East Lothian
Council

REPORT TO: Policy and Performance Review Committee

MEETING DATE: 12 June 2025

BY: Executive Director for Education and Children's Services

SUBJECT: Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 Hours

---

1   PURPOSE

1.1   To report on the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (EL&CC) in East Lothian.

2   RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1   The Committee is asked to note:

   i.   the full implementation of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in East Lothian

   ii.   ongoing work to plan and deliver high quality, efficient Early Learning services, the professional development of the early year's workforce and the continuation of collaborative work with The Improvement Service.

   iii.   regular consultation with families across East Lothian to inform future need and delivery of their funded entitlement.

3   BACKGROUND

3.1   Since August 2021, along with all other local authorities in Scotland, East Lothian Council has had a statutory duty to provide funded Early Learning and Childcare places for all eligible children from the school term following their third birthday until they are ready to start school and for two-year-old children whose families meet the criteria for eligibility.

3.2   The expansion of ELC entitlement aims to deliver three main benefits for children and families:

   -      children's development improves and the poverty-related attainment gap narrows;

   -      more parents will have the opportunity to be in work, training or study; and

- increased family resilience through improved health and wellbeing of parents and children.

3.3 East Lothian Council is the primary guarantor of quality and is required to provide options for flexibility and choice to the families who use this service.

3.4 East Lothian Council provides a range of options for families through offering a variety of models within our local authority settings, private early learning and childcare settings and childminders who are in partnership with us (please see **Appendix A** for an overview of funding models in our local authority settings). We are required by legislation to ensure our approach is provider neutral and therefore does not favour any one type of setting. We are also required to ensure settings meet the National Standard alongside other legislation. This also includes those settings who wish to become a funded provider, regardless of whether they are public or private.

3.5 East Lothian Council is required by legislation to provide sufficient places for all eligible children aged two, three and four-years-old. There are no 'catchment areas' for Early Learning and Childcare and therefore our statutory duty does not require us to provide places within a specific locality. Where possible we always try to give families their chosen placement; however, it is not always possible as demand can be greater than places available.

3.6 The funding from the Scottish Government for the delivery of Early Learning and Childcare is no longer a specific grant allocation. From 2024/25, it became part of the ELC's General Revenue Grant.

3.7 East Lothian Council is required to consult with parents and carers every two years, to support the delivery of Early Learning and Childcare.

Update

3.8 A Service Review of the Early Years Central Team was undertaken to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of personnel were reflective of the current and future delivery needs of a high-quality EL&CC service. A new structure was implemented from 1 August 2024. (Please see **Appendix B** for EL&CC Central Team structure.)

3.9 The Early Years Team has developed robust on-boarding processes in line with the Scottish Governments National Standards for Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland. This ensures that any setting wishing to become a funded EL&CC provider with East Lothian Council meets the expected quality standard prior to on-boarding. This system has been trialled with 6 services over 2024/25, with feedback loops from these providers built in to ensure continuous self-evaluation of this process.

3.10 A strong professional South East Early Years Network (SEEYN) is in place to regularly share EL&CC developments, practice and local policy decisions, with our neighbouring colleagues in Midlothian, Edinburgh, Fife, and Scottish Borders.

3.11 As a guarantor of quality, East Lothian Council has a responsibility to support all settings, including funded providers, to meet and maintain the National Standard. Quality assurance and improvement continues to be a key

focus. The Early Years Team has a rigorous quality improvement framework for all settings delivering funded Early Learning and Childcare, and all settings are subject to Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland inspection processes as appropriate.

3.12 Over the session 2024/25, the EL&CC service has implemented a new support structure for all services delivering funded Early Learning and Childcare in East Lothian. This system, in line with the Self-Improving Schools model, allows our Education Support Officers (ESOs) to engage in professional dialogue around the quality of service delivery and self-evaluation with the leaders of each setting to co-produce an annual Service Level Agreement. This agreement outlines the key areas where the Early Years Team will support continuous improvement for the setting. Initial feedback has been that this targeted approach to supporting improvement has been effective. We continue to evaluate this in collaboration with school leaders and owners/managers of Early Learning and Childcare settings to ensure the highest quality for all children and families accessing our services. Sixty-two percent of settings are exceeding the National Standard for QI 3 How Good is Our Leadership, a 2% increase from session 2023/24.

3.13 Following the successful work with The Improvement Service to develop effective and reciprocal professional working relationships with our Funded Providers, the Early Years Team is continuing our collaborative work with The Improvement Service. This is to support our understanding of future demand and service model redesign, which is also linked to workforce planning, and assessing and improving flexibility, measuring and improving uptake amongst eligible children aged 2-4 years.

3.14 The Early Years Team, alongside other ELC departments and external agencies, have developed a comprehensive Continuous Professional Learning offer for all early year's staff, and setting leaders, commencing in August 2025. This considers core training needs, workforce feedback on CLPL needs and quality needs identified though inspections. Our learning offer can be found in **Appendix C.** Building on the QI 3 How Good is Our Leadership, a focus of Early Years Pedagogical Leadership for senior managers is also a key feature.

3.15 ELC is currently working in conjunction with Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen), on behalf of the Scottish Government, to support the Scotland-wide survey for all parents and carers with children aged 0-6 who have not yet started school to generate their views, and use of early learning and childcare in Scotland. This closed on 29 May 2025. The results of this survey will support decision making around future EL&CC service delivery in East Lothian.

