

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

April Newsletter and Key Dates for your Diary



Welcome!

Our newsletter will cover how we can help you and your setting through evidence-informed practices. Click below to access the areas of interest.

There are new dates for your diary so please ensure you check them out!

Please note, when you scroll to the bottom of this newsletter, the message might be clipped. Please press 'View entire message' to see the full newsletter.

Recent Events

Dates For Your Diary

Case Study

DfE/EEF News

Other News

Bespoke Support

Our Recent Events

April Highlights: A Month of Inspiration and Impact



April has been an incredibly vibrant and busy month for our Hub! We've seen fantastic engagement across all our events and we are thrilled to share some of the highlights with you.

Unlocking Success in Early Writing

We had a **phenomenal turnout** for our online session, *Unlock Early Writing Success: A Practical Approach with WISE Academies*. The feedback was just as impressive as the attendance—thank you to everyone who joined and shared their insights!

Focus on Inclusion & Wellbeing

Our commitment to inclusive practice continues to grow thanks to our dedicated partners:

- **Fusion Learning Team:** A huge thank you for hosting two vital online inclusion networks focusing on **Attention Autism** and **Sensory Support**.
- **Emotion Coaching Team:** We are proud to see even more practitioners across the North East now trained and equipped to support emotional regulation in their settings.

Learning in Action: Open Settings

Seeing practice in situ is always a highlight of our calendar:

- **Green Lane CE Primary School:** The team delivered a fantastic session on how **Areas of Learning (AOL)** are designed and enhanced to effectively build children's skills and knowledge.
- **Goosehill Team:** Just this afternoon, the Goosehill team wrapped up another one of their deeply inspiring **Forest School** networks, showcasing the power of outdoor learning.

A Note of Thanks: Our thanks go out to all the hosts, trainers and educators who make these networks so valuable. Your dedication to sharing best practices is what makes our North East educational community thrive.

Dates for your Diary

Please see below for a range of **fully funded** CPD available to book. Unless stated otherwise, these sessions are open to all childminders and educators working in Early Years settings.

See all our events

Wednesday 6th May 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network

Learn more

Monday 11th May 4.00pm-4.45pm

Online Purposeful Playful Practice in Early Maths Network: Counting Principles Through Games, Stories and Continuous Provision with the Great North Maths Hub and Newcastle Research School

Learn more

Thursday 14th May 6.30pm-7.30pm

Castle Kindergarten (Haswell) Network - 'Developing a Setting from Zero'

Learn more

Monday 18th May 3.45pm-4.45pm

Online Network for New/Aspiring Early Years Leaders

Learn more

Wednesday 20th May 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

Learn more

Monday 1st June 9.00am-12.30pm OR 1.00pm-4.30pm

Unlock New Possibilities: A Practical SEND Carousel Training Session with Fusion Learning at Welbeck Academy

Learn more

Tuesday 2nd June 3.45pm-4.45pm

Online Inclusion Network: Low-Arousal Approaches and Behaviours

Learn more

Tuesday 2nd June 6pm-7pm

Under 2s Network: Small Steps in Wild Spaces with Goosehill Early Excellence in Bothal Woods

Learn more

Wednesday 10th June 3.45pm-4.30pm

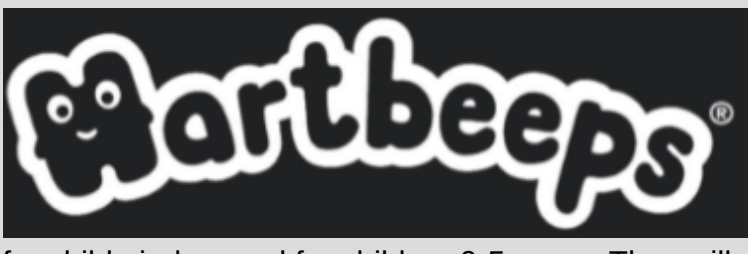
Online Inclusion Network: An Introduction to EY Specific AET Good Autism Practice (CPD Accredited)

Learn more

Monday 29th June 4.00pm-4.45pm

Online Purposeful Playful Practice in Early Years Maths Network: Mathematising the Day - Maximising Mathematical Moments Throughout the Reception Day with the Great North Maths Hub and Newcastle Research School

