

# NDNA

National Day Nurseries Association  
Championing early years for 25 years



Headline sponsor

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Hope is the home of everything you need for your early years setting. From role play and small world, to outdoor, furniture and maths, we've got you covered. Plus with endless inspiration and ideas to bring learning to life, gold star customer service and outstanding value, Hope really is all you need.

# Ready the confetti!

We celebrated your talent, achievements and dedication at our prestigious awards ceremony on 7 June! See who sparkled on the evening...



*Overall & North of England  
Nursery of the Year*

## The Sunflower Children's Centre Hyde, Cheshire

The Sunflower Children's Centre has a stable staff team who are well resourced, child focused and lead their own CPD. Children are at the front and centre of the setting and parent and community well-being are very much at the heart. They go further and work with local food banks, offer a lending library and work to support the homeless.



*Central England Nursery of the Year*

### Greenview Nursery

Greenview Nursery understands their community and the needs of military children, as well as non-military families. Staff are responsible for the children, their happiness and well-being. They know that a child's abilities are influenced by their experiences and are inclusive and compassionate to all.



*South of England Nursery of the Year*

### Port Regis Montessori Nursery Broadstairs, Kent

Port Regis Montessori Nursery takes advantage of the environment around them. They make use of their extensive resources in everyday practice. Everything is child-led. They have their own speech and language therapist and listening and attention specialist to further meet children's needs.

Other regional finalists: Ashbridge Nursery Hutton, Jesters Beaulieu Nursery and Pre-School Chelmsford, Little Hands Daycare Stourbridge, Rosehill Day Nursery Carlisle and Scallywags Nursery Chelmsford.

 **CHRISTIE & CO**

Nursery of the Year sponsor

Christie & Co's Childcare & Education team is here to support childcare business owners with their strategic ambitions; whether that is looking to buy, sell or grow their business portfolio.



## Scotland Nursery of the Year

### Ankerville Nurseries and Training Centre Alness, Ross-shire

Staff celebrate all wins with children regardless of their size. There is a real STEM focus and assisted language displays for non-verbal children. They involve the wider community and have a very positive impact on leadership. With great observations, staff cohesion and so many impressive initiatives, they truly shine.

Other finalist: Banana Moon Bridge of Don.



## Apprentice of the Year

### Kelsey Johnson - Mill Cottage Montessori School (Daycare) Brighthouse

It is very easy to hear someone is passionate about early years, but Kelsey's passion is personified. She understands what it is like to be a child and has an in-depth knowledge of early years. She is a confident practitioner and is someone that any parent or carer would want to educate and care for their children.

Other finalists: Abigail Murphy (Eco Babe Private Day Nursery Sale) and Crystal Chandler (Barhill Day Nursery Cambridgeshire).



## Wales Nursery of the Year

### Chuckles Nursery Newport, South Wales

Chuckles Nursery has real life authentic experiences that are stage and age appropriate and are excellent in all areas. Parents and families are supported with food boxes, and staff are well looked after with a flexible working approach, well-being opportunities and ongoing CPD with constant reflection.

Other finalists: Little Stars Nursery Pontypool and Nestlings Nursery Cardiff.



## Manager of the Year

### Sarina Kukadia - Bright Little Stars Nursery Mill Hill, London

Sarina has a clear focus on the principles she wants her team to work to and instils a child-led approach. Focusing on staff well-being ensures her team can strike an important work-life balance. As a mentor for all staff, she empowers and supports them to maintain principles and priorities for children.

Other finalists: Marie Forde (The Grove Montessori Wanstead) and Melissa Kennedy-Roberts (Headstart-on-the-hill Nursery Chester).

### Manager of the Year Sponsor



At Citation we're all about making your nursery the best it can be. By supporting you with every aspect of HR and Health & Safety, we give you the time to do what you do best – educate your children.

### Drinks sponsor

New for 2024! The professional membership body for all individuals working or aspiring to work in the early education and care sector.