Conclusion

3.16 East Lothian Council continues to reflect and evaluate our service delivery through our work with the Improvement Service, consultation with families and staff to ensure we meet our legislative duty. We are fully committed to delivering best value and therefore our approach will continue to be reviewed to ensure that it is as efficient as possible and can be afforded within the budget allocated by the Scottish Government.

4   POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1   None

5   INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1   The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6   RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1   Financial – The delivery of current Early Learning and Childcare, and future developments, must be delivered within the budget through the General Revenue Grant.

6.2   Personnel – None

6.3   Other – None.

7   BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1   Appendix A – ELC ELCC Models

7.2   Appendix B – Early Years Central Team Structure

7.3   Appendix C – EL&CC 2025/26 CLPL Brochure

AUTHOR'S NAME	Alison Cameron
DESIGNATION	Education Service Manager – Early Years, Childcare and Whole Family Well-being
CONTACT INFO	Email – acameron2@eastlothian.gov.uk
DATE	2 June 2025

LA ELC Setting by Cluster	Weeks	Model	Options (if applicable)
DUNBAR			
Dunbar Nursery	48	2 Day	
East Linton Nursery	48	2 Day	
Innerwick Nursery	38	Full Week	
West Barns Nursery	38	Full Week	
HADDINGTON			
Haddington Primary	48	2 Day	
Knox ELC (E2s)	38	Full Week	
Letham Mains Primary	48	2 Day	
St Marys RC Nursery	48	2 Day	
Yester	48	3 & 4 Day	Models 1-3
MUSSELBURGH			
Campie Nursery	38	Full Week	
Craighall Nursery	38	Full Week	
Loretto Nursery	38	Full Week	
Burgh Nursery	38	Full Week	
Stoneyhill Nursery	48	2 Day	
Whitecraig Nursery	38	Full Week	
NORTH BERWICK			
Aberlady Nursery	48	2 Day	
Athelstaneford Nursery	38	Full Week	
Gullane Nursery	48	2 Day	
Law Nursery	48	2 Day	
PRESTONPANS			
Blindwells	38	Full Week	
Cockenzie Nursery	38	Full Week	
Longniddry Nursery	48	3 & 4 Day	Models 1-3
Preston Tower	48	3 & 4 Day	Models 1-4
Preston Tower (E2s)	48	4 Day	Model 4
St Gabriel's Nursery	38	Full Week	
ROSEHILL			
Pinkie Nursery	48	3 & 4 Day	Models 1-3
Rosehill ELC (E2s)	38	Full Week	
Wallyford Nursery	48	2 Day	

MODELS	
2 Day	Mon/Tues or Wed/Thur and Alt Fri (08:15-17:45)
Full Week	Mon-Thurs (08:30-15:00), Fri (08:30-12:30) Times vary slightly by school
Model 1	Mon, Tues (08.15-16.30) Wed (08.15-16.00)
Model 2	Wed-Fri (08.15-16.00)
Model 3	Mon/Tues & Thurs/Fri (09.00-15.00)
Model 4	Mon-Thurs (09.00-14.55)

TRANENT			
Elphinstone Nursery	38	Full Week	
Macmerry Nursery	38	Full Week	
Ormiston Nursery	48	2 Day	
Pencaitland Nursery	38	Full Week	
Sanderson's Wynd	48	3 & 4 Day	
Sanderson's Wynd Green Room	48	Full Week	
Sanderson's Wynd (E2s)	48	4 Day	Model 4
St Martin's RC Nursery	38	Full Week	
Windygoul Nursery	48	2 Day	

ELC EL&CC Team

ALI CAMERON
Service Manager

TRANENT DUNBAR

PRESTONPANS NORTH BERWICK

JILLY BANKS
Team Manager

KELLY WEIR
Senior Officer

FIONA MCNEILL
ESO

JILL PATERSON
ESO
HADDINGTON
MUSSELBURGH

PAM CURRIE
ESO

FIONA AMOS
Information Officer

Karen McKnight

Jenna Stevens
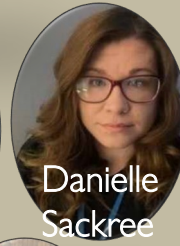
Danielle Sackree

Rebecca Strachan

Quality and Equity Leads (QELs)

Charlotte De'ath

Kathryn-Jane James

Claire Wardhaugh

Maggie Tait

CLARE MCGARR
ESO - WFWF
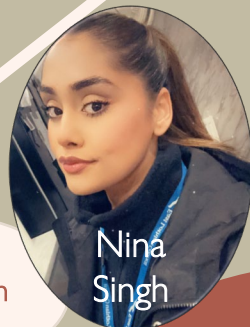
Hazel McLachlan

ASN Outreach Officers

Nina Singh

Childminders

Funded Providers

Local Authority
38 & 48 week settings

Team Structure

1

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

2025/26

East Lothian Council

CONTENTS

IN-SERVICE DAY INFORMATION

- Monday 11th August 2025

  No authority wide training planned

- Tuesday 12th August 2025

  No authority wide training planned

- **Monday 20th October 2025**

  Early Years Big Morning Out
  Wallyford Primary School Campus
  Registration 08.15 to 08.30
  Workshops begin 08.40

  Sounds for Musical Starters
  Letham Mains Primary School
  9am until 4pm

- Monday 23rd February 2026

  No authority wide training planned

- Monday 18th May 2026

  No authority wide training planned

MANDATORY E-LEARNING

All Local Authority Early Years staff have a responsibility to ensure that core mandatory training is up to date. In the table below you will see an overview of this mandatory training. Your status for these modules can be viewed by signing into the East Lothian Learning Library account.