Learn more



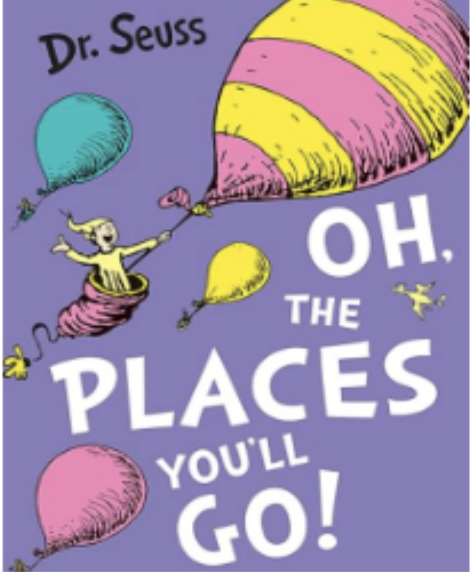
These sessions are FREE for childminders and for children 0-5 years. They will give you the opportunity to network and build relationships with like minded individuals, whilst supporting the children to engage in fun & interactive singing and storytelling sessions with a highly trained and skilled Hartbeeps Imaginator.

We have organised a termly childminder network in the following venues:

- **Rising Sun Country Park, Benton** - More dates coming soon!
- **The Haven, Kenton** - More dates coming soon!
- **Blyth South Beach HQ** - More dates coming soon!
- **Lanchester Community Centre (10.00am-11.00am)** - Friday 8th May and Friday 10th July. You can book [here](#).
- **Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm)** - Wednesday 20th May and Wednesday 10th June. You can book [here](#).
- **Sherburn Community Centre (1.00pm-2.00pm)** - Wednesday 20th May and Wednesday 10th June. You can book [here](#).

Case Study

Transition Case Study: You're Off to Great Places!



At Goosehill Private Nursery (strategic partners to the GNSPH), we see the move from nursery to reception as an exciting journey. Oh, the Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss can act as a metaphor for our children's transitions from nursery into their reception class in school.

The story emphasises that every child is on their own unique path, and with encouragement and support from key adults in their lives, they can successfully navigate changes and confidently move forward to the next stage of their learning journey (DfE, 2021; Birth to 5 Matters, 2021).

[Read the Case Study to Find out More!](#)

DfE/EEF News

The Launch of the RISE Reception Networks

A national programme, developed as part of the Department for Education's Best Start in Life Strategy and the RISE reception year priority, brings schools together to strengthen the quality, consistency and impact of reception provision. By joining a network, your school will benefit from:

- Half-termly virtual network meetings that provide a collaborative space to explore effective practice, share challenges, and engage in evidence-informed professional dialogue.
- Termly in-person visits, offering the opportunity to observe high-quality reception provision in action and reflect on how these approaches can be adapted within your own setting.

The programme is open to all primary schools, and we encourage participation from senior leaders and practitioners involved in reception year provision. This is a valuable opportunity to be part of a supportive professional community focused on improving outcomes at a pivotal stage of children's education.

The lead settings for the North East Region are:

- Malvin's Close Academy
- Benedict Biscop C.E Academy
- Greenside Primary School
- Oakdene Primary Academy
- Sugar Hill Primary School

You can find out more about each school, their context and how to join their network and mailing list below:



Expression of interest sign up

RISE Reception Lead School - Malvin's Close Academy

Location: Blyth, Northumberland (NE24)

RISE Local Authorities: Northumberland, North Tyneside

Number on roll: 443

School: Primary (3-11)

Pupil Premium: 42%

SEND: 27%



[Click here to join Malvin Close's Network](#)



RISE Reception Lead School – Benedict Biscop CE Academy

Location: Sunderland (SR3 2RE)

RISE Local Authorities: South Tyneside and Sunderland

Number on roll: 334

School: Primary (3-11) mixed nursery and reception provision

Pupil Premium: 11%

SEND: 13%

Expression of interest sign up



Recipients can scan the code on a phone or tablet to access the form.

