

# The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

## August 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.*

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## Our Recent Events

### A Summer of Collaboration with Hubs across England! ☐

August has been the ultimate month of collaboration, with Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs across England uniting to offer a comprehensive suite of high-quality, evidence-informed live webinars.

Throughout the month, expert-led sessions have covered a wide range of essential topics - from **Gestalt Language Processing**, **Emotion Coaching** and **Interactive Reading** to **Early Maths**, **Schematic Play** and **Food & Nutrition**.

Practitioners and childminders were also given access to practical leadership guidance, infant sensory development sessions and pre-recorded CPD toolkits, such as the *EEF Early Years Evidence Store* guide.

***Together, we are building knowledge, sharing expertise and supporting every child to 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 16th September 4pm-6pm

Childsplay Nursery Network - Exploring the Atelier!

[Learn more](#)

Saturday 19th September 9am-12pm

Childminder Training Event - 'My Home is my Playground' with Helen Battelley at Holiday Inn, Boldon

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 23rd Sept 3.45pm-5.15pm

Online North East Professional Development Showcase

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 23rd Sept 3.15pm-5.15pm

Webinar - Making Sense of Autism (CPD Accredited)

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 29th September 4.00pm-4.45pm

Online Purposeful Playful Practice in Early Years Maths Network: Spatial Reasoning - Exploring Wider Provision and Outdoors

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 13th October 3.45pm-5.00pm

Open Settings Network at Henshaw Nursery, Northumberland

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 13th October 3.45pm-5.15pm

Webinar - An Introduction to EY Specific Good Autism Practice (CPD Accredited)

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 10th Nov 3.45pm - 4.30pm

Webinar - Using Maths with Manipulatives for SEND Children

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 1st December 3.45pm-5.15pm

Webinar - Understanding Anxiety and Autism (CPD Accredited)

[Learn more](#)

**...and many more coming soon!**

### Childminder Network Sessions



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. Please save the dates and booking links will be available soon for the Durham sessions!

- **Rising Sun Country Park, Benton** - Tuesday 1st September at 10am. Click [here](#) to book.
- **Blyth South Beach HQ** - Wednesday 7th October at 9.40am. Click [here](#) to book.
- **Lanchester Community Centre** - Friday 18th September and Friday 27th November at 10am
- **Spennymoor Community Centre** - Wednesday 14th October and Wednesday 2nd December. Time TBC.
- **Sherburn Community Centre** - Wednesday 21st October and Wednesday 2nd December. Time TBC.

## Blog

### Strengthening Safeguarding: Key Updates to the EYFS Framework Effective 1st September 2026





The safety and well-being of our youngest children remain our utmost priority. To ensure children are kept as safe as possible in early years environments, the Department for Education (DfE) published updated [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) Statutory Frameworks](#) for both childminders and group/school-based providers on 13th July.

These revised frameworks take effect from 1st September 2026. They introduce significantly strengthened safeguarding requirements, clearer guidelines on technology and updated registration rules across settings.

## DfE News

Just over **two weeks** remain to respond to the **Department for Education’s Early Years Funding Consultation**:

[Changes to the funding system for early years entitlements - GOV.UK](#)

The Department for Education would like to hear your views on their proposals to:

- change to how we allocate SEND funding for early years settings
- update to the data used in the early years national funding formula (EYNFF)
- change local funding rules for local authorities

These proposals will help to improve:

- access to childcare for families on low incomes
- support for children with SEND in early years settings
- how we allocate funding

**The consultation closes on 14 September.**

## Other News

### Bespoke SEND Support

## Bespoke SEND Support

Group and School-Based Providers in Northumberland can apply!

Hands-on, expert guidance directly within your setting from Molly Cleverley from Cleaswell Hill Specialist School

Focused Observation & Routine Reviews

Tailored Strategy Recommendations

Real-time Peer Coaching

Advice on Training Pathways

Please note: This is advisory support only

Find out more and express your interest today!

[Find out more!](#)



Essay

19/06/2026

## Creating the conditions for love to flourish through nature & creativity

Author: Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales

[Read the Essay!](#)

## 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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