



Early Years

Early Years Leaders Briefing

Summer Term 2026

Best Start in Life Update

| BSIL 2028 Target | |
|------------------|-------------|
| GLD | 78.2 |
| FSM GLD | 57.1 |

- Northumberland's Best Start in Life Plan published [online](#).
- Coproduced with professionals across Family Hub, Health, Education & SEND in addition to families.
- 5 priorities agreed:
 - **Narrow the attainment gap** between disadvantaged children and their peers.
 - Support children's **communication and language** development.
 - Support the **emotional, mental & physical wellbeing** of the under 5s.
 - Build a shared commitment to **inclusive practice** so that every child, including those with SEND, can fully access the opportunities they need for a strong start to school.
 - Improve **data and intelligence sharing** across local partners to support improvements in the early identification of needs, service delivery and monitoring.

Best Start in Life Update

- Key actions will include:
 - Deep dive into the 2 year integrated review
 - Targeted speech and language support pathways
 - Outreach delivery of Family Hub services in targeted areas
 - Additional funding allocated for disadvantaged children (EYPP+ & Inclusion Fund) and universal support for EYPP.
 - Good Level of Development Projects in targeted areas.
 - Review of inclusion and SEND support for schools and settings.
 - Best Start in Life Series
 - School Readiness Passport to support information sharing between schools and LA to inform targeted allocation of resource- [School Readiness Passport Survey – Fill in form](#)
- Continuous engagement with educators:
 - Expressions of interest to take part in operational groups.
 - Rolling programme of feedback loops including surveys.
 - Events
 - Early Years Updates

School-based Nursery Capital Grant Programme - Phase 3 (SBN3)

The objective of the SBN3 programme is to build early years provision capacity in areas of need, especially in deprived areas, enhancing the overall local offer **without negatively impacting provision in close proximity, including that delivered by private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) providers.**

NCC developing a 3-year capital programme (2027 – 2030) which is to be submitted to DfE by 30th September 2026.

Applications can only be made by Primary Schools or Family Hubs.

Expression of Interest Deadline is Friday 22/5/26

Decisions to award grant funding will be made by DfE, not NCC, based on programme criteria.

If any PVI Nursery sees a partnership opportunity they should contact the relevant Primary School or Family Hub.

Should you have any questions about the programme, contact: alex.turner@northumberland.gov.uk

Learn. Discover. Grow.

Endless possibilities...

Northumberland Skills Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship training programmes are often misunderstood, particularly when it comes to working hours, pay, and age requirements.

Many people believe myths such as apprentices being paid very little, working excessive hours, or that apprenticeships are only for young people straight out of school.

Apprenticeships are structured programmes with legal protections, fair pay frameworks, and opportunities for people of all ages to earn while they learn.

Understanding the myths versus the truths helps you to make an informed choice and see apprenticeship training offers as a credible and valuable route into skilled employment.

Key Information

Apprentices work the same contracted hours as other employees, including allocated time for off-the-job training.

Apprentices are entitled to a minimum wage, and many employers pay above this—especially for older or higher-level apprentices. (The choice is yours as the employer).

Apprenticeships are open to all ages, including adults changing careers or upskilling.

Apprenticeships offer recognised qualifications, real work experience, and clear progression routes into skilled careers.

How we can support you

- Strengthen your current workforce through targeted apprenticeship upskilling
- Grow new talent by recruiting and training staff to align with your organisation (You will be supported with the recruitment process from our BDA- Amy)
- Provide clear pathways for unqualified staff to become qualified and confident practitioners
- Delivering specialist training advice and ongoing support

Northumberland Skills Offer

Early Years
Teaching Assistant
Business Admin Apprenticeships



Training Offer



- Flexible delivery Once every 3 weeks classroom-based with an online learning offer for Early Years (EYs) and Teaching Assistants (TAs).
- BA delivery also takes place every three weeks and is currently delivered face to face only.
- Face-to-face training is delivered at local campuses by subject-specialist course lecturers, providing dedicated support for both the apprentice and the employer.
- Delivery is aligned to the Apprenticeship Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs), with a strong focus on high-quality teaching, capturing skills developed in the workplace, and fully preparing learners for their End Point Assessment to achieve Occupational Competence.
- The EY Apprenticeship Standard is Full and Relevant for Ratios

Level 2 Early Years Practitioner Overview

The Level 2 Early Years Practitioner apprenticeship is designed for individuals beginning their career in early years education and care.