[Click here to join Benedict Biscop's Network](#)



Expression of interest sign up

RISE Reception Lead School – Greenside Primary School

Location: Greenside, Gateshead (NE40)

RISE Local Authorities: Gateshead and Newcastle

Number on roll: 175

School: Primary (3-11)

Pupil Premium: 29%

SEND: 11%



[Click here to join Greenside's Network](#)



RISE Reception Lead School – Oakdene Primary Academy

Location: Billingham, Stockton on Tees, Teesside

RISE Local Authorities: Stockton on Tees, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool & Redcar and Cleveland

Number on roll: 307

School: Primary (2-11 years)

Pupil Premium: 38%

SEND: 19%



Expression of Interest Sign Up



[Click here to join Oakdene's Network](#)



RISE Reception Lead School – Sugar Hill Primary School

Location: Newton Aycliffe, Durham (DL1 1NU)

RISE Local Authorities: Durham & Darlington

Number on roll: 446

School: Primary (3-11)

Pupil Premium: 34%

SEND: 19%



Expression of interest sign up



[Click here to join Sugar Hill's Network](#)



EEF Fully Funded Research Projects

The EEF is inviting early years settings to take part in several research projects, testing approaches designed to improve early learning and development.

- [Positive Early Childhood Education \(PECE\) – trial](#) is a professional development programme for early years educators, providing 22 practical strategies to improve self-regulation and support positive interactions among 3–4-year-olds.
- [OxEd Whole Class and NELI – trial](#) is a universal oral language enrichment programme for Reception pupils to be delivered alongside or independently of NELI, a targeted companion oral language intervention.
- [Talk with Tales for Children \(TWITCH\) - trial](#) is a professional development programme aiming to improve language interactions and language development among 3–4-year-olds by supporting nursery practitioners to use dialogic pedagogy.
- [Maths Through Picture Books - trial](#) is a 10-week, targeted small-group intervention aiming to improve early numeracy skills and confidence among reception pupils through shared reading and responsive conversations.

By taking part, settings have a chance to access these free or heavily subsidised programmes while contributing to the evidence base on effective early years practice.

[Search your setting](#) NOW to check eligibility and find out which of these projects are available to you!

Fully funded access to Maths Champions continues to be available for nurseries and schools.

Other News

North East Strategic Steering Group

Early Years Collaboration Continues to Grow

The North East Early Years Strategic Steering Group is going from strength to strength! We were delighted to recently host representatives from Local Authorities, English and Maths Hubs, Teaching School Hubs, Research Schools, Reception Networks Leads School and the RISE Team. Having all these dedicated professionals in one room allowed for incredibly productive discussions around our shared priorities. Together, we are collaborating to ensure children across the North East receive the absolute best start in life.



Bespoke Support

Empower your setting or school with our flexible and responsive bespoke support services! We understand that every setting has unique challenges and aspirations, which is why we offer tailored guidance precisely aligned with your individual needs. Whether you're preparing for a SEND Review, seeking to develop a robust Early Intervention Strategy, or aiming to enhance your Early Years provision through a comprehensive audit, our experienced team is dedicated to helping you achieve your specific goals.

Our bespoke support can be booked to address a range of specific requirements, including:

1. **Bespoke support for individual schools as per request:** Tailored solutions designed to address your unique challenges and priorities, drawing on the latest research evidence.
2. **Supported NASEN SEND review with an Early Years peer:** Collaborative review from an Early Years Practitioner who has completed the NASEN SEND Reviewer training. Supportive action planning drawing on EEF Early Years and SEND documentation.
3. **Early Intervention Strategy development:** Assistance in creating and implementing effective strategies to identify and support children with emerging needs. Map out the resources and training available in your locality to support children with SEND. This session draws on the advice from EEF SEND documentation.

Availability for our bespoke support is limited, and we are committed to prioritising settings and schools located in areas of disadvantage or those providing crucial support to vulnerable children. Don't miss this valuable opportunity to invest in your children's futures and cultivate a thriving learning environment. Contact us today to discuss your specific needs and secure your bespoke support package. Let us partner with you to make a meaningful and lasting impact.

[Request bespoke support](#)



We are proud to work alongside Town End Research School to raise the profile of using evidence-informed practice and research to strengthen Early Years settings and improve outcomes for children.

[Learn more about Town End Research School](#)

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