

## About Anna

Anna is an independent childminder based in Manchester. Her setting is called The Three Languages Childminding as it has a strong focus on language and communication development. She has been minding since 2019.

## How does the Early Years Professional Development Programme compare with other training programmes you have done?

I do regular, ongoing professional training. Most of it is through webinars and training courses provided by our local council. The Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP) was the first ongoing in-depth course I took part in that was not a specific one-day course.

## What was your experience of the Early Years Professional Development Programme?

The programme was very useful and comprehensive. The areas covered aligned well with my own interests and focus in my setting, especially the speech, language and communication module. The maths module was eye-opening in early maths development and you can never have enough support in social and emotional development learning! I definitely brushed up on my skills in all areas.

## What impact did the programme have on...

### You personally?

Taking part in the programme has given me more confidence to apply the curriculum in a holistic way and provided a better understanding of how core skills develop in the early years.

### Your setting?

For my setting, the activities I provide are better linked into the existing abilities of the little ones which support their learning

### The children in your setting?

The children are supported at their current level and encouraged to advance at their own pace. They learn more skills to regulate their emotions and are better equipped to start school when it's time for them to move on.

## Have you made any changes to your practice as a result of the training?

The programme helped remind me of key skills and activities, such as in language development where I have implemented new processes to support teaching vocabulary to the little ones. I ensure I allow enough time for them to respond and have a stronger focus on modelling correct speech. I do more counting activities which support early mathematics skills. I also have a stronger focus on learning about emotions and regulating them so that the little ones learn skills to deal with their feelings and manage them better.

## Did completing the programme help with your Ofsted?

It did! I had my first graded Ofsted inspection a few months after completing the programme and the inspector was very impressed with my cpd record. She even made a mention in my Ofsted report about my commitment to personal development to have the best skills to support the little ones. This was all due to the programme since I'd logged every webinar and learning session and it was an impressive overview!

## Six months on, are you still applying what you learnt?

I apply the things I learnt on the programme on a daily basis, from deciding which activities to do, to how I interact with the children.

## How did you find attending the regular webinars with other early years practitioners?

As a childminder we work independently and often alone and being able to hear the experiences from other providers was eye-opening and reassuring. We became a close-knit, supportive group through our webinars and we had a lot of laughs at them! It wasn't always easy to give up my Saturday morning but I did look forward to each online meeting and I am happy I invested my personal time to take part in this programme. It has made me a better, more confident childminder which I will take with me for the rest of my career.

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