Early Years Practitioners support the delivery of high-quality childcare, helping to ensure children learn, develop, and thrive in safe and nurturing environments.

Apprentices gain the fundamental knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed to work effectively within a range of early years settings, including day nurseries, preschools, playgroups, children's centres, and home-based childcare settings.

Level 3 Early Years Educator Overview

The Level 3 Early Years Educator apprenticeship is designed for individuals who are caring, creative, and passionate about supporting the development of young children.

Early Years Educators play a vital role in providing high-quality education and care across a variety of settings, including day nurseries, preschools, children's centres, reception classes, playgroups, and home-based provision.

This Apprenticeship Standard equips learners with the skills, knowledge, and behaviours needed to positively influence early childhood development and ensure children get the best possible start in life.



Level 3 Teaching Assistant – Overview

The Level 3 Teaching Assistant apprenticeship is designed for individuals who are enthusiastic about supporting teaching, learning, and the overall development of children and young people in school settings.

Teaching Assistants play a vital role in ensuring that pupils are engaged, supported, safe, and able to achieve their full potential.

This Apprenticeship Standard provides apprentices with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to work effectively within primary, secondary, special schools, and alternative provision environments. Apprentices will learn to support learners of different ages and abilities, including those with SEND, and contribute to high-quality teaching and learning.

Business Administrator Standard Level 3

The Business Administrator develops, implements, maintains and improves administrative services.

They support and engage with different parts of the organisation and interact with customers with strong communication skills (both written and verbal), using initiative, time management, problem-solving skills, decision making, and the potential for people management responsibilities through mentoring or coaching others.

Good News Stories –Employers



Over the past 18 months we have had several of our apprentices signed up with Northumberland Skills.

Our apprentices have felt incredibly supported during this training and as an Employer we have been informed of their progress with regular reviews and consistent communication regarding their studies and any areas of improvement.

Some of our younger apprentices have found the face-to-face sessions at Morpeth the most beneficial as the one-to-one support they receive is second to none.

We would highly recommend the Northumberland Skills team and will continue to work in partnership with them in the future.

Good News Highlight: Employer

The apprenticeship route is incredibly valuable for our school—both within our early years setting and throughout the rest of the school from Year 1 upwards.

The support we receive from Northumberland Skills staff is excellent, and we are so pleased to have found this training pathway.

Over the last few years, we have trained two apprentices, including one who progressed from Level 2 to Level 3, and both are now employed.

The initial sign-up process and the assistance with advertising are straightforward, and the team makes everything seamless.

Our apprentices have been able to learn on the job, allowing us to shape their skills in line with our school's ethos and practices, while they also benefit from the valuable knowledge provided by the course lecturers.



Good News Highlight: L3 Teaching Assistant Apprentice

I relocated to the Alnwick area after my partner was posted there. With one young child and no friends or family nearby, moving to Northumberland felt daunting.

In September 2023, I applied for several roles within school settings and was fortunate to secure a Level 3 Teaching Assistant apprenticeship at a local school.

I was nervous at first, especially not knowing anyone in the area.

When I started college, our cohort was small, and I immediately connected with another apprentice. We supported each other from the very beginning in class, and over time that support grew into a strong and meaningful friendship. We often say that without the apprenticeship route, we would never have found such an important friendship.

The apprenticeship has not only helped me develop the knowledge and skills needed to become employable within education, but it has also given me a friendship I truly value. This support has helped reduce my anxiety and stress levels, while also building my confidence and self-esteem.

Good News Highlight: Level 3 Early Years Educator Apprentice

This apprentice began her employment in September 2023 and has since become a valued practitioner within early years education.

She consistently demonstrates a positive attitude, particularly when supporting children with SEND, and has even received awards from her workplace in recognition of her dedication and attitude.

Despite facing significant personal challenges that affected her confidence and increased anxiety and stress, she demonstrated great determination.

One major hurdle was achieving the maths qualification required for her End Point Assessment.

