

RCT Childcare & Play Training Guide

1st September 2026 - 31st March 2027



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RCT Teams & Who we are:

Universal Childcare Development Team:

The RCT Childcare Development Team supports all childcare providers with funded mandatory training such as Paediatric First Aid, safeguarding, food hygiene and other suitable training.

The team offers support to all settings consisting of:

- Financial hardship assistance
- New and expansion of provision grants
- Business support and advice around cashflow and marketing
- Yearly business health checks
- Advice and support for setting up new childcare provisions
- Provide a funded childminding package of support for those wishing to become a registered childminder
- Attend local fun days, family events, job fairs and other suitable events to promote childcare as a career and the Childcare Offer for Wales funding
- Assessing childcare sufficiency for the Local Authority and responding to parental demand in areas where there are identified gaps in provision.



You can contact the Childcare development team by emailing:

childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk or by telephone on 01443 570048.

Flying Start Quality Team:

The team provides advice and guidance to Flying Start Approved settings to support the implementation of Welsh Government Flying Start Guidance, ensuring the delivery of high-quality childcare provision and effective practitioner practice.

They offer a wide range of CPD training courses available to the entire Early Years sector. Where additional training needs are identified, the team sources and delivers further relevant training opportunities.

When new guidance or legislation is introduced, the team develop bespoke training packages to support providers in embedding the changes into their daily practice.

You can contact the Flying Start Quality Team by emailing:

CWRSTraining@rctcbc.gov.uk



Registered Education Provision (REP):



Darparwr Addysg Cofrestredig
Rhondda Cynon Taf
Registered Education Provider

As early education advisory teachers we play a crucial role in working with and supporting practitioners who deliver early education to three-year-olds in non-maintained settings. We provide guidance on curriculum, planning, observation and assessment. We share best practice and support reflective practice to strengthen practitioners' confidence and pedagogical skills.

Claire Lloyd- Thomas- claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk

Vicky Baldock- vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk

Childcare Offer for Wales Team:

The Childcare Offer for Wales team in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) administers the scheme on behalf of Welsh Government and processes applications on behalf of RCT, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil council.

The Childcare Offer funding offers up to 30 hours a week of combined nursery education and additional funded childcare for eligible parents of three- to four-year-olds, for up to 48 weeks of the year.

The team attend promotional events and run several provider refresher training events throughout the year. Please check the training guide for available dates and information on how to book.

The team are available to come and chat to you in your setting, or we can help you over the telephone. We can also attend any events or parent meetings to promote the Offer.

To contact the team or to arrange a visit to your event or childcare setting please use the details provided below:

Helpline number – 03000 628628

Email: childcareofferproviders@rctcbc.gov.uk



RCT Access & Inclusion Early Years Team

Suzanne Davidson – EY ALN Lead Officer

Luci Hooper – EY ALN Advisory Teacher

Luci is allocated via Early Years Forum to provide support for children accessing universal

childcare, childcare offer and registered education placements. Through these allocations, she is able to visit settings and observe children in order to offer advice for strategies and interventions to support individual children and the setting as a whole.

Alongside this, she is able to provide support with Early Years Forum processes and graduated response for all settings.

The team run various training throughout the year covering effective graduated response, person centred practice, inclusive environments, play plans, ALN strategies and referral processes for Early Years Forum.

Luci works closely with colleagues from the MAT Team to run fortnightly Play Plan Clinics.

Luci can be contacted via email at luci.hooper@rctcbc.gov.uk

For all training enquiries please contact ALNAS on AandIService@rctcbc.gov.uk

RCT Play Services

We provide a comprehensive package of support to help RCT Commissioned Play Provider Organisations deliver high-quality, inclusive play opportunities for children and young people.

Contact: RCTPlay@rctcbc.gov.uk



Multi Agency Team (MAT)

MAT is made up of Educational Psychologists (EPs), Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) and an Occupational Therapist (OT). We are attached to all the Flying Start settings across the Local Authority, providing advice and support to the staff who have identified children with potential emerging needs. We offer Group consultations, Individual Drop in Consultations with an EP, SLT or OT and setting visits where appropriate. We also offer training for wider services including health visitors and community nursery nurses, RFS and all childcare settings on a range of topics including emerging needs, attachment, behaviour, play, sensory processing and speech and language needs.

You can contact MAT by emailing:

cwrsmat@rctcbc.gov.uk

Training Guide

Welcome to the 2026—2027 Training guide.

This is aimed at anyone working within the Childcare and Play sector in RCT.

Most courses are open to all Childcare and Play providers, however there are some that will be for specific services within the sector. These will be marked in accordance with the table below.

Colour Coding:

We have used a colour code for ease of booking. These colours will be next to each training name and indicate who will be able to access the course.

