

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

March 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.

Exciting News!

Recent Events

Dates For Your Diary

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Exciting News

Extension of the Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Programme

We're pleased to announce that the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs Programme has been extended until March 2026.

This means Hubs will continue to provide free support and advice to improve quality in early years settings, by sharing evidence-informed practice through their local networks.

To celebrate, we have a hamper of resources for one lucky hub member to win! All you need to do is complete their short survey which will help us inform future CPD, networks and webinars.

Enter our prize draw

Our Recent Events

A Month of Learning and Connection

March proved to be an incredibly productive month for our network! We're grateful to:

- **SEND & Inclusion:** NASEN for their brilliant SEND reviewer training and the Council for Disabled Children for their excellent CPD on sensory processing.
- **Early Years Development:** The Tiny Happy Team for their informative webinar, Tiny Tweeties for a wonderful interactive session, Dr. Linda Graham & Dr. Lindsey Cookson for exploring the power of picture books, Bothal Primary for their early intervention session, and Goosehill Early Excellence for their movement play and forest school workshops.
- **Network Collaboration:** Castle Kindergarten (Hylton Castle) and Hasting Hill Academy for hosting fantastic network sessions.
- **Childminder Support:** Brocksbushes for launching our new childminder network, and Hartbeeps for their ongoing networks across the North East.
- **Online Networks:** Our online SEND, leadership, and childminder networks also continue to be a resounding success.



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

Thursday 3rd April 9.30am-11.30am

Childminder Network at Brocksbushes
Playbarn

Learn more

Monday 7th April 10am-11.30am

Forest School in Action Network: Seeing the
Forest Through a Sensory Lens at Amberley
Primary School

Learn more

Wednesday 9th April 6pm-7pm

Forest School Network: Spring into Easter at
Bothal Woods

Learn more

Wednesday 30th April 1pm-3pm

Online Early Years NASEN SEND Reviewer
Training

Learn more

Wednesday 7th May 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leaders Breakfast
Briefing Network

Learn more

Wednesday 7th May 7pm-8pm

BBC Tiny Happy People
Champion Training

Learn more

Tuesday 13th May 7pm-8pm

Online Early Years
Childminders' Network

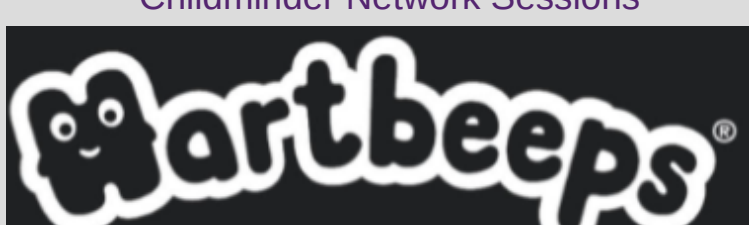
Learn more

Wednesday 21st May 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing
Network

Learn more

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 monthly childminder network in the following venues:

Rising Sun Country Park, Benton

Thursday 3rd April 9.30am and more coming soon!

Click [here](#) to book.

Blyth Family Hub

Wednesday 9th April 9.30am and more coming soon!

Click [here](#) to book.

Lanchester Community Centre

Friday 11th April 10.30am and more coming soon!

Click [here](#) to book.

Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm)

Wednesday 9th April, Wednesday 14th May, Wednesday 11th June

Click [here](#) to book.

Sherburn Community Centre (1pm-2pm)

Wednesday 9th April, Wednesday 21st May, Wednesday 18th June

Click [here](#) to book.

Morpeth Chantry Play Hub and Bishop Auckland - Dates coming soon!

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



Secure your place

Blogs

We have a range of blogs available on our website!



Find the blogs!

EEF News

The EEF Guide to the Early Years Pupil Premium



Explore now

Last year, the Department for Education announced a 45% increase to Early Years Pupil Premium funding. This means that from this April, all early years settings in England will be able to claim up to £570 per eligible child. The EEF has published a brand-new resource to help you make the most of your additional funding, to close learning gaps and support the socio-economically disadvantaged children in your care to flourish. The resource has been produced in consultation with leaders in the early years sector, and is aligned with guidance from the DfE, also newly published. The guidance is relevant to all types of early years settings and encourages settings to:

- Develop quality practice, including through investing in high-quality professional development.
- Tailor personalised support, including targeted interventions that meet children's specific needs.
- Lead, plan and sustain, including supporting meaningful engagement between leaders and their teams so that changes to practice stick.

Other News



We were honoured to welcome the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson, to our lead school, Haltwhistle Academy, on Thursday, 20th February. During her visit, we had the opportunity to showcase our accomplishments as a Stronger Practice Hub and highlight the importance of hubs like ours in supporting the entire Early Years workforce. After learning more about the hubs, Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson toured Haltwhistle's early years provision, with footage being captured by both the DfE and ITV News. This was in support of the announcement that additional funding will be invested into early years and childcare entitlements, ensuring children receive the best possible start in life. The visit also coincided with the exciting news that Stronger Practice Hubs will be extended for another year.



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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