We are delighted to share that she has now successfully passed her maths, meaning she can enter gateway and undertake her final assessments to become a fully qualified Level 3 practitioner.

Her journey reflects not only her own determination and resilience but also the unwavering support provided by the staff at Northumberland Skills—who believed in her, supported her, and allowed her the time she needed to succeed. Though not achieved within traditional timescales, this accomplishment is a significant milestone academically and a profound personal achievement for the learner.



Upskilling the Workforce

Skills for Careers in Childcare

What does the qualification cover?

This qualification supports learners to develop the knowledge and skills needed to care for young children.

It includes units covering:

Introduction (Health & Safety / Safeguarding)

Children's growth, learning and development

Valuing & Respecting Children

Personal and professional self-development

Awareness of Children with Special Educational needs / Learning Difficulties





If you would like to know more about all training offers –

Please get in touch 😊

Nicola.Lingard@northumberland.gov.uk



www.northumberland.gov.uk/learn

Free, confidential and impartial advice for children and young people (up to 25 years) with SEND, and their parents and carers.



- Information, advice and support covering the full range of education, health and social care defined in the SEND Code of Practice 2015.**
- The service is run at 'arm's length' from the Local Authority.**
- We also give advice to practitioners on an un-named basis.**

Examples of support



**A listening ear and practical advice and support with understanding the SEND 'system'.
Information on a range of SEND topics and signposting to other services and groups.**

Support preparing for meetings.

Support which empowers children, young people and their parents to express their views and wishes and helps them to understand and exercise their rights.

Support with SEN processes, including exclusion, complaints and SEND appeals.

Training for parents, children and young people, and professionals to increase their knowledge of SEND law, guidance, local policy, issues and participation.

Leaflets are available for your school



 Northumberland Information Advice & Support Service

Do you have questions about the EHC process? Do you need any help?

We provide free, confidential and impartial

- information
- advice
- support to children and young people (up to 25 years of age) with SEND and their parents.

The support we provide covers the full range of education, health and social care set out in the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

 01670 623555 or 01670 620350 or email: iass@northumberland.gov.uk
 www.northumberlandiass.org.uk  www.facebook.com/NorthumberlandIAS

 You can contact us on



 Northumberland Information Advice & Support Service

Does your child have SEND (special educational needs and/or a disability)?

We are here to help.

The free, confidential and impartial service we offer includes:

- Providing a listening ear and practical advice and support with understanding the SEND 'system'.
- Information about different SEND services and organisations
- Help with preparing for meetings
- Support with understanding the paperwork

 01670 623555 or 01670 620350 or email: iass@northumberland.gov.uk
 www.northumberlandiass.org.uk  www.facebook.com/NorthumberlandIASS

 You can contact us on



Contact Details

Email - iass@northumberland.gov.uk

Phone: Shirley 01670 623555 or Vicki 01670 620350

Text Message: 07917 071553

Facebook: Northumberland IASS

Mon - Thurs 9.00am-5.00pm and Fri 9.00am-4.30pm

Inclusive Early Years Fund

It is upfront funding intended to:

- help providers adopt setting-wide inclusive practices
- reduce reliance on individual child-based funding applications
- enable early intervention for children with SEND
- complements existing funding such as Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF), Disability Access Funding (DAF), and high needs funding
- distribution of this funding will continue until 2029

We will:

- communicate details of the local approach to distribution and indicative allocations before the end of May 2026
- pay allocations in end of summer term payment July 2026.
- requesting a summary from providers of how they have used the funds

While the specific use of funding will vary between providers (we can offer more specific guidance), it should support activities such as:

- strategic planning
- workforce development
- adaptations or resources to create an inclusive environment

Transition - children leaving you

- ✓ Ensure all children leaving the setting are entered onto the Northumberland School Readiness Passport.
- ✓ Complete all relevant checks (reception ready checker)
- ✓ Update key and relevant information 'child details' and 'all about me' sections
- ✓ Confirm with parents the name of the school the child is starting in reception and seek their consent to share information (if you have not already done so)
- ✓ Use the transfer function to assign children to their new school and set a date for 'shared view' to end - you can do this during today's session
- ✓ Arrange visits to the new school and introduce the children to the new staff and environment.
- ✓ Talk to children about starting their new school and offer opportunities to share their feelings.
- ✓ Provide books and stories in your provision about starting school.
- ✓ Provide a set of school uniform in your home corner.