These courses include:

- Working in East Lothian Council
- GDPR
- Health and Safety
- Freedom of Information
- Public Protection Everyone's Responsibility
- PREVENT
- Equality and Diversity Awareness
- IT & Information Security
- Managing Distressed and Challenging Behaviour
- Nurture Principles Early Years
- Data Protection at East Lothian Council
- Child Protection 1

Learning Library
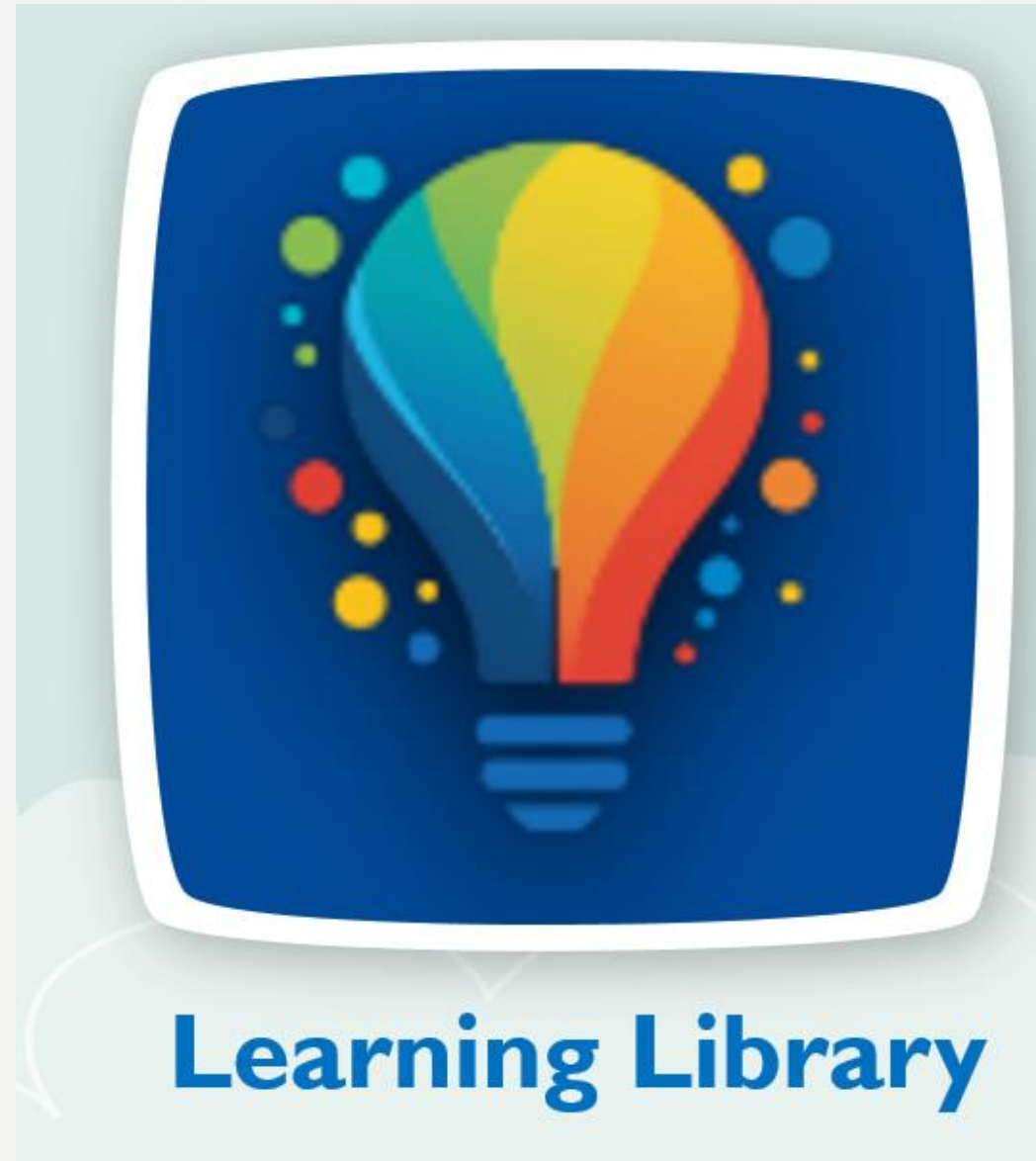
MANDATORY E-LEARNING

My Compliance courses are mandatory and are essential to ensure that we are reducing the risk of cyber attacks by ensuring all employees are updated, aware of and adhere to the strict regulations.

By completing MyCompliance courses, East Lothian Council can significantly enhance their cyber security posture and ensure a safer digital environment for everyone involved.

You will be sent email notifications of the courses that you need to complete to stay compliant.

Any queries or questions regarding my compliance should be directed to the IT Service Desk - itservicedesk@eastlothian.gov.uk or 01620 827 205

CORE TRAINING

The following core training is training advised **for all local authority staff**, and almost all can be accessed by funded partners, either by signing up using the links provided or by contacting staff development for access to online training.