	All Childcare & Play Settings
	Flying Start Settings
	Registered Education Provision Settings
	Play Service Settings

How to book Training:

To book a training session you will need to click the link on the training calendar at the end of this guide to book your chosen session.

Please note: Training will be released termly. Subsequent calendar updates will follow, and release dates are noted within this guide.

Delivery:

There is a minimum attendance of 6 participants per course.

Any courses with fewer than 6 participants will be cancelled.

Childcare Development Team Cancellation Procedure:

A minimum notice of 48 hours prior to the start of the session is required for cancellations. Only in extreme circumstances will cancellations within the 48 hours of the start of the training be accepted as non-attendance. Where non-attendance is deemed unreasonable a temporary ban for the whole setting for a period of 2 months will be implemented.

All cancellations or changes must be communicated via email to Childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk, providing as much notice as possible. This enables places to be reallocated and ensures that training opportunities are utilised effectively.

Flying Start good practice training and workshop cancellation procedure:

Where a place has been booked on a Flying Start good practice training or workshop session and attendance is no longer possible, or where a substitute attendee will be attend in place, the Flying Start Training Team must be informed at the earliest opportunity.

All cancellations or changes must be communicated via email to CWRStraining@rctcbc.gov.uk, providing as much notice as possible. This enables places to be reallocated and ensures that training opportunities are utilised effectively.

Welsh language:

If you would like the training to be delivered in Welsh, please contact the relevant team.
Handouts used within the session can be provided in Welsh.

Mandatory Training:

To check which mandatory courses are most suitable to you, please use the link below to access the CIW NMS.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-09/national-minimum-standards-for-regulated-childcare.pdf>

Mandatory Training

6 Hour Paediatric First Aid



This training will cover:

- Record keeping
- Managing an incident
- Resuscitation (CPR)
- Use of an AED
- Wounds and Bleeding
- Head Injuries
- Dealing with a choking infant or child

To complete the qualification successfully, candidates will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate first aid techniques, answer oral questions, and must undertake a short theory assessment by completing written questions. The course includes an element of physical exertion and practical activities. A certificate is issued which is valid for 3 years.

12 Hour Paediatric First Aid



This training will cover:

- Record keeping
- Managing an incident
- Resuscitation (CPR)
- Use of an AED
- Wounds and Bleeding
- Head Injuries
- Dealing with a choking infant or child

To complete the qualification successfully, candidates will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate first aid techniques, answer oral questions, and must undertake a short theory assessment by completing written questions. The course includes an element of physical exertion and practical activities. A certificate is issued which is valid for 3 years.

Emergency First Aid at Work



This training will cover:

- Identification of the roles and responsibilities of a first aider.
- Minimising the risk of infection
- Others may include casualties, work colleagues or people within the workplace environment. You need to identify the need to gain consent.
- Conducting a scene survey.
- Conduct a primary survey sequence.
- Summoning appropriate assistance.
- Identifying when to administer CPR.
- Demonstrate CPR.
- Placing a casualty in the recovery position.
- Continually monitoring airway and breathing.
- Administering first aid to a casualty having a generalised seizure
- Identifying mild choking.
- Identifying severe choking.
- Identifying the severity of arterial bleeding.
- Catastrophic bleeding treatment.
- Treating patients in shock.
- First Aid for small cuts, grazes, bruises, splinters, nosebleeds and minor burns and scolds.

Group A Safeguarding



The standards aim to give you an understanding about safeguarding and what you must do in cases of actual or potential harm or abuse.

Practitioners included in group A are required to be aware of safeguarding matters and therefore the standards in this group are set to reflect the minimum level of knowledge and practice required for their role. For example, a group A practitioner will be aware that there is law that safeguards people.

Memorable principles:

- I know what the term safeguarding means
- I know what to look out for
- I know who to report to

To Access this training, use the link below:

<https://socialcare.wales/learning-modules/group-a-safeguarding>

Group B Safeguarding



Group B practitioners are those who spend time with people in a group setting or on a one-to-one basis. They will have a particular responsibility in relation to the people they work with and will need a higher level of knowledge than those in group A because of their direct involvement with people. The people they work with may or may not have safeguarding concerns. If there are safeguarding concerns, there will be a clear line of reporting in the organisation and the practitioner will be aware of their responsibility to report concerns, both internally and to social services directly.

These practitioners won't have a statutory role in relation to the safeguarding process and wouldn't sit on core groups or be part of protection planning. They wouldn't be expected to give safeguarding advice to others.

Memorable principles:

- I am a key part of the safeguarding process
- I know when, how and who to report to
- I will make sure the individual's voice is heard.

Group C Safeguarding



Group C practitioners are those who have direct responsibility for safeguarding people:

- who have an assessing role that's linked to the safeguarding process and / or
- who are operating at a level where they can give advice about safeguarding to those in group A and group B and / or
- in a setting they work in or manage and / or
- with whom they spend a lot of time unsupervised and there may be safeguarding concerns.