Additional actions for settings with children not on track/with emerging needs/identified actions for settings with children not on track/with emerging needs/identified actions for settings with children not on track/with emerging needs/identified SEND/EYPP:

- ✓ Update SEND Support Checker if using
- ✓ Ensure any additional documents are uploaded to the Passport e.g. Cycles of Support, Professionals' reports etc.
- ✓ Update additional information in the All About Me section e.g. SEND All About Me, My EYPP
- ✓ Agree an appropriate transition plan with the child's new school for the summer term where the child requires an enhanced transition process.
- ✓ If the child has an EHCP and a review is coming up, invite the new setting's SENCO.
- ✓ Where there is an EHA open, invite the new setting's SENCO to the next TAF meeting.

Transition - children starting with you

- ✓ Accept Passport transfers and review all information including Reception Ready checkers, All About Me information, Child Details - you can accept transfers from providers during today's session.
- ✓ Arrange visits for the current setting and parents to bring their children to school to introduce the children to the new staff and environment.
- ✓ Send photos of staff and the classrooms to the current setting for them to share with children.
- ✓ Provide a set of school uniform to the setting to have in their home corner.
- ✓ Consider the cohort needs, and if support from HINT or any other services would be helpful in September.

Additional actions for schools with children starting with them who are not on track/with emerging needs/identified SEND/EYPP:

- ✓ Review the SEND Support Checker if relevant and identify the child's primary area of need.
- ✓ Review any additional documents are uploaded to the Passport e.g. Cycles of Support, Professionals' reports etc.
- ✓ Review additional information in the All About Me section e.g. SEND All About Me, My EYPP.
- ✓ Agree an appropriate transition plan with the child's current setting for the summer term where the child requires an enhanced transition process.
- ✓ If the child has an EHCP and a review is coming up, attend the review at the current setting.
- ✓ Where there is an EHA open, attend the next TAF meeting at the child's current setting.

Transition - for any child requiring an enhanced transition

Setting and school work together to:

- ✓ Arrange additional visits to new school.
- ✓ Request support for transition from an Early Years Inclusion Consultant.
- ✓ Arrange multi-professional meeting (where relevant).
- ✓ Make a personalised transition book for each child which includes photos of their new teaching staff, classroom, other relevant areas in the school e.g. dining hall.
- ✓ Develop personalised social stories for individual children.
- ✓ Offer home visits for any children not currently in a setting.
- ✓ Work more closely with the family to support effective transition - find out as much as you can about each child including their strengths, preferences and interests, and difficulties.

Wider Support for Families

Amy Richardson
Activity Programme Manager



Contents

Mayors Childcare Grant

Eat Sleep Play Learn Fund

Northumberland Holiday Provision (HAF)

Northumberland Frontline

The North East Mayor's Local Childcare Grant

Northumberland has been successful in receiving funding to pilot the North East Mayor's Childcare Grant.

- The fund is running until the end of August 2026.
- Up to 26 weeks worth of support for families
- Payment is paid directly to the provider
- Family receive support to access their entitlements after the childcare has ended
- Examples of support can include – in term time support, support to increase hours for parents to undertake additional work, support for families who are receiving 15 hours FRAS and looking to increase to find work or access training.

THE NORTH EAST MAYOR'S LOCAL CHILDCARE GRANT NORTHUMBERLAND

This grant aims to support people to return to work, education or training, or to increase their working hours.

By supporting with any childcare funding barriers for pre school and school aged childcare.

The support may include:

- ✓ Support to find suitable childcare provision
- ✓ Grant funding paid directly to the provider
- ✓ Wraparound/School holiday childcare
- ✓ Early Years Childcare

MORE INFORMATION

✉ espl@northumberland.gov.uk



Eligibility Criteria:

The Parent/Carer and child(ren) must live in Northumberland

The Parent/Carer may be:

- Unemployed
- In training or education
- Economically inactive
- Looking to increase working hours to access government-funded childcare for working families



THE NORTH EAST MAYOR'S LOCAL CHILDCARE GRANT

NORTHUMBERLAND

Tackling child poverty,
creating real opportunity.



