 2 short films Report on completion to earlyyears@reading.gov.uk			
Trauma Informed Level 2	After completing the Informed Level, the NES Transforming Psychological Trauma Programme is a skilled level interactive e-learning module suitable for all staff and volunteers. Flexible self-paced learning available on demand: • Approx 2 hours • Final quiz First create an account, Next access the workshop Report on completion to earlyyears@reading.gov.uk	On demand	Online	FREE

EYFS and Beyond

Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
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Introduction to Intensive Interaction Two-part workshops	This two-part course provides an introduction to Intensive Interaction, a recommended approach for supporting children to develop the fundamentals of communication, with a particular focus on social communication skills. Book via email or the SLA	15 & 22 September 2026 3.30-5pm <u>POSTPONED</u>	Teams	FREE
SEND Celebration Event	We are delighted to invite you to our SEND Celebration Event, where we will come together to recognise and celebrate the outstanding commitment, achievements, and inclusive practice of Early Years practitioners across Reading. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work being done to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive. Book via email	23 September 2026 2.30-4.30pm	Civic Centre	FREE
Multi-Sensory Impairment half day workshop Berkshire Sensory Consortium	This session focuses on deaf/blindness and multi-sensory impairment, and awareness/understanding of deaf/blindness beyond single impairments, consideration for assessments and supporting children with multi-sensory impairments within an early years setting. Book via email or the SLA	25 September 2026 9.30am-12.30pm	Civic Centre	FREE
Little Foundations –	An invitation to join us in a session dedicated to working with under 2's as a celebration of the first Little Foundations project. This will include the	1 October 2026	Civic Centre	FREE

Celebrating Babies (open to all)	launch of the Induction & Supervision packs co-developed by the sector, and themed workshops specific to working with babies: • Relationships • Routines • Health & Well-being We are hoping to secure a guest speaker for the event - more information to follow Book via email or the SLA	2.30-4.30pm		
Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
ELKLAN Lets Talk with 3-5s SLCN Level 3 qualification	This programme is designed to develop practitioners' knowledge and confidence in supporting children's speech, language and communication needs within early years settings. As part of the programme, delegates will complete the Elklan Level 3 Speech and Language Support for 3–5s qualification, alongside practical activities to help embed learning into their own setting. The programme includes: • Blended learning, combining online study with face-to-face sessions.	October 2026 – March 2027	Civic Centre	Funded places available

	• The opportunity to achieve the nationally recognised Elklan Level 3 qualification. • Resources and strategies to support children with speech, language and communication needs. • Follow-on activities, including parent partnership workshops and networking opportunities to share best practice. To be eligible for the qualification, delegates will need to: • Attend the face-to-face sessions. • Complete the online learning and coursework. • Commit to the full programme. Further information about the programme, including the training pathway, is attached. If you would like to take part, please complete the Declaration of Interest (Closing date 17 September) Places are limited; completion of the Declaration of Interest does not guarantee you a space. We will be in touch once all spaces are allocated.			
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Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
Berkshire Supporting Visual Impairment Children Berkshire Sensory Consortium	A bitesize 1-hour session to introduce supporting children with visual impairment in an early year's setting. Book via email or the SLA	8 October 2026 6.30-7.30pm	Teams	FREE
Early Years SEND Inclusive Practice - Full Day	A full day workshop giving practitioners the opportunity to explore what inclusive practice is in the early years. This workshop includes good autism practise, therapeutic approach to SEMH introduction and an introduction to sensory needs. Practitioners will take away a variety of ideas to support children and develop universal provision. Book via email or the SLA	13 October 2026 9am-3.30pm	Civic Centre	FREE
Workshop - Developing a Communication Friendly Environment	Creating communication rich environments is key to supporting children's language development, engagement and learning. This workshop is designed to equip practitioners with practical strategies to develop communication-friendly environments that promote interaction,	19 October 2026 6.30-8pm	Southcote Hall	FREE

	understanding and early language skills for all children, including those with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). Book via email or the SLA			
Bitesize session – SLCN and Enhancing Parent Support (HLE)	A session for all those who are working on the SLCN Champion Programme and those that would like to find out more about how you can support parents to develop their home learning specifically around SLCN including sharing ideas on developing a lending library for your setting. Book via email or the SLA	21 October 2026 9.30am-12pm	Civic Centre	FREE

Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
Intensive Interaction Skilled Practitioner 3-day course	A mentored course over three months, with three in-person facilitated study days to develop good intensive interaction practices, using a combination of learning experiences, including: video evaluation, presentations, facilitated discussions and course reading. The course is aimed at those providing day-to-day care, support and education for children and young people who require support to develop their social communication skills. It is essential that participants have attended a one day/two part 'Introduction to Intensive Interaction' session. Book via email	3 November 2026 1 December 2026 12 January 2026	Civic Centre	FREE Limited spaces available
Berkshire supporting Hearing Impairment Children Berkshire Sensory Consortium	A 1-hour bitesize session on how you can support children with a hearing impairment within an early years setting. Book via email or the SLA	12 November 2026 6.30-7.30pm	Teams	FREE