Group C practitioners also include an organisation's designated safeguarding person and people who take a more prominent role in safeguarding decisions, including those with an active role in core groups and protection planning activities.

Group C practitioners could potentially contribute to or are fully engaged in assessing, planning, intervening and reviewing the needs of people where there are safeguarding concerns.

Decisions to make about keeping people safe and when they need to put protection processes in place. These practitioners will need to have all the knowledge and understanding of the standards in groups A and B plus additional knowledge to make sure they carry out their role in line with the law. For example, group C practitioners will be able to understand the law and apply it to their day-to-day safeguarding and protection practice.

Prevent Duty



Prevent sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs and physical and sexual exploitation.

The aim of Prevent is to:

- Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

In these training courses, you will learn about:

- The Prevent duty
- Different extremist ideologies that can lead to terrorism
- The risk around radicalisation and your supportive role
- Making a Prevent referral that is both informed and made with good intention the interventions and support available.

<https://www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/>

Manual Handling



This training will cover:

- Ergonomic Approach to Manual handling for childcare workers incorporating practical elements of working in an Early Years setting including
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Correct lifting and carrying techniques for children
- Health and safety
- Reasonable adjustments and personal risk assessments
- Medical needs
- Inanimate objects
- Non-mobile babies
- Remaining compliant with legislation.

Fire Warden



This course has been designed to provide attendees with the necessary theoretical training required to be qualified as a Fire Warden, also known as a Fire Marshall.

It will discuss legal duties and provide participants with an understanding of fire, familiarise with fire hazards and fire safety arrangements. It will also examine what emergency evacuation procedures should entail.

The information in the course will enable participants to take responsibility for fire safety in their workplace and protect everyone's wellbeing.

Course Content:

- What is fire safety and why is it so important?
- Current legislation and how to enforce it?
- Duties and responsibilities of the role
- Understanding fire: the fire triangle, hazardous substances and COSHH
- Fire risk assessment: including the 5 Steps process
- Fire safety arrangements, including prevention, equipment checks, fire detection, warning systems and types of fire extinguishers/blankets
- Evacuation routes and signs
- Emergency plans, evacuation procedures and fire drills

Level 2 Food Hygiene

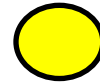


This training will cover:

- High risk foods
- Causes and prevention of food poisoning
- Producing safe food
- Food safety legislation
- Cleaning
- Design of premises
- Temperature Control
- HACCP – overview

To access this course e-mail: Childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk

Managing & Understanding Challenging Behaviour



This course has been designed to provide staff with an introduction to challenging behaviour within a childcare setting. It aims to consider the reasons why behaviours are present in the first instance and will discuss the importance of recording and reviewing to assess for trends and patterns of behaviour for future reference. Southpoint Training aim to set the content to the age range that the participants would be supporting, from children in nurseries, day care, child minding, schools, teenage and young people. This course should then be followed up with Challenging Behaviour Management (Part 2) which will focus upon strategies to underpin positive behaviour management in a childcare setting.

Course Content:

- What is challenging behaviour?
- Challenging behaviour as a tool for communication
- Personal and environmental factors that influence challenging behaviour
- Triggers and warning signs
- Personal space
- Risk Assessment & Recording
- Safeguarding
- Legislation
- Anti-bullying policies

Infection Prevention



The training will cover:

- Understand what pathogenic microorganisms are and how you can manage them
- Know how to keep the vulnerable safe from infection and learn necessary actions
- Effectively evaluate the infection risks and implement prevention actions
- Personal hygiene has a huge impact on infection control. Learn the best practices
- Discover the different types of PPE and how to use them effectively
- Handling waste appropriately can reduce the risk of infection

To access this course e-mail: Childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk

Food Allergens



This training will cover:

- Allergens and allergic reactions
- Anaphylaxis
- Regulated allergens
- Exemptions to allergen food labelling
- Working and managing allergens
- Labelling requirements
- Managing allergens

To access this course e-mail: Childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk

CPD Training & Workshops

Transition Training



This training has been developed following the Early Years Transformation Programme's Transition Project across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. It has been created in partnership with local authorities, Public Health Wales and The Learning Partnership.

The aim of the training is to ensure the quality and consistency of Early Years Transition arrangements for each child and their family. The intention is to adopt a common approach across all three local authorities within Cwm Taf Morgannwg (Bridgend, Merthyr and RCT).

