

## The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

### January Newsletter and Key Dates for your Diary



## Welcome!

**\*\*Well done to Suzanne from St Martin's Centre for winning our newsletter prize draw from December! There will be more prize draws coming soon so please make sure you continue to open our newsletter!\*\***

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

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## Our Recent Events

### A Busy and Exciting January at the Hub!

January has been a whirlwind of activity here at the Hub, filled with fantastic collaborations and engaging events.

We extend our sincere gratitude to:

- **Goosehill Early Excellence:** For their insightful 'Woodland Tales' forest school network and valuable CPD on 'Marvellous Mathematical Materials'.
- **Castle Kindergarten Albany:** For hosting a wonderful network on the captivating world of loose parts.
- **Childsplay Nursery:** For sharing their valuable insights into the enriching practice of intergenerational learning.
- **Council for Disabled Children:** For delivering exceptional accredited training on sensory processing.
- **St Helen's Primary School:** For a delightful introduction to their engaging Drawing Club.
- **Dr Linda Graham and Dr Lindsey Cookson:** For their insightful exploration of 'The Power of the Page - getting the most out of picture books'.
- **Tiny Tweeties:** For a fantastic and informative CPD session on music and movement.
- **Hartbeeps:** For continuing to deliver exceptional sessions and providing invaluable support to our childminder networks.

A special thank you to everyone who participated in our online Leadership and/or SEND Breakfast Briefings.

We look forward to another exciting month of learning and collaboration!



## Dates for your Diary

Please see below for a range of CPD available to book for FREE. Unless stated otherwise, these sessions are open to all childminders and practitioners working in early years settings across the North East.

[See all our events](#)

Wednesday 5th February 4pm-5.30pm

'The Art of Conversation with 3-4 year olds' at Wingate Community Nursery School

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 6th February 4pm-4.45pm

Webinar - 'Early Identification SEN/Family Approach'

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 12th February 10-11.30am

'Forest School in Action Network: Maths in Nature' with Goosehill Early Excellence at Amberley Primary School, Killingworth

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 12th February 4pm-5pm

Webinar - 'Learning Outdoors' with Pete Moorhouse

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 13th February 1pm-3.30pm

Webinar - 'Early Years SEND Reviewer Training' with NASEN

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 18th February 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 18th February 7pm-7.45pm

Online Childminders' Staffroom Network

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 19th February 10-11.30am

'Forest School in Action Network: Nurtured in Nature' with Goosehill Early Excellence at Amberley Primary School, Killingworth

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 20th February 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Monday 3rd March 10am-11.30am

'Forest School in Action Network: Seeing the Forest through a Sensory Lens' with Goosehill Early Excellence at Amberley Primary School, Killingworth

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 11th March 1pm-3.30pm

Online Accredited Training - 'Sensory Processing in the Early Years: What it is and why it matters' with the Council for Disabled Children

[Learn more](#)

There are even more events, networks and CPD coming soon for March so please keep checking our website!



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 monthly childminder network in the following venues:

**Rising Sun Country Park, Benton**

Thursday 6th February 10am, Thursday 6th March 9.30am, Thursday 3rd April 9.30am

Click [here](#) to book.

**Blyth Family Hub**

Wednesday 5th February 1.30pm, Wednesday 5th March 9.30am, Wednesday 9th April 9.30am

Click [here](#) to book.

**Morpeth Chantry Play Hub**

Wednesday 5th March 9.30am

Click [here](#) to book.

**Lanchester Community Centre**

Friday 7th February 10am, Friday 14th March 10am

Click [here](#) to book.

**Spennymoor Community Centre**

Wednesday 19th February 1.30pm, Wednesday 19th March 1.30pm

Click [here](#) to book.

**Sherburn Community Centre**

Wednesday 5th February 1pm, Wednesday 5th March 1pm, Wednesday 26th March 1pm

Click [here](#) to book.

