

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

February 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!

We're eager to learn which training sessions have truly made a difference in your practice. Please share your feedback via this short [Google Form](#)—as a thank you, you'll be entered into a prize draw for a curated hamper of evidence-informed resources!

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

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Our Recent Events

A Month of Inspiration at the Stronger Practice Hub



February has been a whirlwind of activity, and our hearts are full!

We want to extend a **massive thank you** to **Ashley Academy**, **Castle Kindergarten Hylton Castle**, **Goosehill Early Excellence**, and **Pennywell Early Years Centre**. By opening your doors to host networks, you've provided invaluable inspiration to practitioners across the region.

Our CPD sessions were equally impactful. A huge shout-out to **Tiny Tweeties** for tuning us into the 'Power of Music' and to the **Fusion Learning Team at Cleaswell Hill Specialist School** for their expert guidance on PECS and Colourful Semantics.

Finally, our Childminder networks continue to thrive thanks to the boundless energy of the **Hartbeeps** teams. **Thank you all for making this month such a success!**

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 4th March 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 10th March 4pm-5pm

Open Settings Network - Bexhill Academy, Sunderland

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 11th March 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 12th March 9.30am-11.30am

Childminder Network at Brocksbushes Play Barn

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 12th March 3.45pm-4.30pm

Online Inclusion Network: An Introduction to Maths with Manipulatives

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 17th March 3.45pm-5.15pm

Online Network for New/Aspiring Early Years Leaders

[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](#)

Thursday 19th March 4pm-5pm

Seasonal Forest School Network with Goosehill Early Excellence in Bothal Woods

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 24th March 6.30pm-7.30pm

Castle Kindergarten (Sacriston) Network - The Awe and Wonder of New Beginnings During Spring

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 25th March 4.00pm-5.30pm

Wingate Nursery School Network - Challenge and Risk as Tools to Support Physical Development

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 26th March 9.00am-12.00pm

Online Inclusion Network: Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations

Tuesday 31st March 3.45pm-4.45pm

Childsplay Nursery Network-The Rhythm of the Baby Room: Harmonising Sensory Environments, Sleep and Secure Transitions

Learn more

Tuesday 28th April 3.45pm-4.45pm

Online Inclusion Network: Sensory Supports in the Classroom

Learn more

Wednesday 6th May 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network

Learn more

More FULLY FUNDED events, networks and webinars coming soon!

Thursday 23rd April 3.45pm-4.30pm

Online Inclusion Network: An Introduction to Attention Autism/Curiosity Approach

Learn more

Wednesday 29th April 4.00pm-5.30pm

Open Settings Network - Green Lane CE Primary School

Learn more

Wednesday 20th May 8.00am-8.40am

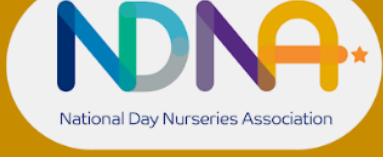
Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

Learn more

Maths Champions

Exciting Opportunity! The next 30 people who express an interest in finding out more about the fully funded Maths Champions programme will receive high-quality maths books for their setting from our Stronger Practice Hub!

Maths Champions is an online professional development programme with 12 months online access developed by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA). The programme consists of nine steps which can be completed flexibly around your schedule. The aim of the programme is to increase practitioner knowledge, awareness and confidence in supporting early mathematics in order to improve outcomes for children.



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



Maths Champions

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 5th March at 9.30am - Click [here](#) to book.

The Haven, Kenton

More dates coming soon!

Blyth South Beach HQ

Wednesday 10th March at 10.20am - Click [here](#) to book.

Lanchester Community Centre (10.00am-11.00am)

More dates coming soon!

Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm)

Wednesday 11th March - Click [here](#) to book.

Sherburn Community Centre (1.00pm-2.00pm)

Wednesday 11th March - Click [here](#) to book.

Blogs

Unlock Writing Success Blog Series



Writing presents a **hugely complex task** for our youngest learners. This series of blogs explores key messages from the [DfE Writing Framework](#) and [Ofsted's Strong Foundations in the First Year of School](#) report, emphasising why securing early writing skills is **crucial for a child's educational journey**.

Part 1: The Important Role of Oral Composition

Part 2: The Crucial Connection of Transcription

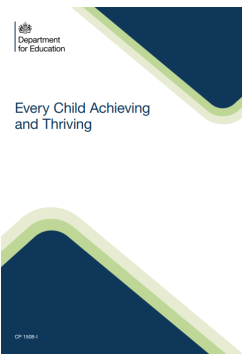
Read the Blogs

DfE/NCB News

DfE Every Child Achieving and Thriving

Read this policy paper to find out the reforms to the schools and SEND systems in England to ensure that every child can achieve and thrive.

Read the Policy Paper



NCB Webinar - Conception to Reception - Reframing School Readiness



Every child deserves the best start in life – but how do we give it to them? Drawing on fresh insights and real examples from ten years of the A Better Start (ABS) programme, a free-to-attend webinar will explore how communities, services and early years professionals can work together to create the best start for young children.

- Date: Tuesday 24 March
- Time: 11:30am to 12:45pm
- Booking: FREE via Eventbrite

Following the publication of the first A Better Start (ABS) insight report on school readiness, this webinar will look at what ‘school readiness’ means for young children, their families, and the people that support them. We will reflect on policy, shared learning, and real world examples from the five ABS sites in Lambeth, Blackpool, Bradford, Nottingham and Southend.

This session is for practitioners, local authorities, educators, and anyone interested in early childhood development, offering an accessible space to reflect, learn and be inspired.

Secure your place [here](#)

Other News

Could Your Setting Inspire Others?

We're inviting settings to volunteer as hosts and highlight the EYFS principle of Enabling Environments — those thoughtfully designed spaces that help every child thrive.

If your setting would like to take part, please get in touch below!

Nominate yourself now!

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:

- Bespoke support for individual schools as per request:** Tailored solutions designed to address your unique challenges and priorities, drawing on the latest research evidence.
- 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.
- 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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