This training will cover:

- Professional Learning
- Types Of Transition
- The Impact of Transition
- Child Centred Practice
- Transition Approaches across Cwm Taf Region

Safeguarding Scenarios Workshop



This workshop will cover: -

- Discussions of how we recognise safeguarding concerns and the processes to follow to ensure children and young people are safe from abuse, neglect and harm.
- Understanding roles & responsibilities.
- Recognise what constitutes a safeguarding concern.
- How to document incidents and concerns clearly and accurately.
- How to store confidential records appropriately and securely.
- When a referral should be made

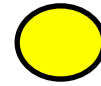
Risk Assessment Workshop (Welsh & English Medium)



This workshop will cover: -

- What is a risk assessment is and why it is an essential part of safe practice.
- Relevant legislation and policies that underpin effective risk assessment.
- Key terms and definitions related to hazards and risks
- Different types of risk assessments that can be used.
- Identifying what needs a risk assessment, include, equipment, mobility, environment, activities, health, and food and behaviour
- Risk assessment tools and strategies
- The importance of recording findings, reviewing and implementing necessary change.

Loose Parts and Risky Play Workshop (Welsh & English Medium)



This workshop will cover: -

- What loose parts are
- The benefits of loose part
- Introducing loose parts into your setting
- Safety when using loose parts
- What is risky play
- The importance of risky play
- The benefits of risky play
- Safety with risky play

Non-Maintained Setting Curriculum Workshop



This workshop will: -

- Support settings to embed the Non-Maintained Setting Curriculum effectively.
- Provide an overview of the Non-Maintained Curriculum for Wales.
- Build practitioners knowledge and confidence to creating meaningful planning documentation.
- Define the role of the adult and the learning environment in supporting high-quality practice.
- Develop understand of in the moment planning
- Discuss observation and assessment requirements and how these inform responsive planning.

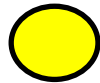
Assessment Framework Workshop



This workshop will: -

- Explore different types of observation methods and when to use them effectively.
- Provide an overview of what quality constitutes a high-quality observation.
- Develop understanding of how to collate information from observations and other documentation to produce meaningful and robust summative assessments.

Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Wellbeing (SSTEWS) Workshop



This workshop will: -

- Focus on how to promote and develop problem solving and critical thinking skills in childcare settings.
- Share ideas on how to encourage sustained shared thinking through investigation and exploration.
- Supporting practitioners in helping children develop concept of higher order thinking.
- Explore way to extend learning by promoting problem solving and guiding children in critical thinking.

Wellbeing and Involvement- Bitesize Session



This workshop will:

- Introduce the Leuven Scales and their purpose.
- Explore why, what and how the Leuven Scales were developed.
- Examine the signs and scales of Well-being
- Examine the signs and scales of Involvement
- Introduce experiential learning and its links to the Leuven Scales.
- Demonstrates how to put the Leuven scales into practice within the Early Years settings.
- Discuss the role of the adult in supporting children's well-being and involvement.

Flying Start Module- Self-Reflective Practice- Bitesize Session



This workshop will:

- Explore what is self-reflection is and why it is a key element of professional practice.
- Consider the important to actively engaging in self-reflection to improve and develop practice.
- Provide an overview of the RCT Flying Start Quality Assurance documents (Quality Assurance Scheme and SSTEW)
- Support practitioners to implement a self-reflection process within childcare settings to inform and strengthen development plans

Importance of Schemas in Every Child's Learning Workshop



This workshop will:

- Develop an understanding of what a schema is and how schemas can be observed through children's behaviour and play.
- Explore the importance of recognising and supporting schemas within learning and the environment.
- Identify what different schemas may look like in practice.
- Understand the role schemas play in children's learning and development.
- Explore the range of common schemas observed in early childhood.

The Three Enablers (Sessions 1-3)



These interactive sessions explore the three enablers that underpin high-quality early years practice. Participants will gain practical strategies to:

- Create engaging experiences that inspire curiosity and learning
- Design effective environments that are safe, inclusive, and stimulating
- Empower adults to support children's development with confidence

Hands-on activities, real-life examples, and group discussions will provide tools and ideas that can be immediately applied in your setting.

Practitioners will leave with practical techniques to enhance learning, optimise environments, and strengthen adult-child interactions, supporting improved outcomes for every child.

Please note that each enabler is covered in separate sessions.

Play Plan Clinics



Fortnightly informal drop-in for settings and childminders to access support with play plans. It will provide an opportunity to troubleshoot and ask questions for all things Play Plan related. This could include questions relating to

Play Plans, targets and interpreting professional advice, input from other professionals at the session and information needed to support and EY Forum referral.

Play Plan Training



This training will take you through the process of writing an effective play plan, what makes a good target, how to implement these and how to review and evaluate effectively. It will also discuss areas such as including advice from other professionals and how a Play Plan will feed into a graduated response for a child. We will also cover what goes where in a play plan and how an About Me profile fits in.

Early Years Forum Referral Process and the Graduated Response

This session will cover the referral form and process for Early Years Forum referral for Early Years children (not attending school). The session will go through the process of completing the referral form, the criteria that needs to be met, the evidence required with a referral and the process of the Early Years Forum. It will also cover the use of PCP tools, a graduated response checklist, and what happens following your referral to Early Years Forum. The session is open to anyone working with children in a childcare setting or with a childminder. It would be best suited for ALNCOs to attend but any staff member involved with referrals are welcome.

