

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

December 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

Blogs

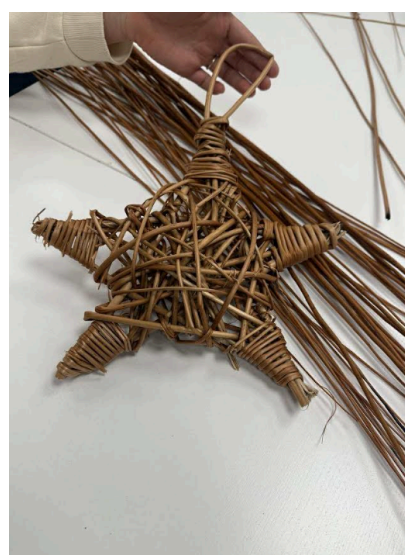
DfE/NCB News

Other News

Bespoke Support

Our Recent Events

A Festive Wrap-Up



While December has been a whirlwind of planning for the upcoming term, things have been a little quieter "on the ground" as everyone enjoys the festive magic across the North East. We've had a wonderful month of connection and learning:

- **Festive Forest Schooling:** A huge thank you to **Goosehill Early Excellence** and **Elaine from the White Lantern Company** for hosting our festive network. We loved sharing seasonal craft ideas and learning the beautiful art of star weaving!
- **Expert Insights:** Thank you to **Abi from Cleaswell Hill** for delivering an incredibly insightful session on Anxiety-Based Demand Avoidance—a vital topic for our community.
- **Community Connection:** It was wonderful to see so many of you at our popular **childminder network at Brockbushes**. Thank you to everyone who braved the cold to join us!

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 across the North East.

[See all our events](#)

Wednesday 7th January 3.45pm-5.15pm

Online North East Early Years Regional Professional Development Showcase

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 14th January 3.30pm-5pm

Webinar - Unlock Early Writing Success: A Practical Approach with WISE Academies

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 15th January 4.00pm-5.30pm

Autism Education Trust (AET) CPD: Developing Play in the Early Years at Bothal Primary School (Upper Site), NE63 8NE

[Learn more](#)

Monday 19th January

Pre-recorded webinar: Self-Regulation from Birth to 4 with Sue Asquith (*sign up to receive this on the above date*)

[Booking Link Coming Soon!](#)

Wednesday 21st January 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leaders Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 22nd January 9.30am-11.30am

Childminder Network at Brocksbushes Play Barn

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 27th January 4.00pm-5.30pm

Autism Education Trust CPD: Developing Toileting in the Early Years at Bothal Primary School (Upper Site), NE63 8NE

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 28th January 3.45-4.45pm

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 28th January 3.45-4.45pm

Online New/Aspiring Early Years Leaders Network

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 3rd February 3.45pm-4.30pm

Online SEND Network: An Introduction to Colourful Semantics with Abi McCarthy from Cleaswell Hill Specialist School

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 10th February 4.00pm-5.00pm

Open Settings Network - Ashley Academy in South Shields

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 12th March 3.45pm-4.30pm

Online SEND Network: An Introduction to Maths with Manipulatives

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 19th March 3.45pm-4.45pm

Webinar - 'Strive for Five: Enhancing Language Through Conversation' with Stella Jones from Town End Research School

[Learn more](#)

Maths Champions

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) are delighted to have secured funds to deliver the Maths Champions programme through the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Department for Education (DfE). The 12 month online programme has been evaluated by the EEF with York and Durham

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. University and has been proven to boost children's Maths and Language attainment by an average of 3 additional months. As part of this DfE-funded scaled delivery, the programme will be available at no cost to participating settings.



Improve children's outcomes by three months through becoming a Maths Champion in your setting.

Express your interest here:
www.bit.ly/GREATeoi



The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub



Express your Interest

You can express your interest today by completing our expression of interest form! Express your interest by 5pm on Friday 19th December and you will be entered into our prize draw for a hamper of maths resources!



Giveaway Time

WIN A PRIZE!

Ready to boost your setting's math skills? Discover everything about the fantastic Maths Champions programme by clicking the links below

Like what you hear? Express your interest by 5 PM on December 19th to be entered into our exclusive prize draw!



Express your Interest

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:

Rising Sun Country Park, Benton

Thursday 8th January at 9.45am and Thursday 5th March at 11am - Booking link coming soon!

Fawdon Family Hub, Newcastle

January and March date and time is coming soon!

Blyth South Beach HQ

Tuesday 13th January at 10.15am and Wednesday 4th March at 9.45am -Booking link coming soon!

Lanchester Community Centre (10.00am-11.00am)

Friday 30th January and Friday 10th February - Click [here](#) to book.

Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm)

Wednesday 14th January and Wednesday 11th March - Booking link coming soon!

Sherburn Community Centre (1.00pm-2.00pm)

Wednesday 14th January and Wednesday 4th March - Booking link coming soon!

Blogs

Unlock Writing Success Part 2: The Crucial Connection of Transcription



How do we help our early writers successfully translate their rich, internal narratives onto the page? The answer lies in mastering the technical side of writing: Transcription...find out more by reading our blog!

Read the Blog

DfE/NCB News

Apply to become an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs help early years settings and childminders adopt evidence-informed improvements, promote system leadership, and build networks for sharing effective practice.

As one Hub explains: *"It is a privilege to be an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub working with an incredible work force, helping to connect practitioners with the support, evidence and community they need to thrive. We work to bring people together, share what works, and help strengthen practice in ways that make a real, lasting difference for children across our region."*

There are currently 18 hubs across England, and in line with the **Best Start in Life** strategy, we are expanding. Applications are invited from group-based or school-based providers with strong leadership and a drive for excellence.

Apply by **Friday 16th January 2026**. More details and the application link are [here](#). Application questions?

Email EYSPH.applications@education.gov.uk or sign up for the [applicant webinar](#) on 8th December.

Special Approach to Making it REAL open access webinars

Please find below links to the next dates for the Special Approach to Making it REAL open access webinars:

13th Jan 2026- 1pm-3pm- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972531484770?aff=oddtcreator>

5th Feb 2026- 9.30am-11.30am- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972539756511?aff=oddtcreator>

24th Feb 2026- 7pm-9pm- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1972540773553?aff=oddtcreator>

9th March 2026- 10am-12pm- Booking Open 19/12/25

These are workshops providing practitioners with an overview of how to support the home learning environment for families with children with SEND.

Other News

As we wrap up the year, the entire team at the **Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub** wants to wish you a very Merry Christmas. It has been a pleasure collaborating with you all. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved break, and we can't wait to see what we can achieve together in 2026!



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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