Whilst you may have previously completed this training reflect…

Is your training incomplete or in need of a refresh?

Has a recent inspection or review identified an area of practice for you setting that could be improved by completing or refreshing?

Building High Quality Foundations

Underpinned by Pedagogical Leadership this is a back-to-basics series of training modules based on self-evaluation for improvement

- Developing a High-Quality Curriculum (2024)
- Environment (2024)
- Observations (2024)
- Planning (2024)
- Learning Stories (2024)
- Tracking and Monitoring (2025)
- Interactions (2025)
- Self-Evaluation (2025)
- Valuing the Voice of the Child (2025)
- Transitions (2025)
- Gathers (2025)
- Food Experiences (2025)

This documentation and training is available as self-directed learning supported by guidance both of which are readily available on both the Early Years Training website and the Learning Library.
Initial training should be led by a member of the Management or Senior Leadership Team.
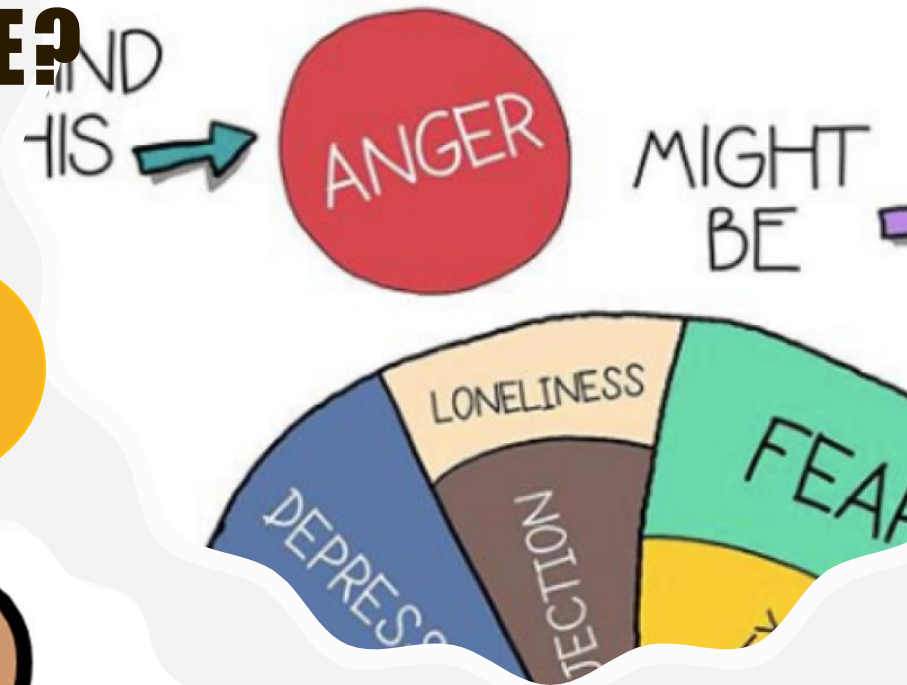
WHAT DOES CORE TRAINING INCLUDE?

Managing Distressed and Challenging Behaviour

Based on East Lothian Council policy this training aims to:

- Review relevant national legislation and guidance
- To unpick and familiarise practitioners with East Lothian Council Policy.
- Consider ways of thinking about behaviour
- Explore how the Arousal Cycle works
- Consider the importance of self-care

A self-directed video training is available on both the

Early Years Training website. and the Learning Library.

WHAT DOES CORE TRAINING INCLUDE?

East Lothian Council Employees Only

Paediatric First Aid

This course will enable those completing to:
- understand the role and responsibilities of a paediatric first aider;
- assess an emergency situation safely;
- provide first aid for an infant or child who are unresponsive;
- provide first aid to an infant or child who is choking;
- provide first aid to an infant or a child with external bleeding;
- provide first aid for an infant or a child who is in shock;
- provide first aid to an infant or child with bites, stings and minor burns.

A full list of the opportunities to gain your First Aid training and sign up will be available from end of June 2025.

Elementary Food Hygiene

East Lothian SEYP'S ONLY

COURSE OBJECTIVES
By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Identify what is meant by pathogenic bacteria and the factors required for bacterial growth
- State and explain how food poisoning and food contamination can be prevented and the necessary controls required for prevention.
- Explain the need for high standards of personal hygiene.
- Describe acceptable methods of cleaning and disinfection
- Outline, briefly, the legislative requirements relating to food safety
- Undertake the multiple-choice test following the REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene Course

This course should be renewed within 3 years. Course information will be shared directly with SLT & SEYP's from the Early Years Central Service

THE ROYAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND

WHAT DOES CORE TRAINING INCLUDE?

A Short Introduction to Understanding Trauma Informed Practice

Within this self-directed digital learning module, you will be introduced to trauma informed practice and how it can be used in the workplace.

To access this training visit the Learning Library.

As with most training, reflecting on current practice and planning for improvement based on this training is essential and should be recorded as part of self-evaluation.

Infection, Prevention and Control in Childcare

Within this self-directed digital learning you will learn about:

- the spread of infection
- standard germ control procedures
  - germs and how they spread
  - chain of infection
- outbreaks of infection
- risk assessment
- food and kitchen hygiene

As with most training, reflecting on current practice and planning for improvement based on this training is essential and should be recorded as part of self-evaluation.

