

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Developing professional knowledge on a budget

Attending training courses where practitioners are released from the setting are not always attainable or affordable. It is therefore essential to consider some alternative and innovative ways to update staff knowledge and skills.

See our top tips below to get you thinking about ways you can develop professional development on a budget:

1. Join your local library, where you can request specific book titles
2. Contact your Local Authority early years team about setting up a book sharing scheme between leaders in your area. This is particularly helpful for leaders that are training or taking part in qualifications
3. Join a local [NDNA Network](#) or alternative local early years network to meet with other providers in your area and discuss local and national issues affecting the sector
4. Set up your own [local early years network](#), hosted in your own setting where you facilitate professional discussion on different topics. Once established take turns to host to save on costs
5. Subscribe to updates from key organisations, e.g. government, NSPCC etc., including NDNA's e-bulletins with a round-up of national news
6. Talk to local providers about taking part in visits to share best practice. As relationships develop, consider shadowing other leaders for a session and sharing feedback
7. Host [in-house training](#) at your setting and invite other local providers to share costs
8. Search for subject experts on social media platforms and follow their pages to see articles and updates
9. Encourage your team to share interesting articles or blogs they have read and discuss the key points with your colleagues.



NDNA products to support you with these tips

- [NDNA Networks](#).

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna