

Linking Early Years Leaders

A Peer Review Action Research Project

How effective is your Early Years curriculum?

We are delighted to offer this professional development opportunity to Early Years Leaders across the North East.

North East Combined Authority, Newcastle Research School and school improvement teams across the seven NECA regions are working in partnership to drive this exciting new project for ambitious early years leaders.

The one year project includes five professional development sessions for a head teacher and an Early Years Leader. You will explore the latest Education Endowment Foundation research evidence on the impact of action research, approaches to curriculum evaluation and effective implementation.

At the core of the project is setting to setting review, giving early years leaders the experience of evaluating curriculum provision in another setting and having a “fresh pair of eyes” to guide their own work.



Outline of the Programme

The programme involves three professional development sessions for headteachers and Early Years Leaders, led by the Newcastle Research School and EEF co-author of the Early Years Evidence Store, Nicki Cherry. These sessions will explore the evidence which supports the action research model of school improvement and examine effective strategies of curriculum evaluation.

There are two further sessions, led by Catherine Worton North Tyneside, to help Early Years Leaders set up pairings and to plan the review process and a final meeting of participants to reflect on the experience of the project and draw out more general messages for other early years leaders in their settings.

March- April 2026 – dates to be agreed between settings

A structured short visit from and to partner setting to evaluate chosen elements of the written and enacted curriculum on each site.

Session 1 – Monday 13th October 2025 9.15am-3.30pm

Session 2 – Tuesday 18th November 2025 9.15am-3.30pm

Session 3 – Tuesday 20th January 2026 1.15pm-4pm

Session 4 – Tuesday 24th March 2026 9.15am-3.30pm

Session 5 – Tuesday 30th June 2026 1.15pm-4pm

Venue - Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park, NE3 5HN