Person Centered Practice

This session will cover knowledge and understanding in what is Person Centred Practice (PCP)? Why is it useful? How do we do PCP? What does PCP look like in the Early Years settings?

This session will include:

- working together with parents/carers
- most useful PCP tools and how to use them effectively
- using communication charts
- unpicking the differences between what is important to/important for children
- identifying what is working well/not working
- All About Me Profiles – What makes a good AMP and what to avoid.

Inclusive Environments & Universal Provision

This session will look at the Importance of inclusion in mainstream Early Years settings. We will cover the changing cohorts' settings are experiencing and the change in attitudes and expectations.

We will also look at how can we make our provisions more inclusive and how we can improve our universal Provision offer to support the changing cohort.

There will be suggestions of what strategies can be built into everyday practice and how this can be achieved in your setting. This session will be an in-person session to enable valuable quality discussion and dialogue.

ALN Strategies



These sessions will look at common and useful strategies and interventions for early years children. This will provide practical advice and modelling for staff to take back and use in the setting. Each session will cover two different interventions and will cover all 6 by the end of the year. It is suggested that each setting attend one session per term in order to access the full range of strategies covered. Each term will have a choice of times and venues. Common strategies covered will include:

- Intensive Interaction
- Bucket Time
- Anticipation Games
- Floor time
- Objects of Reference
- Visuals

& more...

Communication Development



This session is mainly theoretical and looks at elements of early childhood development that have an impact on communication and interaction.

Social Communication



As well as vocabulary and speech sound development, social communication skills have a huge role to play in a child's ability to interact with others. This session looks at what social communication difficulties look like and how we can support the early development of these skills.

Attention, Play and Interaction



Attention and play are essential building blocks for communication. This session looks at how attention and play develop and practical strategies to support the development of these skills in setting. This session can be useful for concerns regarding children with limited communication skills, e.g. those at the very early stages of talking, or not yet talking, and for those children struggling to engage in the nursery provision.

Supporting Understanding and Use of Words



This session focuses on practical strategies to support language development. It can be useful for those looking for whole setting strategies as well as strategies to support children who may be delayed in their language development.

Speech Sound Development



This session explores how we make certain sounds and how children acquire sounds in developmental sequence. This session looks at what is typical and atypical and how to support children in your setting who might be delayed with their speech sounds.

English as an Additional Language – EAL



Multilingualism has become an increasing feature in the UK. 10% of pupils in Wales has English as Additional language (StasWales, 2024). This session aims at raising awareness of the language development of bilingual children.

Reluctant Communicators (Selective mutism)



This session will be looking at reluctant talkers/selective mutism; discussing what it looks like in children, some of the reasons why a child may be a reluctant talker and strategies to support little ones who may be reluctant talkers in your settings

Introduction to Signing



Using signs and gestures in the setting environment can help to:

- Give children extra clues to help them understand what is being said
- Increase vocabulary
- Give children an easier way to communicate before they have learned to say words
- Reduce frustration because they can show you what they mean
- Increase communication and interaction such as taking turns and share attention

This session will be a chance to learn and practice everyday signs that can be used as part of a universal provision.

Speech language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Factors Influencing Speech Language and Communication (SLC)



This session will explore speech language and communication needs including:

- Stammering
- Developmental Language Disorder
- Childhood Apraxia of speech

It will also look at conditions that can impact on language development including:

- Hearing impairment (including Glue Ear)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Attention Deficit Disorder

We will also myth bust some common themes including dummy use and lip/tongue ties.

Health and Safety Awareness



Course Overview

Participants will explore the core principles of health and safety legislation, RCTCBC health and safety guidance and available support. Through delivery, staff will be more aware of how to identify risks, implement safe working practices, and respond appropriately to incidents involving children, colleagues, or the environment.

Key Learning Outcomes

By the end of the 3hour session, delegates will be able to:

- Understand legal duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act and be aware of RCTCBC health and safety guidance.
- Recognise common hazards in childcare settings and apply effective risk-reduction strategies.
- Follow safe systems of work for health and safety management.
- Respond appropriately to accidents, near misses, and emergencies, including reporting requirements.
- Contribute to a positive safety culture that protects children's wellbeing and supports high-quality care.

IT IS MANDATORY THAT THE LEADER OF EACH CHILDCARE SETTING ON A SCHOOL SITE ATTENDS ONE OF THE AVAILABLE SESSIONS. AREA MANAGERS AND LEADERS OF OTHER SETTINGS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Childcare Offer Provider Refresher Training



Join us for an informal session where we can discuss some of the key themes that have emerged since the new digital system was introduced.

Items to be covered include:

- Provider/Parent Agreements
- Funding Claims
- Temporary Exemption Periods (TEP)
- Reconfirmations
- Promotion
- Additional Fees

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues you have.