Supporting Play in Neurodivergent Learners	Play is a fundamental way that young children explore, learn and connect with the world around them. This workshop will support early years practitioners to develop a deeper understanding of neurodiversity and how to create inclusive play experiences that recognise and celebrate different ways of thinking, learning and interacting. Book via email or the SLA	25 November 2026 9.30am-4.00pm	Civic Centre	FREE
New to the role of SENCO Drop-in	An opportunity to meet other new SENCOs, find out more about the role of being a SENCO and what support is available for you as to develop your role as SENCO. Book via email or the SLA	10 December 2026 12.30-2.30pm	Civic Centre	FREE

Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
The Reading Inclusion Support in Education (RISE) Partnership online training	Through the RISE contract, funded by the Department for Education, the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) conducted a SEND workforce survey, designed to understand workforce learning needs and identify key content for new training. CDC are organising a programme of online national training sessions, from September 2026 to March 2027, based on feedback from this survey and topics will include: • Navigating Health and SEND • Understanding the SEND reforms: what are they and the impact on you • Experts at Hand • Coproducing in times of change • SEND in the Early Years • Understanding the social care offer for inclusion • Inclusion Bases	Various	Teams	FREE
Wraparound & Holiday childcare online inclusion training	An interactive online course looking at the meaning of inclusion and how it feels to be excluded. This course is aimed at all those working in the wraparound sector including volunteers, apprentices, play workers, leaders and managers. We strongly recommend a whole setting approach to this inclusion course to impact across the whole setting. The course allows you to learn at your own pace once you sign up to the platform, it's been designed so you can literally dip in and out. To access the training, simply click here, register for an account, and enter the code 534789 where requested.	On demand	Online	FREE

DfE Early Years child development training Department for Education	Overview of child development and practical advice .	On demand	Online	FREE
Early language development workshops NHS Berkshire Healthcare	Monthly online workshops covering early language development. They are designed for parents and carers and those working within early years settings: • Communication Foundations • Communication Building Blocks • Scaffolding Communication • Helping Children with Unclear Speech • Autism and Communication	On demand	Online	FREE
Specialist Advisory Support				
Title	Description	Date	Delivery/ Venue	Cost
Self-refer to the Early Years, SEND and Childcare Service	You can now self-refer to our service for a range of options to meet your needs, including targeted advisory support for leadership, high-quality provision, safe practice and SEND, as well as business advice, bespoke or whole-setting training and project participation. Fill out the form here .	By appointment	Teams	FREE

SEND Advisory Support	A call back service that is flexible throughout the week. Please use this form to request an EY SEND advisory Surgery slot where a member of the team will contact you to arrange a phone/Teams call.	On demand	Telephone/ Teams	FREE
Weekly SENCO Check-in	Grab a coffee and join us on Teams for any general SEND queries you may have or just for a chat. Remember you are not alone being a SEND or inclusion lead practitioner. You don't have to be a SENCo but if you have any questions or need to chat with the group please come along. Join using this link .	Every Wednesday 9-10am	Teams	FREE
EY SEND Child Referrals	We have made changes to how EY SEND referrals are processed, and individual children will be discussed at a triage meeting. Please ensure you send referrals to EarlyyearsSEND@reading.gov.uk and they will be reviewed by the Senior Early Years SEND Advisors and allocated to a member of the team or added to the waiting list.	N/A	N/A	FREE
Support for Children and Families	If you are working with a child or family who may benefit from extra support with development before starting school, with permission you can refer them to the Home Learning Education Programme. Fill out a form to link with an EYFS & Starting School Champion here.	N/A	N/A	FREE

SALT Surgery	Book a slot with the Early Years team and a Speech & Language Therapist on the third Thursday of the month to discuss how children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) can be best supported within the Early Years setting.	Third Thursday of the month	Teams	FREE
One Reading Partnership	Bitesize briefings for professionals and volunteers working with children.	On demand	Online	FREE

Whole Setting Training

Title	Description	Delivery	Cost
Universal Safeguarding Children	Providers must ensure that all practitioners are trained in line with the criteria set out in Annex C EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers . Providers must ensure that practitioners are supported and confident to implement the setting's safeguarding policy and procedures on an ongoing basis. Training must be renewed every two years. Providers may consider whether any staff need to undertake annual refresher training during any two-year period to help maintain basic skills and keep up to date with any changes to safeguarding procedures or as a result of any safeguarding concerns that occur in the setting.	In your setting 3 hours	£175 (£25 discount for training delivered between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