Kim McGuinness
North East Mayor



Northumberland
County Council

THIS GRANT AIMS TO SUPPORT
PEOPLE TO RETURN TO WORK,
EDUCATION OR TRAINING
OR TO INCREASE THEIR
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By supporting with any childcare
funding barriers for pre-school
and school-aged childcare.



THE SUPPORT MAY INCLUDE:

- ✓ Support to find suitable childcare provision

- ✓ Grant funding paid directly to the provider

- ✓ Wraparound/School holiday childcare

- ✓ Early Years Childcare

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- ✓ The Parent/Carer and child(ren) must live in Northumberland

- ✓ The Parent/Carer may be:
 - Unemployed
 - In training or education
 - Economically inactive
 - Looking to increase working hours to access government-funded childcare for working families

Application Process

Providers or a trusted professional working with the family can apply direct on behalf of the family to the fund.

Parents can contact to find out more information and to apply.

[Eat Sleep Play Learn Fund & Childcare Grant Application – Fill in form](#)



FIND OUT MORE:

espl@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tackling child poverty,
creating real opportunity.**

NE North East
Combined
Authority

Kim McGuinness
North East Mayor



Northumberland
County Council

Eat Sleep Play Learn Fund

The Eat Sleep Play Learn Fund is a discretionary hardship fund designed to support children and families experiencing short-term financial crisis or acute hardship. It aims to alleviate immediate pressures by covering essential needs related to a child's wellbeing, focusing on the themes, eating, sleeping, playing and learning.

This fund is intended to fill temporary gaps in existing support and should not be used as a long-term or repeat source of funding. Professionals applying on behalf of families must ensure that all other statutory, charitable, or community - based avenues have been explored before submitting a request.

Applications should clearly demonstrate how the support will make a meaningful difference to the child's circumstances and help stabilise the family situation.

All applications are assessed on an individual basis and professionals must ensure:

Families are offered a referral to Citizens Advice Northumberland (Benefit check / money advice / debt support) via Northumberland Frontline

Applications are properly costed

Families live in Northumberland and have given permission for the referral to be made

Note: Applications must be made by a professional and this is not a crisis support.

espl@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland Holiday Provision

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme, branded as Northumberland Holiday Provision is predominantly aimed at children who are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals (aged 5-16).

The programme provides access to a variety of camps and family activities during the Easter, Summer, and Winter school holidays.

All children receiving free school meals and attending an educational setting, such as a school or Pupil Referral Unit, will automatically receive a voucher through the Holiday Activities system.

If a child is not in receipt of benefit related free school meals, but could benefit from attending the provision, we do have a small number of discretionary places. These can be applied for via the child's school or through haf@northumberland.gov.uk

Activities include

- Family Trips (Alnwick Gardens/Lilidorei, Seaton Delaval Hall)
- Camp Activities (Enriching activities/multisports etc)
- Specialised Camps (Farming, Surfing, Paddleboarding, forest schools)



Northumberland
Holiday Provision

 Northumberland
County Council



Northumberland Frontline

Northumberland Frontline is an online platform designed to help both residents and frontline workers quickly access local health and wellbeing support services.

For residents:

- Find information about available services in the local area
- Access support directly based on individual needs

For professionals:

- Signpost individuals and families to appropriate services
- Submit secure referrals on behalf of residents
- Track referrals to ensure support has been received

Additional support:

- Direct referral pathways to specialist services, including Citizens Advice Northumberland
- Dedicated support routes such as energy advice and family support services

FIND LOCAL SUPPORT FAST!

TO SIGN IN/REGISTER CLICK AN AREA ON THE MAP

HELP NEEDED

POSTCODE OR TOWN*

SEARCH

Frontline is a community project. It helps frontline workers and the public to quickly find details on local health and wellbeing services and to contact services through call back and referral options.