Building Strong Foundations for Early Reading



How practitioners foster a love of stories and books, how practitioners engage children in songs and rhymes and how settings support parents and carers with early reading skills.

Songs and Rhymes- A Froebelian Approach



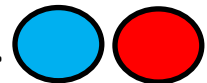
- To emphasise the importance of using songs and rhymes in early childhood.
- To explore Froebel's principles of the mother songs.
- To reflect on practice in the setting.
- To weave songs and rhymes throughout daily practice.

Engaging with Nature- Autumn/Winter Edition



Understand Froebel's ideas about nature in early learning.
Explore practical strategies for engaging children with the natural world.
Build confidence in using outdoor and indoor nature-based learning.

Unforgettable Imaginative Play for Children and Settings to Cherish.



Prepare for a journey into a strange world where nothing is as it seems and absolutely anything is possible. This ground-breaking practical course looks at how imagination directly encourages brain development and creates neural networks underpinning every aspect of what makes us uniquely human. The course demonstrates imaginative play as the foundation for a broad range of development, from communication and language to mathematical problem solving. It also explores how stimulating, imaginative environments can help create profound experiences and lifelong benefits for children.

Magical Imaginative Play Training



Prepare for a journey into a strange world where nothing is as it seems and absolutely anything is possible. This ground-breaking practical course looks at how imagination directly encourages brain development and creates neural networks underpinning every aspect of what makes us uniquely human.

The course demonstrates imaginative play as the foundation for a broad range of development from communication and language to mathematical problem solving. The course also explores how stimulating, imaginative environments can help create profound experiences and life-long benefits for children.

The course gives delegates a wealth of ideas to take back to their settings to stimulate children's imaginations. It also touches upon the neuroscience of imaginative play demonstrating that imagination is potentially one of the most important developmental processes in any child's life and one of the greatest gifts they will ever receive.

This course addresses the following:

- EYFS areas of learning and development – Personal, social and emotional development, Communication and language, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and Design.
- Characteristics of Effective Learning – Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, Creating and Thinking Critically.
- Play Types – Fantasy Play, Imaginative Play, Role Play, Creative Play, Dramatic Play, Communication Play
- Healthy Brain Growth
- Divergent Thinking and Creative Problem Solving

COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Training



This COSHH training provides learners with an understanding of how to safely work with hazardous substances in the workplace. The course covers responsibilities, the health effects of exposure, risk assessment processes, and the practical measures needed to reduce risks and respond to incidents involving hazardous substances.

Key learning outcomes:

- Understand the roles and responsibilities of employers and employees under COSHH.
- Recognise the consequences of failing to comply.
- Learn how information about hazardous substances should be communicated in the workplace.
- Understand the potential health effects of exposure to hazardous substances.
- Recognise hazard warning signs and safety symbols.
- Define key terms, in relation to hazard, risk, and risk assessment.
- Understand the purpose and importance of risk assessments.
- Learn methods for reducing exposure to hazardous substances.
- Identify the information required for the safe use of hazardous substances.

Understand the procedures for dealing with incidents involving hazardous substances.

September 2026

Who's Providing the training?	Training Name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Venue	Booking Link
	The Importance of Schemas in Every Child's Learning	Tuesday 8 th September	16:00 – 18:00	Dai Davies Centre, Porth	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5884
	Emergency First Aid at Work	Wednesday 9 th & Thursday 10 th September	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5395
	Building Strong Foundations for Early Reading	Wednesday 9 th September	09:30 – 11:30	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk
	Building Strong Foundations for Early Reading	Wednesday 9 th September	12:30 – 14:30	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk
	Health & Safety Awareness	Friday 11 th September	09:30 – 12:30	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5965
	Group B Safeguarding	Saturday 12 th September	09:30—16:30	On-Line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5199
	Loose Parts and Risky Play Workshop (Welsh Medium)	Monday 14 th September	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5872
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid Training	Tuesday 15 th & Tuesday 22 nd September	09:00 – 16:00	YMa, Pontypridd	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	Health & Safety Awareness	Wednesday 16 th September	12:30 – 15:30	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5965
	Fire Warden	Saturday 19 th September	09:30—13:00	YMa, Pontypridd	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5397
	The Three Enablers – Enabling Adults (Session 1)	Monday 21 st September	13:00 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5886
	The Three Enablers – Enabling Adults (Session 1)	Monday 21 st September	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5886
MAT	Supporting Understanding and Use of words	Tuesday 22 nd September	12:00 – 13:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5904

