

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

July 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.

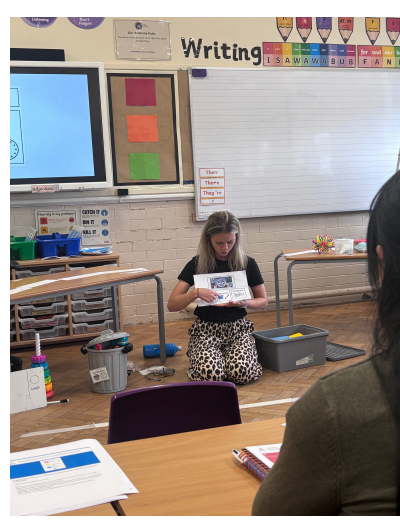
There are new dates for your diary so please ensure you check them out!

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](#)
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Our Recent Events

A Summer of Collaboration: June & July Highlights! ☐



What an incredibly busy and rewarding couple of months it has been! June and July have flown by, packed with fantastic opportunities, professional development and collaborative learning.

We want to extend a massive **thank you** to our brilliant partners and hosts who made it all possible:

- **Newcastle Research School & the Great North Maths Hub** – Thank you for delivering such an inspiring and collaborative Maths Network.
- **The Fusion Learning Team at Cleaswell Specialist School** – A huge shoutout for delivering a fantastic SEND Carousel Training Day, hosting four highly valuable online inclusion networks and leading brilliant CPD webinars.
- **Goosehill Early Excellence** – Thank you for hosting a truly wonderful Under 2s Network in the magical setting of the forest!
- **Castle Kindergarten (Hylton Castle)** – A massive thank you for hosting a network and showcasing your absolutely wonderful outdoor learning space!
- **Jan Dubiel & Coram Hemsall** – Thank you for delivering the brilliant first session of our exciting 'Moving the Box' project.

Celebrating Our Childminders ☐

We also want to say a huge and special thank you to all of our incredible **childminders**! Thank you for your brilliant, ongoing attendance at our **Hartbeeps Network** and our fantastic network at **Brockbushes**. Your dedication to connecting and learning together is wonderful to see.

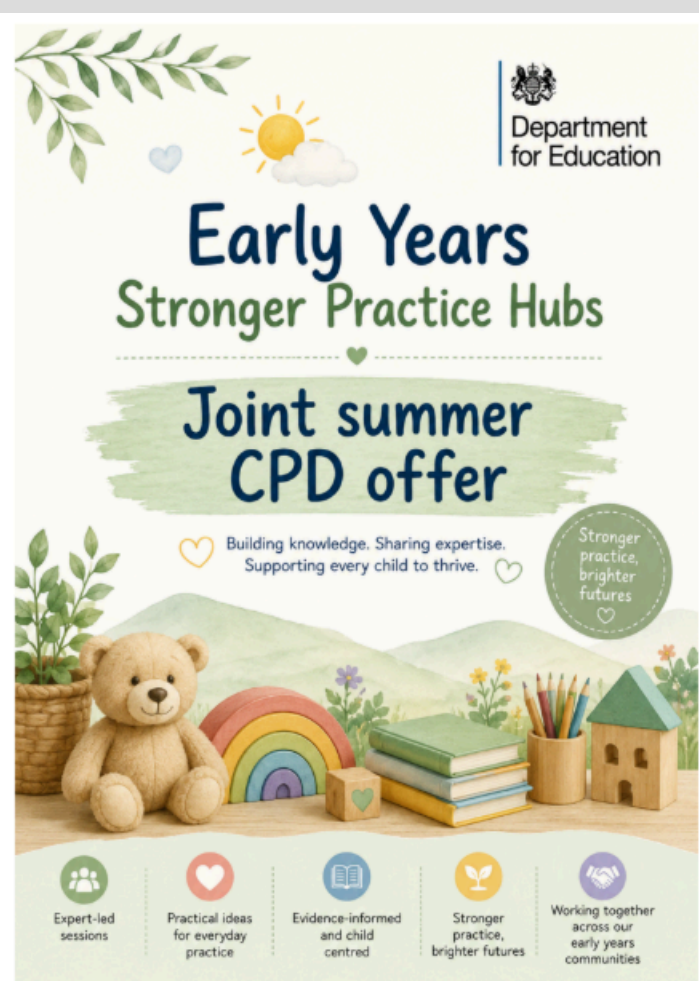
Ongoing Success ✨

Finally, a huge thank you to **all of you** who continue to attend, contribute to and champion our online networks. Our **SEND, Leadership**, and **New to Early Years (EY) Leadership** networks are thriving because of your passion and dedication.

Thank you for making our community so vibrant. Have a wonderful summer!