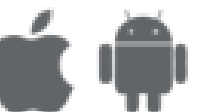
Supported by



North East and North Cumbria

CONTACT US

WANT THE APP?
AVAILABLE FOR
IOS OR ANDROID



CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

In association with EAUC, STEM Learning and the University of Reading

Introducing the Climate Ambassador programme

Turning climate ambition into climate action in education

Funded by

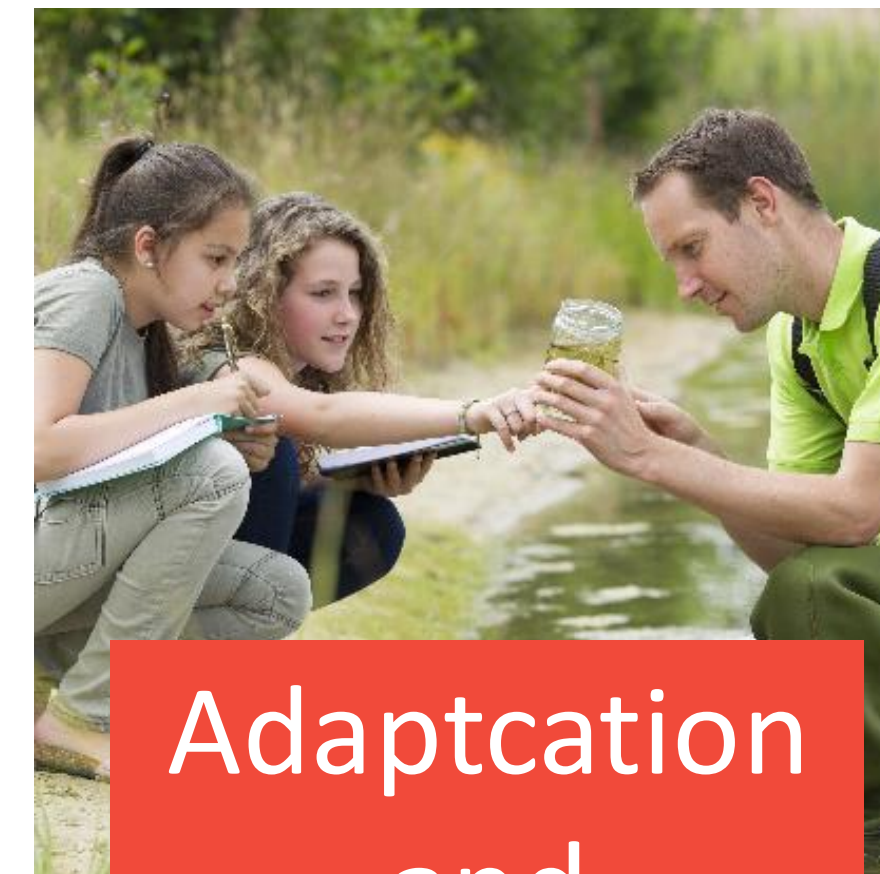


Our objective

To provide education settings within England access to expert support from volunteer Climate Ambassadors, who will help them develop and deliver impactful Climate Action Plans.



Decarbonisation



Adaptation and resilience



Climate education and green



Biodiversity

Funded by

Benefits to education settings

Provide tailored guidance on developing a CAP that makes a **tangible impact**

Personal link who can help advise on **embedding sustainability** across the curriculum

Help young people **develop the skills** they need to address the climate crises

Identify climate risks posed to your setting and how to prepare for them

Help your business manager **understand options** for cutting emission and costs

Advise on **boosting connections** to nature and support biodiversity within your grounds

National Education Nature Park

Commissioned by DfE as part of the sustainability and climate change strategy

Free programme for all education settings in England.

Aim is to connect and empower young people to make a difference for nature.

Contributes to biodiversity gain and real scientific data collected by the Natural History Museum



Nature Park: Early Years

Launched this year, a [specific EYFS guide](#) for our five step process.