	Safeguarding Scenarios Workshop	Tuesday 22 nd September	16:00 – 18:00	Dai Davies Centre, Porth	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5860
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 23 rd , Thursday 24 th & Saturday 26 th September	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	Childcare Offer Provider Refresher Training	Thursday 24 th September	13:30 – 14:30	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5211
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Saturday 26 th September & Saturday 3 rd October	09:00–16:00	YMa, Pontypridd	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	Self-reflective Practice – Bitesize Workshop	Monday 28 th September	16:00 – 17:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5882
	Transition Training	Tuesday 29 th September	09:30 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5864
	6 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Tuesday 29 th September & Tuesday 6 th October	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5195

October 2026

Who's Providing the training?	Training Name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Venue	Booking Link
	Loose Parts and Risky Play Workshop (English Medium)	Wednesday 7 th October	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5870
	The Three Enablers – Enabling Adults Training (Session 1)	Wednesday 7 th October	18:30 – 20:30	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5886
	Manual Handling	Wednesday 7 th October	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5310
	Songs and Rhymes – A Froebelian Approach	Friday 9 th October	09:30 – 11:30	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk
	Transition Training	Saturday 10 th October	09:30 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5864
	The Three Enablers – Effective Environments (Session 2)	Monday 12 th October	13:00 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5888
	The Three Enablers – Effective Environments (Session 2)	Monday 12 th October	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5888
MAT	Speech Sound Development	Tuesday 13 th October	12:00 – 13:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5906
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 14 th , Thursday 15 th & Saturday 17 th October	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Training)	Thursday 15 th October	09:30 – 16:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5969
	Group C Safeguarding	Saturday 17 th & Saturday 24 th October	09:30 – 16:30	Hybrid	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5209
	Engaging with Nature –	Tuesday 20 th October	09:30 – 11:30	Canolfan Taf, Ynysyngharad	claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk

	Autumn/Winter Edition			Park, Pontypridd	
	Non-Maintained Setting Curriculum Workshop	Tuesday 20 th October	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5874
	Risk Assessment Workshop (English Medium)	Tuesday 20 th October	18:30 – 20:30	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5866
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 21 st , Thursday 22 nd & Saturday 24 th October	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Training	Thursday 26 th October	09:30 – 16:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5969

November 2026

Who's Providing the training?	Training Name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Venue	Booking Link
MAT	English as an Additional Language – EAL	Tuesday 3 rd November	12:00 – 13:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5908
	Managing & Understanding Challenging Behaviour	Tuesday 3 rd & Thursday 5 th November	18:30 – 21:30	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5319
	Group C Safeguarding	Saturday 7 th & Saturday 14 th November	09:30 – 16:30	Hybrid	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5209
	Assessment Framework Workshop	Monday 9 th November	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5876
	The Three Enablers – Engaging Experiences (Session 3)	Tuesday 10 th November	13:00 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5890
	The Three Enablers – Engaging Experiences (Session 3)	Tuesday 10 th November	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5890
	Wellbeing and Involvement Bitesize Session	Wednesday 11 th November	16:00 – 17:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5880
	Magical Imaginative Play Training	Thursday 12 th November	09:00 – 12:00	Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5975
	Unforgettable Imaginative Play for Children and Settings to Cherish	Thursday 12 th November	09:00 – 12:00	Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre	claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk
	Magical Imaginative Play Training	Thursday 12 th November	13:00 – 16:00	Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5975
	Unforgettable Imaginative Play for Children and Settings to Cherish	Thursday 12 th November	13:00 – 16:00	Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre	claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk

	Group B Safeguarding	Monday 16 th November	09:00 – 16:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5199
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid Training	Monday 16 th & Monday 23 rd November	09:00 – 16:00	YMa, Pontypridd	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	Risk Assessment Workshop (Welsh Medium)	Tuesday 17 th November	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5868
	6 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Tuesday 17 th & Tuesday 24 th November	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5195
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 18 th , Thursday 19 th & Saturday 21 st November	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	Risk Assessment Workshop (English Medium)	Monday 23 rd November	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children & Family Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5866

December 2026

Who's Providing the training?	Training Name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Venue	Booking Link
MAT	Reluctant Communicators (Selective Mutism)	Tuesday 1 st December	12:00 – 13:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5910
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 2 nd , Thursday 3 rd & Saturday 5 th December	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	Fire Warden Training	Monday 7 th December	09:00 – 12:30	YMa, Pontypridd	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5397
	Childcare Offer Provider Refresher Training	Tuesday 8 th December	18:00 – 19:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5211

January 2027

Training Timetable—Dates will be available to book at 5PM on 4th December 2026.