Visit

Home | Turas | Learn (nhs.scot)

To proceed with the training you are required to sign up to TURAS.

Once signed in search training for - INFECTION CONTROL AND CHILDCARE

Learning Library

You will be able to find our self-directed training on the new East Lothian Council 'Learning Library' as well as on the Early Learning and Childcare Training site at all times.

New training will continue to be promoted and shared via this annual flyer.

Available right now on the website and on the Learning Library you will find,

- The Health and Wellbeing Academy – an introduction to ASN
- Numeracy Academy
- Literacy Academy
- Self-Evaluation
- Risky Play
- Introduction to the Promise
- Child Voice
- Building High Quality Foundations

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS TO SUPPORT MAKING YOUR CHOICES OF TRAINING

Is there training that would support in developing my setting improvement plan?

What training would support my professional development from my PRD?

Is there training that I could participate in with a colleague to lead and develop in our setting?

Is there training that would support and add value to my skill set and improve outcomes for children and families?

Is there an area of my practice I need to refresh or update?

13

THE IMPACT OF TRAINING

Any training you engage in should result in a positive impact for children, families, practice and pedagogy in your setting. It is important that you cascade your new learning to the rest of your team so that it can be implemented effectively.

Recording the development and implementation of training as part of robust approach to self-evaluation and improvement will ensure you capture stakeholder voices and reflect how you have engaged with national and local guidance as part of the improvement process.

To support with self-evaluation, you may find our BHQF guidance helpful.

New Opportunities for Continual Lifelong Professional Learning

Adding value to your practice, setting and colleagues to improve outcomes for children and families

Developing Strategies for Universal Practice

In response to practitioner requests this suite of training has been developed to support develop basic universal practice in settings that will support all learners including those requiring targeted support.

- **Progress Your Practice**

- **ASN Procedures and Process Unraveled**

- **Providing Positive Horizontal Transitions and Routines for Everyone**

- **Equity not Equality - adjustments to facilitate the right to inclusion will look different for every child**

Further information and how to access each element of training can found on the next few pages.

Progress Your Practice

This suite of practical videos has been produced to support the implementation of universal support strategies; each video focussed on a single strategy. Delivered by practitioners in East Lothian with a wealth of understanding in both Early Learning and Childcare and in supporting young people make the most of their nursery experience.

Below is an example of some of the support videos you can access with direct links, more can be accessed by visiting the **Learning Library** or **Early Learning and Childcare Training** website

- **Introducing Visuals**
- **Song Signifiers**
- **Co-Regulation**
- **Supporting a Child You Don't Know How to Support**
- **Creating a Strategy – identifying the right strategy, breaking down triggers and the adult role**
- **All Behaviour is Communication – what am I looking for?**
- **Objects of Reference**

Learning Library

ASN Processes and Procedures

If not used regularly we can be become unfamiliar with the processes and procedures that are in place to access areas of support for ASN. The Central Team have created flowcharts and supportive practical recordings to guide you through these processes. Visit the **Learning Library** or **Early Learning and Childcare Training** website to access.

- **ERG** – Education Resource Group

- **Child Planning Meetings** – how, who and what do we need

- **Child and Young Persons Planning Framework**

- **IEP** – Individual Education Plan

- **PSP** – Personal Support Plan

- **Referrals** – for professional support S&LT, Ed. Psych, OT

Available from August 2025

PROVIDING POSITIVE HORIZONTAL TRANSITIONS AND ROUTINES FOR EVERYONE

Aims

- Revisit horizontal transitions

- Explore why some children are particularly vulnerable at times of transition

- Refresh on the importance of positive transitions for all children

- Explore the importance of health and wellbeing to support transitions

- Provide opportunity for reflection, self-evaluation and development across settings.
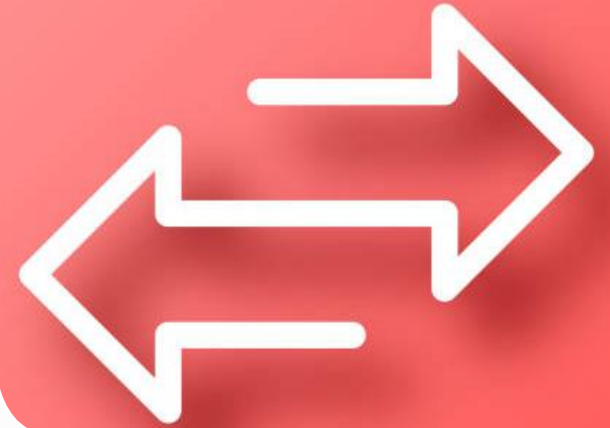
Equity Not Equality

Adjustments to facilitate the right to inclusion will look different for every child

Aims

- Identify the difference between equity and equality and why it matters

- Develop the importance of valuing equity to ensure inclusion

- Explore way to promote equity within our settings by providing targeted support appropriate to students needs

- Provide ideas for creating an equitable environment

- Opportunities for reflection and self-evaluation on how your setting can be more equitable and inclusive

Available from August 2025

Equality

Equity

20

DEVELOPING A SENSORY CURRICULUM

Aims

- Develop understanding of a sensory curriculum

- Explore what a sensory curriculum might look like in Early Learning and Childcare

- Identify what sensory processing needs might look like in the Early Learning and Childcare Setting

- Explore sensory processing strategies for Early Learning and Childcare

- Provide practical ideas for adapting the environment

- Develop knowledge and understanding of providing proprioception and heavy work, oral motor needs and sensory experiences

Available from August 2025

Developing Curriculum in Early Learning and Childcare

curriculum for excellence

To ensure that we are effectively delivering the curriculum to all learners this suite of training has been designed to refresh and support practitioners' knowledge and understanding of how Curriculum for Excellence links and should be implented as part of play based learning and basic early years practice.