Dingley's Promise Training have developed a range of inclusion training courses to help others supporting children with SEND in the early years.

Each course has been designed to enable flexible remote learning and includes webinars and resources for practical application of the learning within daily practice. Courses available include:



- Introduction to Early Years Inclusion
- Early Years SEND Transitions
- The Voice of the Child
- Managing Difficult Conversations
- Behaviours That Challenge

[Express your Interest](#)

## Blogs

### Counting on Stories: How Picture Books Can Boost Maths Skills



Picture books can be a powerful tool in supporting mathematical learning in several ways, as they blend narrative with visual elements to engage young learners.

*Read the blog to find out more. It also includes a list of recommended picture books to boost maths skills.*

[Read the Blog](#)

## DfE and NCB News



**Special Request**

As part of NCB's role as delivery partner, in quality assuring and evaluating the work of Stronger Practice Hubs, they have requested that we gather feedback from all those who have engaged with our hub, to support our review process.

We would be grateful if you could follow the link below and complete this short feedback form here <https://forms.office.com/e/7KB0sW9p0n>

Forms will go directly to NCB and will be anonymised.

Please complete the form by **14<sup>th</sup> February** as this is the date that NCB will close the link to collate the data.

**FREE Webinar - 'A Special Approach to Making it REAL to support families and practitioners'**

You are invited to attend a free DfE funded workshop on our **A Special Approach to Making it REAL**, where we provide training to practitioners on how they can use the REAL approach and activities to support children with SEND.

The aim of the workshop is to provide an overview of how to support the home learning environment for families with a child with SEND, with a particular focus on early language and literacy.

In particular,

- To talk about **A Special Approach to Making it REAL** and the early Home Learning Environment
- To give an overview of the two strands of the approach which provides support to both practitioners and parents
- To show how **A Special Approach to Making it REAL** supports practitioners in their everyday practice in settings, and in working with parents
- To share examples of how simple, low cost and fun resources and activities, backed up with information and ideas, have built parents' confidence in their ability to develop their child's early literacy.

[Book now](#)

## Other News

**Thank you** for all of the support you have given our

Hub so far. Please remember you can follow us on

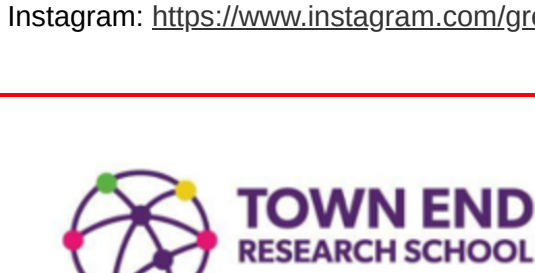
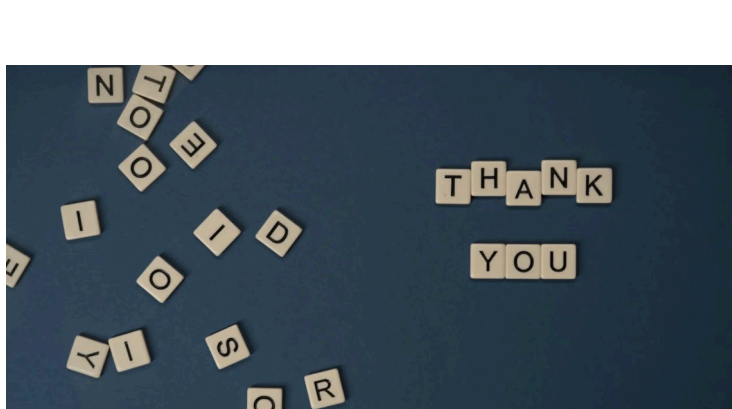
the following social media for regular update:

Twitter: [@greatnorthsph](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/greatnorthsph](https://facebook.com/greatnorthsph)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/great-north-stronger-practice-hub](https://linkedin.com/company/great-north-stronger-practice-hub)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/greatnorthsph/>



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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