

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

March Newsletter and Key Dates for you 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

Dates For Your Diary

Our Latest Resources

DFE Training

EEF

Our News

Our Recent Events

Developing Prosody into Fluency in Language Part 2

Our strategic partners at Bothal and Central Primary School delivered a very informative session about how prosody can be developed by evidence-informed approaches within provision including story maps and actions to support retelling. We saw some fantastic video of examples of this in practice too!

"This was inspiring and will definitely help to improve communication and language in our setting."

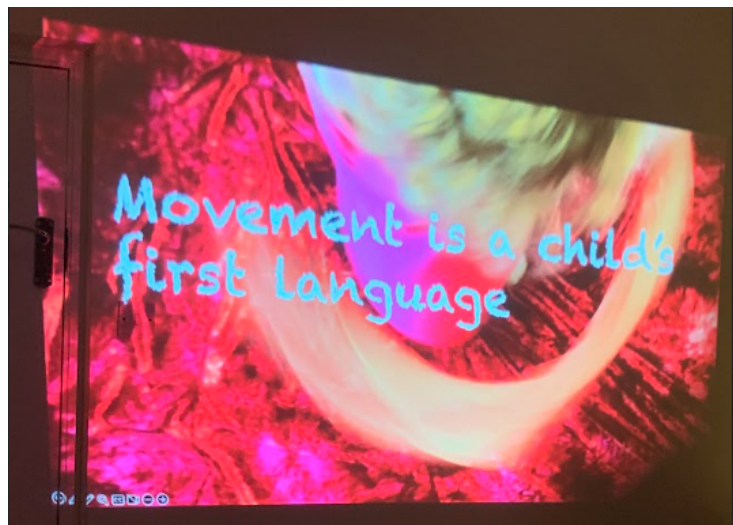
We had such fantastic feedback about this CPD session, that we are funding it again under the new title of **'Lullabies, Nursery Rhymes and the Retelling of Story into Fluency and Comprehension'**.



Movement is a Child's First Language

Goosehill Early Excellence delivered a research filled session on the importance of developmental movement play in building brain connections and supporting communication and language development.

"This was very interesting and enlightening. The development movement play training has helped me understand children's development further and communication and language development."



Autism Education Trust (AET) Making Sense of Autism



72% of practitioners who completed our audit requested more training related to how they can support children with SEN. In response to this, our strategic partners at Cleaswell Hill SEND school and the AET team delivered an autism awareness-raising module where practitioners gained an introduction to autism and the reasonable adjustments that need to be considered when working with autistic children.

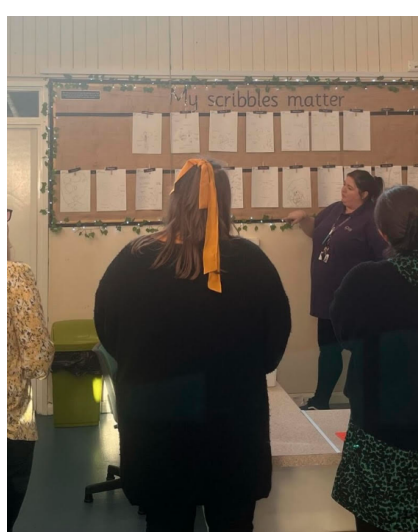
"It was incredible...I am going to share the information with my setting to improve provision!"

We are funding **AET Good Autism Practice CPD** in Summer term.

Early Literacy: A Systematic Approach to Supporting Children's SLC Skills

We found out how Adderlane Academy have implemented the Launchpad for Literacy approach and used evidence-informed practice from the 'Early Literacy EEF Evidence Store' in their daily practice to narrow the disadvantage gap and improve children's early literacy outcomes.

"Thank you, very welcoming and supportive. Informative and explicit examples of how to use the diagnostic assessment tool to establish children's starting points and monitor children's progress in CL and early literacy skills."



Webinars

There have been three amazing webinars this month!

1) How can stories and characters be used to develop PSED?

Stella Jones, the Director of Town End Research School, shared how using books in a targeted way can develop Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED) with several links to key EEF evidence-informed approaches.

"Amazing course, lots of great information that will help improve practice."

2) Examining Unconscious Gender Bias in Early Years

Dr Kath Dickinson, Manager at SEND to Learn Nursery, shared evidence and research from multiple sources, including the EEF. We discussed ways you may be unconsciously reinforcing gender bias through books and everyday practice and how to address this.

"Thanks so much for a challenging and enjoyable webinar."

3) High Quality Interactions through Shared Reading

Stella Jones, the Director of Town End Research School, discussed how shared reading can support children's learning through quality interactions. We examined the PEER framework which is a useful tool that can be used by adults as they read to children to structure quality discussion and to stimulate and guide their thinking.

"Yet another fabulous webinar full of links to evidence-informed practice linked to the EEF."

Hartbeeps Networking Sessions for Childminders

Our Hartbeeps sessions for childminders have continued throughout the month of March and it has been fantastic to see all of the networking that is happening as a result. The feedback has been phenomenal, it has been great to hear how you are implementing more strategies back in your settings as a result of these sessions.

We are delighted to announce that we are going to fund MORE sessions from April - August. The Hartbeeps imagimators are working behind the scenes to secure dates and venues and as soon as everything is finalised the booking system will open!

"These sessions show different ways to help with communication and language which my children are all working on at the minute."

"Loved it all, and loved the flow. Was lovely to have some time at the end to network with other childminders and their children."



Forest School in Action Sessions

Our strategic partners, Goosehill Early Excellence, have delivered two more fantastic forest school in action sessions focusing on 'Woodland Tales' (oral storytelling) and 'Nurtured in Nature' (supporting social and emotional skills).