Who's Providing the training?	Training Name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Venue	Booking Link
	Three Enablers – Enabling Adults (Session 1)	Tuesday 12 th January	13:00 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5886
	Three Enablers – Enabling Adults (Session 1)	Tuesday 12 th January	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5886
	6 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Tuesday 12 th , Tuesday 19 th January	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5195
	Self-reflective Practice – Bitesize Workshop	Wednesday 13 th January	16:00 – 18:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5882
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 13 th , Thursday 14 th & Saturday 16 th January	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	Loose Parts & Risky Play Workshop (English Medium)	Monday 18 th January	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5870
	The Three Enablers – Effective Environments (Session 2)	Monday 18 th January	18:30 – 20:30	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5888
	Transition Training	Tuesday 19 th January	09:30 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5864
MAT	Introduction to Signing	Tuesday 19 th January	12:00 – 13:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5912
	Group C Safeguarding	Saturday 23 rd January & Saturday 30 th January	09:30 to 16:30	Hybrid	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5209
	Safeguarding Scenarios Workshop	Tuesday 26 th January	16:00 – 18:00	Dai Davies Centre, Porth	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5860
	Group B Safeguarding	Wednesday 27 th January	09:00 – 16:00	Dai Davies Centre, Porth	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5199

	Manual Handling	Wednesday 27 th January	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5310
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February 2027

Training Timetable—Dates will be available to book at 5PM on 4th December 2026.

Who's Providing the training?	Training Name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Venue	Booking Link
	Assessment Framework Workshop	Monday 1 st February	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5876
	Loose Parts and Risky Play Workshop (Welsh Medium)	Tuesday 2 nd February	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5872
	Childcare Offer Provider Refresher Training	Tuesday 2 nd February	18:00 – 19:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5211
	6 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Tuesday 2 nd & Tuesday 16 th February	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5195
	Emergency First Aid at Work	Saturday 6 th February	09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5395
	Manual Handling	Thursday 11 th February	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5310
	The Three Enablers – Effective Environments (Session 2)	Tuesday 16 th February	13:00 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5888
	The Three Enablers – Effective Environments (Session 2)	Tuesday 16 th February	16:00 – 18:00	Dai Davies Centre, Porth	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5888
	Group B Safeguarding	Saturday 20 th February	09:00 – 16:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5199
	Group C Safeguarding	Saturday 20 th & Saturday 27 th February	09:30 – 16:30	Hybrid	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5209

	Importance of Schemas in Every Child's Learning Workshop	Tuesday 23 rd February	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5884
	The Three Enablers – Engaging Experiences (Session 3)	Tuesday 23 rd February	18:30 – 20:30	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5890
	Group B Safeguarding	Wednesday 24 th & Friday 26 th February	18:30 – 21:30	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5199
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 24 th , Thursday 25 th & Saturday 27 th February	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201

March 2027

Training Timetable—Dates will be available to book at 5PM on 4th December 2026.

Who's Providing the training?	Training Name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Venue	Booking Link
MAT	Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Factors Influencing Speech Language and Communication (SLC)	Tuesday 2 nd March	12:00 – 13:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5914
	Wellbeing and Involvement Bitesize Session	Tuesday 2 nd March	16:00 – 17:00	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5880
	Group C Safeguarding	Saturday 6 th & Saturday 13 th March	09:30 – 16:30	Hybrid	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5209
	Risk Assessment Workshop (Welsh Medium)	Monday 8 th March	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5868
	Non-Maintained Setting Curriculum Workshop	Tuesday 9 th March	16:00 – 18:00	Dai Davies Centre, Porth	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5874
	6 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Tuesday 9 th & Tuesday 16 th March	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5195
	12 Hour Paediatric First Aid	Wednesday 10 th , Thursday 11 th & Saturday 13 th March	18:30 – 21:30 & 09:00 – 16:00	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5201
	The Three Enablers – Engaging Experiences (Session 3)	Monday 15 th March	13:00 – 15:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5890
	The Three Enablers – Engaging Experiences (Session 3)	Monday 15 th March	16:00 – 18:00	Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5890
	Managing & Understanding Challenging	Monday 15 th & Wednesday 17 th March	18:30 – 21:30	On-line	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5319

	Behaviour				
	Risk Assessment Workshop (English Medium)	Tuesday 16 th March	16:00 – 18:00	Dai Davies Centre, Porth	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5866
	Manual Handling	Thursday 18 th March	18:30 – 21:30	Camau Cyntaf Office, Tonteg	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5310
	Fire Warden	Saturday 20 th March	09:30 – 13:00	YMa, Pontypridd	https://customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/5397

Team Contact Details

	Childcare Development Team	Childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk 01443 570048
	Flying Start Childcare Delivery Team	CWRSTraining@rctcbc.gov.uk
	Registered Education Provider Team	claire.marie.lloyd-thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk vicky.baldock@rctcbc.gov.uk
	Childcare Offer for Wales Team	Childcareofferproviders@rctcbc.gov.uk 03000 628628
	RCT Play Service	RCTPlay@rctcbc.gov.uk
	RCT Access and Inclusion	AandIService@rctcbc.gov.uk
	Multi-Agency Team (MAT)	cwrsmat@rctcbc.gov.uk

If you have any queries about the training included in this guide, please use the relevant contact details above.