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](#)


Contents				
Professional learning and support for the early years sector				
Inspiring practice. Supporting every child to thrive.				
Page	Date	Title	Time	
2	21/07/2026	Baby Room Network	6-7pm	
3	22/09/2026	The Principles of the EYF5	7-8PM	
4	28/01/2026	Introduction to Gestalt Language Processing	6:30-7:30pm	
5	31/07/2026	Healthy Routines, Less Screen Time More Playtime	8:30-10:00am	
6	04/08/2026	EAL: Supporting Children with English as an Additional Language	9:30-11:00	
7	05/08/2026	Interactive Reading	10:00-11:00am OR 6-7PM	
8	06/09/2026	Emotion Coaching to Support Self-Regulation	6-8pm	
9	06/08/2026	Baby Music & Sensory Play	6:00-7:30pm	
10	07/08/2026	Talking about Babies	9:30-10:45	
11	10/08/2026	How to Become an Ofsted Registered Childminder	6:45-7:30pm	
12	11/08/2026	Gestalt Language Processing - Practical Ideas	6:30-7:30pm	
13	12/08/2026	Speech and Language Masterclasses	7:00-8:30pm	
14	13/08/2026	Music and Movement in the Early Years	6:00-7:30pm	
15	13/08/2026	Stop! Exploring Resiliency with Babies	---	
16	18/08/2026	An Introduction to Schematic Play	6:45-7:30pm	
17	19/08/2026	The Power of Pattern in Early Maths	8:30-9:30am	
18	26/08/2026	What does the EEF say about Self Regulation?	10:00am and 6:00pm	
19	24/08/2026	Childminder Leadership & Recruitment	6:45-7:30pm	
20	24/08/2026	The Invisible Thread: Belonging as the Foundation of Early Years Practice	9:00-10:00am	
21	27/08/2026	Let's Chat at Snack with 0-2s	13:00-14:00	

[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-5.15pm

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

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 13th October 3.45pm-5.00pm

Open Settings Network at Henshaw Nursery, Northumberland

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 10th Nov 3.45pm - 4.30pm

Webinar - Using Maths with Manipulatives
for SEND Children

Learn more

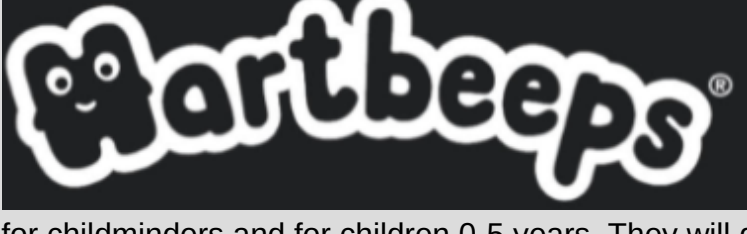
Tuesday 10th December 3.45pm-5.15pm

Webinar - Understanding Anxiety and Autism
(CPD Accredited)

Learn more

...even 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 and new dates/times will be confirmed soon!

- Rising Sun Country Park, Benton
- Blyth South Beach HQ
- Kingston Park (Tesco)
- Lanchester Community Centre
- Spennymoor Community Centre
- Sherburn Community Centre

Case Study

Transforming SEND Provision: Bespoke Specialist Support in Early Years

At the Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub, we are acutely aware of the increasing demand for specialised SEND support across our region. We understand that practitioners are navigating more complex needs than ever before. In direct response to feedback from settings, we launched a new initiative in January 2026: Funded, bespoke SEND support. This offer is designed to move beyond traditional training by placing experts directly into settings to provide tailored, practical solutions that upskill educators to effectively meet the needs of the children in their setting. The bespoke SEND support is delivered by our strategic partner Abi McCarthy from the Fusion Learning Team at Cleaswell Hill Specialist School. The following case study illustrates the impact of this support at one of the schools in our home area of Northumberland.

Read the Case Study to Find out More!

We are delighted to announce that we are continuing to fund this bespoke SEND support. See our 'other news' section below to find out how you can request bespoke SEND support!

DfE/EEF News



Early years foundation stage statutory framework

For group and school-based providers

Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five

Dated: 13 July 2026

Effective: 01 September 2026

The DfE have released a new updated **Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework** which is effective from 1st September 2026.

Please click [here](#) if you are a group or school-based provider.

Please click [here](#) if you are a childminder.



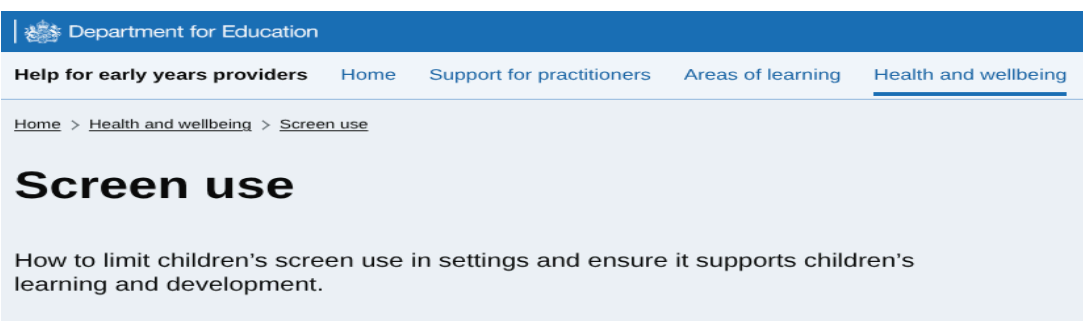
Early years foundation stage statutory framework

For childminders

Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five

Dated: 13 July 2026

Effective: 01 September 2026



The new Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework which will be effective from 1st September 2026 states: '**Providers must have regard to the following guidance on children's screen use in early years settings: [Help for early years providers: Screen use](#)**'.

Other News

Bespoke SEND Support



Find out more!

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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