

## 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!**

**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

Dates For Your Diary

Blogs

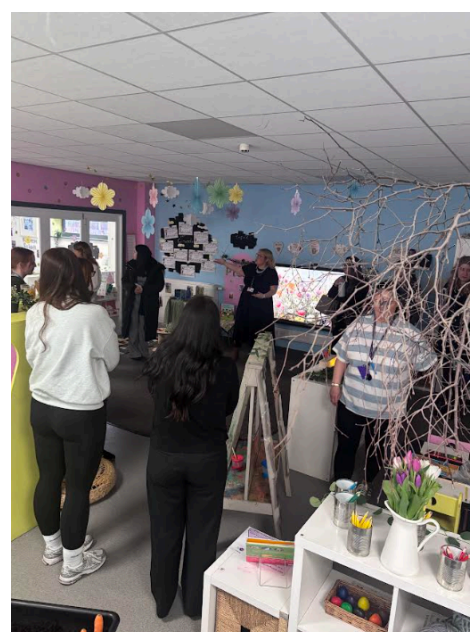
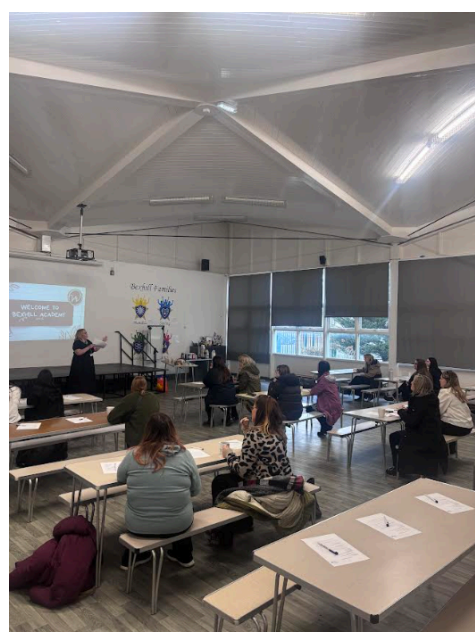
DfE/EEF News

Other News

Bespoke Support

## Our Recent Events

### A March to Remember at the Hub!



March has been a whirlwind of activity and we are still buzzing from the energy of our recent sessions. It's been an incredible month of learning, sharing and professional growth.

A massive **thank you** to our wonderful hosts and facilitators who made this month's calendar so impactful!

#### In-Person Networks & Open Settings

- **Wingate Community Nursery School:** For a masterclass in 'Challenge and Risk' as vital tools for physical development.
- **Castle Kindergarten:** For an inspiring session that truly captured the 'Awe and Wonder' of Spring.
- **Childsplay Nursery:** For their expert guidance on 'The Rhythm of the Baby Room', focusing on sensory harmony and secure transitions.
- **Bexhill Academy:** A huge thank you for opening your doors and hosting a fantastic Open Settings network.

#### Online Learning & Specialist Sessions

- **Town End Research:** For the brilliant and motivating 'Strive for Five' webinar.
- **Fusion Learning Team:** For delivering two exceptional online inclusion networks.
- **Hartbeeps:** For your continued dedication in hosting our popular childminder networks.

#### Growing Together

Our online **SEND, Leadership** and **New to EYFS Leadership** networks are continuing to go from strength to strength. It is wonderful to see these communities growing in both numbers and success!

**We are so grateful to everyone who attended, contributed and shared their expertise this month. You make this hub the vibrant community it is!**

## 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](#)

Monday 20th April 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Unlock Early Writing Success: A Practical Approach with WISE Academies

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 23rd April 3.45pm-4.30pm

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

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 28th April 3.45pm-4.45pm

Online Inclusion Network: Sensory Supports in the Classroom

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 29th April 4.00pm-5.30pm

Open Settings Network - Green Lane CE Primary School

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 30th April 4.30pm-5.30pm

Seasonal Forest School Network with Goosehill Early Excellence in Bothal Woods

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 6th May 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Monday 11th May 4.00pm-4.45pm

Online Purposeful Playful Practice in Early Maths Network: Counting Principles Through Games, Stories and Continuous Provision with the Great North Maths Hub and Newcastle Research School

[Learn more](#)

Monday 18th May 3.45pm-4.45pm

Online Network for New/Aspiring Early Years Leaders

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 20th May 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

Learn more

Monday 1st June 9.00am-12.30pm OR 1.00pm-4.30pm

Unlock New Possibilities: A Practical SEND Carousel Training Session with Fusion Learning at Welbeck Academy

Learn more

Monday 29th June 4.00pm-4.45pm

Online Purposeful Playful Practice in Early Years Maths Network: Mathematizing the Day - Maximising Mathematical Moments Throughout the Reception Day with the Great North Maths Hub and Newcastle Research School

Learn more

More FULLY FUNDED events, networks and webinars 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:

- Rising Sun Country Park, Benton - More dates coming soon!
• The Haven, Kenton - More dates coming soon!
• Blyth South Beach HQ - More dates coming soon!
• Lanchester Community Centre (10.00am-11.00am) - Friday 8th May - booking link coming soon!
• Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm) - More dates coming soon!
• Sherburn Community Centre (1.00pm-2.00pm) - More dates coming soon!