Curriculum, Teaching and Achievement	Suitable for practitioners at all levels, this course provides an opportunity for teams to reflect on their practice and explore how best practice and evidence-based approaches can be used to achieve the best outcomes for children through effective curriculum design, high-quality teaching, and meaningful assessment.	In your setting 1.5 hours	£150 (£25 discount for training delivered between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)
Healthy Lifestyles & Foundational Skills Workshop	Coming soon!	Tbc	Tbc
Inclusive Practice in Early Years	This full-day workshop provides practitioners with the opportunity to explore what inclusive practice looks like in the early years and how it can support positive outcomes for all children. The workshop will cover Good Autism Practice , an introduction to Therapeutic approaches for supporting Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) , and an introduction to Sensory Needs . Practitioners will leave with a range of practical strategies and ideas to strengthen universal provision and create more inclusive learning environments.	In your setting 1 full day or a series of smaller workshops	£300 (£50 discount for training delivered between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

Title	Description	Delivery	Cost
Sensory Processing & Hand Massage Workshop	This is a workshop to explore the different senses we have, how this impacts on our day to day life and supporting children with sensory processing needs in the Early Years. We will explore how you can adapt your environment and provide different activities including hand massage to support children with sensory processing needs.	In your setting 3.5 hours	£200 (£50 discount for training delivered between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)
An Introduction to using Visuals & Signing in your setting	A workshop to support the implementation of using visuals to support all children along with a brief introduction to some signing for your staff to begin practicing.	In your setting 1.5 hours	£150 (£25 discount for training delivered between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)
SchemaPlay™	SchemaPlay™ training supports all adults working with young children to identify their 'roots' of learning – their operational schemes. The training will help practitioners to observe and nourish schemes that are happening every day, nurturing learning with young children, and <u>truly</u> following the unique child in their 'free flow' explorations.	In your setting 1x day or 2x 3hr (approx) twilight sessions	£325 per setting

		To be added to the waiting list for individuals	£50pp
Trauma Virtual Reality Programme	The programme is designed to enable users to understand the impact of trauma, abuse and neglect through the eyes of the child from prebirth to adolescence to improve the care, support and guidance that children and young people are provided with. Please note: the films are not designed to be easy viewing & some may find difficult to watch.	In your setting 2 hours per session (max 6 people per session)	FREE (subsidised by the EY team. £200 non-attendance/cancellation fee applies)

When requesting whole setting training please contact the team at least 6 weeks in advance to confirm availability of the date you are looking at to avoid disappointment. Whole setting training can be requested using [this form](#).

Cancellation policy

Cancellation five working days or MORE before the course date

All cancellations must be made via the SLA or by email to the earlyyears@reading.gov.uk inbox by the delegate or their manager. No telephone cancellations will be accepted.

Cancellation LESS than five working days before the course date

Notification must be made via the SLA or by email to the earlyyears@reading.gov.uk inbox. A charge of 50% of the training course per person per training day will be incurred where there is a charge and a £20 charge per person will be made for cancellation of a free session (that is not subsidised by the team) unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Cancellation LESS than 24 hours and non-attendance for chargeable training

Non-attendance of sessions and cancellations that are made with less than 24 hours notice will be charged the **full cost** of the training.

Non-attendance of free training

There will be a £20 non-attendance fee for any free training that is not attended and no prior notice is given. A session that is free and has been subsidised by the Early Years, SEND and Childcare team will incur a charge of the **full cost** of the session for non-attendance and a 50% charge for cancellation with less than 5 days notice.

If you are unable to attend the course due to unforeseen circumstances, email notification from the delegate or manager must be sent to earlyyears@reading.gov.uk and consideration will be given to waiver the charge. This is at the discretion of the Early Years, SEND and Childcare team.

Cancellation of whole setting training

There will be a charge of the **full cost** of whole setting training if cancelled less than 2 weeks before the session is due to be held. A **50% charge** will be incurred if the session is cancelled more than 2 weeks before the training date. Consideration will be given to waiver the charge in exceptional circumstances at the Early Years SEND Manager and/or Early Years and Childcare Managers discretion.

It is the responsibility of the delegate or their line manager to report the absence to:

earlyyears@reading.gov.uk

Transferring to a later course

Any delegate who wishes to transfer to a later course date and sends written notification to earlyyears@reading.gov.uk less than 5 working days before the course will be charged 50% of the fee per person for the cancelled date.

Substitutions

Substitutions are welcome provided the team are notified in advance.

Priority bookings

If two or more sessions are booked by your setting and not attended/cancelled by you or if there are any outstanding payments for training, you will not be given priority for future sessions until the issues have been resolved.

Cancellation by the Early Years team

The Early Years, Childcare and SEND team will use their discretion to cancel sessions if the minimum number of participants isn't met.

Notification will be sent via email 4 working days prior to the session taking place to the email address provided at the time of the booking.