Introduction to the Principles of Curriculum Design – what does that look, feel and sound like in EL&CC?

Importance of Curriculum with 3–5-year-olds – why, how and links to progress and attainment for all children

Provocations in Play - build professional knowledge and understanding of what provocations are and how they can be used to support a child-centred approach to the curriculum and planning

Identifying Opportunities for Learning – making curricular links to observations of play to extend and challenge children's thinking, skill development and learning

Developing Creativity and Curiosity – identify what creativity and curiosity look like, identify ways to promote and develop this in settings

The Principles of Curriculum Design

Aims

- Develop our knowledge of what makes up Curriculum for Excellence

- Understand how the frameworks link to Curriculum for Excellence.

- Explore what an early year's experience looks like under Curriculum for Excellence

- Understand the importance of engaging with the curriculum to support observations, assessment and ensure effective tracking of children's progress.

curriculum for excellence

Self-directed training available on the Learning Library from August 2025.

Recommendation is to complete as a staff team to inform, develop and improve practice.

23

The Importance of Curriculum for Excellence with 3-5 Year Olds

Aims

- Refresh and support staff knowledge and understanding of early level as basis for their learning experiences in early learning and childcare and Primary 1
- Identify what a child's early years' experience will look like under CfE
- Develop an understanding of how the CfE supports us to be ambitious and have high expectations for all children.
- Explore the East Lothian frameworks and how they reflect CfE to create a progressive spiral curriculum
- Revisit the importance of engaging and understanding CfE to support observation, assessment and tracking to ensure we are recording a true reflection of attainment

Self-directed training available on the Learning Library from August 2025. Recommendation is to complete as a staff team to inform, develop and improve practice.

curriculum for excellence

Opportunities for personal achievement

Interdisciplinary learning

The Curriculum
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

Provocation and Invitation's to Learning

Aims

- Refresh the difference between a provocation and invitation
- Identify the value of provocation and invitation in Early Learning and Childcare
- Share why they are an effective way to engage learners
- Share practical examples linked to the planning for the curriculum
- Identify links between invitation and provocation and the Principles of Curriculum Design
- Provide challenge questions to support the evaluation and development of practice

Self-directed training available on the Learning Library from August 2025.

Recommendation is to complete as a staff team to inform, develop and improve practice.

Identifying Opportunities for Learning

Available from August 2025

Aims

- Support practitioners to understand the importance of identifying learning opportunities

- Unpick what a learning opportunity might look like

- Provide practical examples of making links between the learning opportunity and Early Level Curriculum for Excellence

- Link learning opportunities with interdisciplinary learning

- Provide challenge questions to support the evaluation and development of practice

Self-directed training available on the Learning Library from August 2025.
Recommendation is to complete as a staff team to inform, develop and improve practice.

curriculum for excellence

Developing Creativity and Curiosity

Aims

- Revisit the skills that underpin curiosity and creativity

- Review what Key Documents say about creativity and curiosity

- Analyse the practitioner role in promoting curiosity and creativity

- Make links between Curriculum for Excellence, curiosity and creativity

- Refresh understanding of sustained shared thinking and what this looks like in practice

- Identify how we can promote curiosity and creativity in our settings

curriculum for excellence

Education Scotland
Foghlam Alba

care inspectorate

Realising the ambition:
Being Me

National practice guidance
for early years in Scotland

Self-directed training available on the Learning Library from August 2025. Recommendation is to complete as a staff team to inform, develop and improve practice.

An Introduction to 2-Year-Olds

Brought to us by our colleagues in Fife Council this module introduces working with 2-year-olds. Initially, it focuses on aspects of development typically observed in 18–36-month-olds, before considering the ways that practitioners can help to facilitate for these developmental particularities in the spaces, interactions, experiences, and resources that they provide.

There are 4 parts to the module which include,

- **Typical Developmental Patterns**
- **Physical Environments and Resources**
- **Interactions**
- **Experiences and Families**

There are opportunities throughout the module to take a deeper dive into these areas to further develop your knowledge and understanding.

