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**HEART**  
MIDLANDS  
EARLY YEARS  
STRONGER PRACTICE HUB

Debbie Brace BA, PGCE, MA

*baby talk & play*

Supporting, encouraging and inspiring understanding  
of early communication development



### **Solihull- Being with Babies: March to June 2026**

Debbie Brace works in Early Years as an early language and behaviour consultant bringing child development theory to life in practice. Historically a qualified primary school teacher with a degree in drama, she now works directly with babies and their families as well as the early years education workforce. Graduating with distinction with an MA in 'infant mental health' from the Tavistock and Portman, she is also an accredited Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) practitioner. Debbie's attachment and psychoanalytic informed approach inspire parents/carers and early years professionals to have meaningful interactions and strengthen bonds between babies, young children and their caregivers giving them the best chance of developing positive foundational relationships alongside early language skills.

More info can be found on website [babytalkandplay.co.uk](http://babytalkandplay.co.uk)

#### **Aims:**

**To increase knowledge and understanding of what 'quality in the baby room' means and how their work and interactions impact positively on young children's development.**

**Increase practitioner skills and confidence.**

**Share thoughts, feelings and ideas with others.**

Date	Times	Venue/virtual	Further information
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>	1pm- <i>bring your lunch along for a soft start</i> 1.30pm start and the course will conclude by 4.15pm	The Loft Chelmsley Wood B37 5EX <a href="http://www.solihull.gov.uk/about-solihull/loft">www.solihull.gov.uk/about-solihull/loft</a>	<b>Session 1</b> > in person Being with babies, positive interaction- what does this look like, sound and feel like, why does it matter so much for healthy development?
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	1.30 - 3.30pm	Virtual on-line session	<b>Session 2</b> > Singing and rhyming – why, where, when, how?

<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	1.30 - 4.15pm	The Loft Chelmsley Wood B37 5EX <a href="http://www.solihull.gov.uk/about-solihull/loft">www.solihull.gov.uk/about-solihull/loft</a>	<b>Session 3 &gt;</b> Settling in - supporting babies and their families to feel emotionally settled.
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	1.30 - 3.30pm	Virtual on-line session	<b>Session 4 &gt;</b> Sharing quality moments of care - a relational approach to everyday routines.
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	1.30 - 3.30pm	Virtual on-line session	<b>Session 5 &gt;</b> What have we learned? – What next? A chance to reflect together.

**[Booking Form](#)** [link] – please complete the booking form to attend this free course.  
**You must commit to participating in all 5 sessions before requesting a place.**

### What do you need to know .....

This is a great opportunity to access training specifically targeted at baby room leads and practitioners. It will be a mixed audience of those with experience and practitioners new to working in the brilliant baby room.

### More about the Training

This 5-part training, led by baby-specialist Debbie Brace, will increase knowledge and understanding of what 'Quality in the baby room' means and how your work and, in particular, your interactions impact positively on a baby/young child's development and are foundational for later positive outcomes across the board.

The training features 2 half day face-to-face sessions, and 3 online meetings and is structured to allow you to put new learning into practice then discuss and reflect with colleagues.

This course has been organised with **[HEART Stronger Practice Hub](#)**  
<https://www.strongerpracticehubs.org.uk/hubs/wm/heart-midlands-eyspf>

The course is free to attendees as it is funded by UK Government through HEART. Cover costs, travel costs and refreshments are not provided.

You will be asked to sign an image and video sharing agreement so that HEART can use these following the course, to promote further partnership working and give other practitioners a taste of what could be on offer in their local area.

There will be simple tasks to complete and share between the sessions, to strengthen and reflect upon your practice.

Your email contact will be shared with the presenter so information can be sent directly to you after each session.

Virtual meeting invites will be sent nearer to the session date.

The training will be opened up to Birmingham attendees if all places are not filled, so please **book before Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** to secure your place.

Participants will be required to attend all 5 sessions and will receive a certificate of attendance/participation at the end of the course.

Debbie is committed to delivering sessions which are dynamic and digestible, underpinned by the latest research and most importantly, translatable into practice.



### **THE LOFT, BLUEBELL CENTRE, BOSWORTH DRIVE, CHELMSLEY WOOD**

The Loft is located in the Bluebell Centre above Asda. The entrance is to the left of Asda and the Loft is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, next to the Library.

For Sat Nav purposes, the postcode is B37 5EX. If you are attending training, you can park for 3 hours free of charge in the Asda car park.