National Education Nature Park

Getting started with the Nature Park: a guide for EYFS

This guide is clickable! Click through to discover more

| | Getting to know your space | Identifying opportunities | Making decisions | Making change happen | Recording change |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Understanding the world | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hidden Nature Challenge ● Leaf identification ● Guess the habitat ● Garden detectives ● Habitat Heroes * The dig pit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Points of view | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plants and their jobs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bulb planting ● Mini wormery | |
| Literacy & Communication and language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Observing changing states ● Sound mapping ● Creative responses to a place | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Points of view | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Role play ideas and green careers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Soil creation station ● Making signs and labels ● Seed sowing | |
| Mathematics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Measuring in nature ● Water permeability | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Measuring in nature * Nature's loose parts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watering plants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Counting outdoors |
| Physical development & PSED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anatomy of a tree | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Insect Olympics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soil texture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Planting and growing food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emotional responses to nature |
| Expressive arts and design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Looking for leaf shapes ● Colour collecting ● Texture mapping ● Model making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Planning our green future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Imagining our space ● Design a plant ● Model making | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Create a Nature Park corner ● Model making |

* continuous provision station

Let's Go Zero

The national campaign for all schools, colleges and nurseries to be zero carbon by 2030.

Over **8,500** schools, colleges and nurseries signed up to the campaign.

Representing over 3 million students.

Join the campaign
now...

www.letsgozero.org

[/join](#)





Climate Action Advisors

32 Climate Action Advisors across England, offering **free** and impartial advice to help schools, colleges and nurseries develop climate action plans.

Pre-Inspection Support

Join our Ofsted Inspection Toolkit Workshop (one for schools and one for PVI's), designed to help you to assess where you sit within the Ofsted Inspection Toolkit. Registration closes tomorrow at 1pm.

Ofsted Inspection Toolkit
Workshop for PVI's 18th May 2026



Ofsted Inspection Workshop for
Schools Thursday 21st May



[Ofsted Inspection Toolkit Workshop for PVI's 18th May 2026 – Fill in form](#)

[Ofsted Inspection Workshop for Schools Thursday 21st May – Fill in form](#)

🌟 Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who engaged with our recent surveys. Your efforts will make a significant difference to the offer we provide.

We had:

- **119 practitioners complete our 'Northumberland Practitioners' survey**
- **232 boys take part in our 'Voice of Northumberland Boys' survey**
- **341 parents/carers take part in our 'Parent and Carer' survey**

We will share our findings in due course.



🌟 **Safe Sleeping Guidance**

Earlier this month the DfE published an article written in collaboration with the lullaby trust to support providers to prepare for the updates expected in the EYFS regarding safe sleep which are due to come into effect in September 2026. Key points include:

- babies aged 12 months and under must only be placed to sleep in a cot - this includes carrycots, moses baskets and travel cots
- children are placed down on their back in their own separate sleep space on a clear, flat, firm surface such as a cot, bed or suitable mattress on the floor



Safe Sleeping Guidance

- sleep spaces should only contain a firm, flat, waterproof mattress and lightweight bedding which is firmly tucked in around the child no higher than their shoulders to prevent head covering - alternatively, a well fitted baby sleep bag may be used (check the manufacturer recommendations before using a baby sleep bag)
- where blankets are used, the baby should be placed feet-to-foot at the bottom of the cot, with blankets tucked in
- cots must not contain extra items such as toys, pillows, loose bedding, bumpers, wedges, or straps
- children should not get too hot or cold - the recommended room temperature for babies (those aged 12 months and under) is 16 – 20°C

🌟 Safe Sleeping Guidance

- children's heads are not covered
- babies under six months of age must always have an adult with them in the same room for every sleep - all children must be frequently checked when they are sleeping
- children are always within sight and hearing of staff when sleeping



The full article can be found [here](#)

Further details including information on products that comply with the British Safety Standards numbers mentioned in the article will be shared in the coming weeks.

Please direct any questions or queries on this subject to your locality Early Years and Childcare Performance Partner.

EYFS Profile

- Profile submission deadline 30th June.
- [Help for Early Years Providers website – headteacher guidance](#)
- EYFSP Data Drop-ins will take place w/c 15th June and 22nd June. Teachers will receive information about how to sign up closer to the time. These are 20 minute sessions for last minute professional discussions about any children you would like to discuss in relation to the Early Learning Goals.
- Please double check your data before submission to ensure it is accurate: '1' used to record a child who is 'emerging', '2' to record a child who is 'expected' in relation to each Early Learning Goal.
- Your data pack will be shared with you by the NCC Data Team.
- **Reminder – The 'A' code is not to be used for children with SEND.**



Thank you!