Non-Fife Council Staff who successfully complete the module and complete the Reflection Form will be sent a certificate to the email address. For more information and to access the course **click here**.
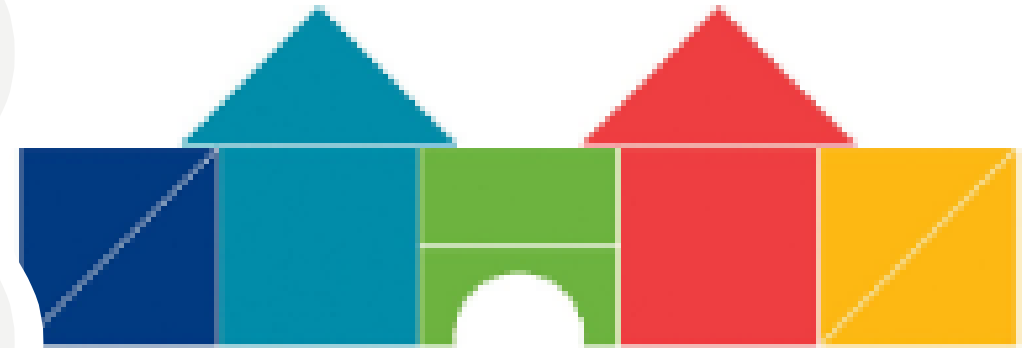
Early Years Training

Sounds for Musical Starters

This training resource for early years (nursery to P1/2) uses simple songs and rhymes as a basis to help develop language development:

- Research shows that the ability to keep a steady beat in music is strongly linked to reading ability later in life. (Nina Kraus)
- When we sing and chant rhymes we use a much slower tempo - the articulation is clearer for children to hear and copy
- Songs and rhymes are full of rhyming words
- We repeat songs, rhymes and games often therefore giving the children a chance to catch the text and participate. Often there is even repetition within the song itself e.g. The Wheels on the Bus go round and round, round and round, round and round

Active participation in singing and movement also helps children develop confidence, coordination and co-operation as well as obviously developing their musical skills.

The course is supported by resource packs and continued support through your training and development

Click here to sign up for the course

The learners in our Primary 1 setting are absolutely loving the content in the Sounds for Musical Starters course! It has really promoted engagement in music and singing, even encouraging more reserved pupils to take part. The songs and rhymes are really appealing to the age and stage of the learners too, allowing for adaptations to be made to support, challenge and grasp understanding. On top of the musical skills that the children are developing, the cross-curricular links and range of skills that the children are being exposed to through the songs and rhymes are also evident. Overall, our learners adore when the song cards and stretchy blanket come out, and the smiles on their faces when they're singing and rhyming says it all!

Tessa - P1 Teacher

"My colleague and I attended the Sounds for Musical Starters training course during the year 2024-2025. This whole course was excellent and allowed us as a team to develop our awareness of the different elements of musical learning for children in early years. The packs of songs provided were so engaging for the children and the support given to us was first class. We gained a lot of self-confidence in our own ability to provide musical experiences for our children. We would highly recommend this course."

Sarah & Vitoria - Nursery

Initial Training Day
Monday 20th October 2025
9am until 4pm
Letham Mains Primary School, Haddington

Twilight 1 – date and time to be confirmed
Twilight 2 - date and time to be confirmed
Twilight 3 - date and time to be confirmed

Still not sure that this course is for you and your learners, then click the links below to find out the benefits from practitioners who participated in previous sessions.

NURTURING NATURE – FAMILY LEARNING IN LOCAL GREENSPACE

This inspiring course was delivered in person in February 2025 and is now available to as self-directed learning using the link below,
https://ltl.thinkific.com/courses/nurturing-nature

Aim

To equip Early Years Practitioners with practical tools and understanding to deliver a family learning programme harnessing the benefits of their local green spaces.

Objectives

Participants will:
- Understand the benefits of the nurturing nature approach
- Consider ways of engaging with parents and carers in a natural environment
- Understand their role in modelling play and learning to families
- Explore practical examples of group management, risk benefit assessment and the resources required to lead these sessions
- Take away practical skills and resources to support delivery of the nurturing nature programme in their own setting

Cooking On An Open Fire

Revealing the magic of cooking with children on an open fire. Simple recipes for you to try and take away. Also includes professional discussion on safety regarding fire and hygiene. Food (simple!) included.

Brought to us by our colleagues in the Outdoor Learning Service this course follows on from basic fire pit training.

It would be beneficial for applicants to have completed fire pit training but is not compulsory.

Course organisation,

Wednesday 25th March 2026

Outdoor Learning Centre, Musselburgh Racecourse, Musselburgh

1600 to 1730

Please dress for the weather

To apply fill in the google application

31

Monday 20th October 2025
Wallyford Primary School Campus
Registration 0815 until 0830

**Big Morning Out
Application Form**

The Early Learning and Childcare Service are bringing to you **TEN** in person workshops to support you in developing practice in your setting.

Each workshop will run 3 times over the morning,

0840 until 0930   0940 until 1030   1040 until 1130

You will choose 3 workshops from the offer below,

- **Self-Evaluation**
- **Risky Play**
- **Creating Virtual Experiences and Interesting Spaces – Play and Learning With and Through Technology (Ed. Scotland)**
- **A Guide to Using Visuals in Early Years**
- **Keys for Communication Support (S&LT)**
- **Observations**
- **SPHERA**
- **Valuing the Voice of the Child**
- **Accessing the Outreach Team**
- **Families Together East Lothian**

1130 to 1200 Feedback and Evaluation of the morning

In consultation with your SLT staff should decide which workshops would support improvement and development in your setting and who will attend what sessions. Then as individuals fill in the google form making 3 selections by Friday 12th September 2025.
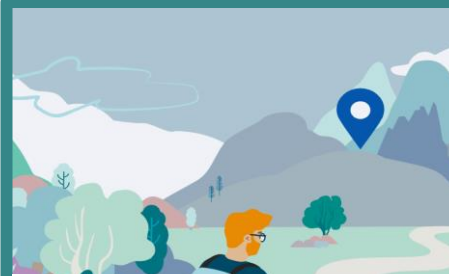
You will be notified by email with the timings of your workshops.