Supporting your professional development and demonstrating your professional value, boosting your well-being, fostering collaboration and creating a sense of belonging.



## Excellence in Additional Needs

### esSENTial Early Years Birkenhead

esSENTial Early Years received outstanding feedback from several professionals who work closely with children with additional needs. These testimonials show that they do wonderful things for children in their care and are seen as a lifeline for many families. Here, children are celebrated as individuals and respected.

Other finalists: Dingley's Promise Reading and SEND to Learn Blyth, Northumberland.



## Practitioner of the Year

### Leanne Eastwood - First Friends Day Nursery @ Wootey Alton, Hampshire

Leanne is passionate, reliable, approachable and thrives as an early years practitioner. As part of the SEND team, she provides a vast range of experiences and learning opportunities. She is committed to building positive relationships with parents and actively supports colleagues and peers.

Other finalists: Grace McGowan (Nannie Annes Daycare Woodford, London) and Rachael Marshall (Little Lodge Nursery in Worcester).



## Community Support & Charity Fundraising

### Growing Places @ Morelands Hampshire

Growing Places @ Morelands has a holistic sense of what they're doing and why. Initiatives like the special tree project impressed as it was so child-led. While supporting local organisations, they're also helping children's language and communication skills. They are a real pillar in their community.

Other finalists: esSENTial Early Years Birkenhead and everyFAMILY Bristol.



## Learning Through Play: Outstanding Baby Room Practitioner

### Jayana Linsdell - Honeybear Nursery Whalley Range, Manchester

Jayana has a deep awareness of what babies need. She recognises the importance of a family environment and getting on a baby's level. She supports others to work with children who might not respond to them straight away. She knows what it is like to be a baby in her environment and is very passionate.

Other finalists: Chloe Mzioued (Bright Little Stars Nursery Stratford) and Megan Stocks (The Old Forge Day Nursery Findern, Derbyshire).



## Nursery Training and Development

### Little Dragons Day Nursery Harrogate

Little Dragons Day Nursery began as a group of neurodivergent learners who were keen to remove barriers to learning, giving everyone the opportunity to flourish. They instil training that has a positive effect on all children. Coaching, reflective practice and observation are clearly used daily for learning and growth.

Other finalists: Banana Moon Bromley and Scallywags Nursery Hornchurch.





## Outstanding Contribution



### Elaine Sagar - The Sunflower Children's Centre Hyde, Cheshire

Elaine is a visionary leader who not only embodies quality but shows unwavering dedication, innovative spirit and tireless efforts to positively impact the early years sector. Her commitment extends beyond her nursery, volunteering her time to chair the North West Ofsted Big Conversation, forming a local nursery network supporting over 30 childcare providers and actively representing the sector with her local authority.

Other finalist: Sue Poole (NDNA Network Chair and owner of Monkton Nursery School Liverpool).



### Purnima Tanuku OBE - National Day Nurseries Association

Jane Haywood, NDNA's Vice Chair of Trustees thanked Purnima for all she has done for the sector and organisation over the last 20 years and presented her with an Outstanding Contribution award from the Board of Trustees.

**Congratulations to all of our winners and finalists! We would like to thank everyone in the sector for all of the wonderful work you do for children and their families. See you next year!**

## Network of the Year



### Essex Network - Andy Melbourne

Andy has been chairing for many years, but in 2023/24 he organised at least eight network meetings so members had plenty of opportunities to support one another and be more informed. Network funds were used to support members to access paediatric first aid training. Andy represents the network professionally and holds their council accountable.



### Lancashire Network - Philippa Perks and Sharon Fenton

This network has worked tirelessly to give the early years sector the platform it deserves in their area. They have represented NDNA members and the sector at council meetings for many years, highlighting the importance of early years. They have fought for additional funding, organised regular meetings, hosted conferences and ensured their council keeps local settings up-to-date.

Other finalists: Leicestershire Network (Beverley Coltman and Matthew Leedham) and Nottinghamshire Network (Karen Richards and Laura Gapski).



**With thanks to all of our awards sponsors!**