Blogs

Moving to Learn: Why Physical Development is the Key to School Readiness



We often think of 'school readiness' as knowing how to write a name or count to ten. But as Early Years educators, we know the reality is far more physical. Before a child can hold a pencil, they need the core strength to sit upright. Before they can read a book, they need the physical regulation to focus.

The latest research paints a worrying picture of physical decline in our youngest children, but it also offers a clear path forward. Here is why we need to prioritise physical exercise in the Early Years, backed by the latest evidence.

Read the Blog to Find out More!

DfE/EEF News

Safe Sleep Requirement in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework

Early years providers are required to meet the safer sleep requirements set out in the EYFS Statutory Framework, which currently links to the NHS safer sleep guidance. To make the existing requirements to follow the NHS guidance clearer, the DfE will update the wording in the EYFS framework so that more detail on safer sleep is set out directly within the framework itself. They intend to introduce this for September 2026, subject to the parliamentary and legislative process.

See the following links for more advice on safer sleep:

- Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) - NHS
• Safer Sleeping Practices for Early Years Educators - Foundation Years
Home | The Lullaby Trust

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Assessment Support

Children's early years are crucial to their future development, health and life chances. The Plan for Change set the ambition for 75% of children reaching a good level of development (GLD) in the EYFS profile assessment by 2028.

This support aims to develop practitioners' and leaders' knowledge and expertise in the statutory assessment, which will build further confidence in the GLD measure. Click here to read more information.



Make Every Pound Count: New EYPP Guidance Launched

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has published a practice review delivered by IFF Research that looks at how settings are using their Early Years Pupil Premium funding, alongside a practical planning tool designed to help early years leaders make purposeful spending decisions.

What this means for you:

- Discover what's working (and what's not) in EYPP spending
• Reflect on your own approach and identify opportunities for greater impact
• Use the new EEF guidance and planning tool to sharpen your strategy and inform decision-making

Don't miss the opportunity to make every pound go further.

Explore now

Other News

Great North Maths Hub Request - Become an NCETM accredited PD Lead

PD Lead is a one year development programme and enables participants to join our local leader of maths education (LLME) community and to deliver early years work groups for the maths hub. The programme is ideally appropriate for reception teachers and/or EYFS leads. The information is here and the deadline to apply is 23 April.

Goosehill Early Excellence Request

Our Forest School network sessions were established following a series of training sessions, with the aim of giving practitioners a space to come together, share ideas, discuss any concerns, celebrate successes, and continue growing as a supportive community.

A key aspect of these sessions is their unique setting—whenever possible, we meet in a forest environment, providing an opportunity to support our own wellbeing and unwind after the working day.

We are currently gathering thoughts and feedback from participants to help shape the future direction of the network and ensure it continues to meet everyone's needs.

Share your Thoughts

## Opportunity for nurseries to take part in an EEF-funded early years trial

Early years settings are invited to help shape national research on supporting young children's development by taking part in the evaluation of the **Positive Early Childhood Education (PECE) programme**. PECE is a professional development programme that helps early years practitioners create warm, consistent and responsive environments that support children's emotional, behavioural and cognitive self-regulation.

The study is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and independently evaluated by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). Participation is free and financial contributions are provided to recognise staff involvement.

Day nurseries, pre-schools, nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools may be eligible if they have at least 16 children aged 3-4 attending at least 10 hours per week. Settings must also be able to:

- Nominate a setting manager or senior leader who is based within the setting and can undertake the PECE Coach Role
- Confirm that they are not taking part in another EEF trial involving 3-4 year olds during the same academic year (except the Maths Champions Scale-up programme)
- Confirm that they have not delivered the PECE programme within the last five years, and that they do not currently offer a Triple P parenting programme to parents in their setting.

To find out more, visit <https://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk/triple-p/pece-program-eef-trial/> or contact [EarlyYearsPECEproject@triplep.uk.net](mailto:EarlyYearsPECEproject@triplep.uk.net). Likewise, if you are an eligible setting and would like to take part in the trial, you can express your interest [here](#).

## 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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