Wider Opportunities to Engage in Professional Learning

Click on the visuals to visit and explore other opportunities for professional learning and development

East Lothian Council
CLPL Calendar

TURAS

Scottish Book Trust

CALLScotland
THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Education Scotland
Foghlam Alba

Scottish Social Services Council

PUBLIC PROTECTION
East Lothian & Midlothian
Supporting Safer Communities
East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee

national autism implementation team

SEYP Networking Meetings

These meetings are open to East Lothian Senior Early Years Practitioners as well as Room Leads and Managers from East Lothian Funded Providers.

The aims of the sessions include:

- Bringing professionals together to allow them to engage in professional discussion and share different approaches to all things Early Learning and Childcare

- Promoting collaboration between settings for improvement and development

- Develop a shared and consistent understanding of local and national guidance, legislation and policy

Session content is directed by those attending and will always be positive and solution focussed. Meetings are facilitated by our Quality and Equity Leads who have previous experience in similar roles to the attendees and who are still in settings providing High Quality consistent support.

Testimonials March 2025

I really look forward to attending the sessions and finding out new information and having a safe space to discuss the role. Sessions are informative and fun.

The network meetings are a great opportunity to share practice and mix with others with others in the same position. I really enjoy these sessions.

Planned Networking Meetings for 2025/26

Wednesday 17th September 2025

Monday 17th November 2025

Thursday 5th February 2026

Wednesday 11th March 2026

April - TBA

May – TBA

All meetings take place in the **Saltire Rooms, John Muir House, Haddington.** Sessions take place between **4.30pm and 6pm. SEYP's** can attend from **4pm** and network independently with peers prior to the session beginning.

Early Learning and Childcare Networking Opportunities

Network events are designed to bring together practitioners from both local authority and funded provider settings where they can network, meet new people and share high quality early learning and childcare practice.

These are drop-in sessions organised on a date and time that suits the host settings opening hours and staffing. The events usually last between 90 minutes and 2 hours but there is no expectation that you stay for the entire session.

Why should you and your team attend these events?

- Explore the environment for ideas and inspiration
- Enjoy the opportunity to talk to other practitioners about all things early years.
- Meet new practitioners and form professional friendships
- Find opportunities to collaborate on similar developments and improvement
- Counts towards your professional development
- Develop a new perspective on an area of practice!
- Engage in professional dialogue with your colleagues out with your own workspace

Planned Events for 2025/26

Thursday 25th September 2025

Elphinstone Primary School Nursery

4.30pm – 6.15pm

November

West Barns Primary School Nursery – date TBC

February

TBA – contact fmcneill@eastlothian.gov.uk if you would like to host a networking event

May

Aberlady Primary School Nursery – date TBC

Senior Leadership Development Days for EL&CC 2025/26

Head Teacher's and DHT's with a remit for nursery are invited to attend Development Days with a focus on Early Learning and Childcare.

An agenda will be sent in advance of each meeting.

Agenda may include,

- Latest national and local legislation and publications updates and what this means for you and your setting
- Current developments within the local authority
- Business Updates
- An opportunity to share, clarify…

Planned Dates for 2025/26

Wednesday 8th October 2025
1200 – 1600 Saltire Rooms, John Muir House, Haddington

Wednesday 28th January 2026
0900 – 1230 Saltire Rooms, John Muir House, Haddington

Wednesday 29th April 2026
0900 – 1230 Saltire Rooms, John Muir House, Haddington

Wednesday 3rd June 2026
0900 – 1230 Saltire Rooms, John Muir House, Haddington

36

Pedagogical Leadership for Early Learning and Childcare Leaders

An Education Scotland Professional Learning Programme

Programme Overview

A comprehensive professional learning programme designed specifically for Heads and Managers of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings. The programme is provider neutral and open to all settings offering funded ELC.

Programme Aims

- The programme aims to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding while providing practical activities and ideas that can be used to support staff development.
- Sessions include direct input, group discussions, and practical activities, with tasks set between sessions to consolidate learning and provide evidence from practice for exploration in subsequent sessions.
- The in-person format fosters relationship-building and the sharing of practice.
- The programme follows the National Model of Professional Learning.

For further information: earlyyearscentralcontact@eastlothian.gov.uk
To apply please use this Google Application

Programme Structure

This programme takes place over four in-person days, 0930 until 1530, and focuses on:

- **Pedagogical Leadership:** Leading people, managing change and coaching for improvement.
- **Child-Centred Pedagogy in practice:** Enhancing the learning environment, observation/documentation and responsive and intentional planning.
- **Curriculum:** Curriculum making, supporting children under 3 and Curriculum for Excellence.
- **Observation:** Supporting staff to develop high quality observations and make judgements about children's progress.
- **Leading Continuous Improvement:** Effective self-evaluation and the model for improvement

Proposed Dates: Tuesday 26th August 2025; Thursday 30th October 2025; Thursday 29th January 2026; Tuesday 17th March 2026

Venue: to be confirmed

Please do not hesitate to contact,

earlyyearscentralcontact@eastlothian.gov.uk