Practitioners have found these extremely beneficial so we are funding a repeat of these sessions so that MORE practitioners can benefit from these excellent evidence-informed workshops! You can find more information in our 'dates for your diary' section.

"It has been extremely beneficial to attend these sessions and I feel very inspired to support future positive change in my setting."



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](#)

Tuesday 16th April 9.30-3.30pm

A Guide to Implementation and Managing Change focusing on Early Literacy at Durham Leadership Centre

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 18th April 9.30-3.30pm

A Guide to Implementation and Managing Change focusing on Early Literacy at Seven Stories

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 23rd April 3.45-4.45pm

AET: Good Autism Practice at Choppington Welfare Centre

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 24th April 4-4.30pm

Webinar: Elklan Communication Friendly Settings Information and Q&A (County Durham, Newcastle and Northumberland settings only)

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 30th April 4-5.30pm

PSED/SEL in Early Years Network Session at Town End Academy

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 7th May 4-5.15pm

Early Literacy Network Session at Croftway Academy

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 8th May 4-5.30pm

Lullabies, Nursery Rhymes and Retelling of Story into Fluency and Comprehension

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 14th May 4-5.30pm

Early Literacy Network Session at Bexhill Academy

[Learn more](#)

Saturday 18th May 10-11am

Forest School Taster: Journey into the Woods with Goosehill Early Excellence

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 22nd May 3.45-4.45pm

Webinar: Total Communication in Early Years with Cleaswell Hill SEND School

[Learn more](#)

Dates from May to July

Forest School in Action Workshops with Goosehill Early Excellence

[Childminders](#)

[PVI and school-based settings](#)



25th June 2024

More details will follow soon but please save the date as this conference will be full of inspiring evidence-informed training and each practitioner will 'take away' some FREE resources to support implementation back in their setting!

Save the Date

Great North Stronger Practice Hub Conference



[16 April Foundation Years Live: Online event](#)

[14 May Foundation Years Live: Leeds in-person event](#)

With keynote speakers on topics ranging from SEND in the Early Years to Characteristics of Effective Learning, and guest speakers including **Ofsted, Jan Dubiel, Dingley's Promise and DfE Family Hubs** - these events aren't to be missed.

Visit the links to register for your FREE place and to see the agendas in full!

Our Latest Resources

Blog: Synonym spectrums to support Social and Emotional Learning



The [EEF's PSED Evidence Store](#) includes several evidence-informed approaches to support children's PSED development and the use of books is advocated throughout several of these approaches.

Town End Research school director, Stella Jones, shares how to use books in a targeted way to develop Social and Emotional Learning. This blog also includes downloadable resources to support with implementation.

[Read it here](#)



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](#)

DfE Training Programmes

Early Years Child Development Training



[Learn more](#)

This free, online training provides an overview of child development and gives practical advice for supporting the development of children in your early years setting, including reception years.

This training:

- is free
- combines theory with practical tips and ideas to use in your setting
- includes opportunities to reflect on your practice
- reinforces your understanding through learning check questions and tests
- links to additional resources
- offers the opportunity to download certificates of completion
- has been developed by expert practitioners

Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT)



Early Year Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) - for those employed in a setting

Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) is designed for graduates working in an early years setting and awards Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS). The course consists of part-time training completed alongside your employment.

[Learn more](#)

EEF Programmes

As part of the Department of Education's Early Years Recovery Programme, we are working with the EEF to **fund** the following programmes.



[Learn more](#)

NELI Preschool

NELI Preschool is a new nursery-delivered oral language enrichment and intervention programme for children in the year before they enter formal education – usually three to four year olds. The programme provides a 20-week evidence-based language intervention for all children, as well as additional targeted support for the children who need it the most.

It includes an easy-to-use and reliable assessment of language skills, called LanguageScreen, CPD-certified training and end-to-end support.

To be eligible to take part in the trial you must:

- be a state-maintained or PVI nursery in England,
- have at least 14 children who attend 15+ hours and
- must not be taking part or planning to take part in other EEF or similar trials during the academic year of the trial.

Elklan's Communication Friendly Settings - Research Programme

There is still an opportunity for Early Years settings in **County Durham, Newcastle and Northumberland** to sign up to Elklan's Communication Friendly Setting (CFS) programme, the programme that equips all your staff to support the speech, language and communication development of every child throughout every day.

Two practitioners gain externally accredited awards at levels 3 and 4, so that they can be your 'in house experts' and ensure you offer high quality universal and targeted support which meets the needs of the many children who are finding this area of their development challenging.

Not only is CFS (which usually costs over £1,600) offered free of charge through The Great North SPH, but each setting that takes part receives payments totalling £1,337.60 towards the costs of their staff time.

For more information and to start your application, scan the QR code or visit the website: <https://www.elklan.co.uk/CFSResearchProgramme>

REMEMBER, you have not completed your application until you have attended an information webinar and COMPLETED THE MOU.

Jenny Morecroft completed our CFS course through the EEF fully-funded training in September last year and has shared this fantastic feedback with us:

"This course has been excellent at both delivering training to the lead people but also in developing approaches and strategies within the setting. I have been particularly impressed with how it has encouraged us to consider our individual setting and make improvements and changes as we see fit and also to try different things, some of which might not work. A lot of programs have a 'one size fits all' approach which is very restrictive and wouldn't allow an unconventional setting like ours to benefit. I also like the fact that the Elklan training is not 'an intervention' to be done once a week with a couple of children and forgotten about, but rather a change to how you work every day throughout the day which should have much longer lasting benefits for all children." - Jenny Morecroft, Deerness Valley Nursery School, 2024

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[Learn more](#)

Other Great North Stronger Practice Hub News

Northumberland Local Authority Networking Session at My Little Kingdom (Prudhoe)

We were delighted to attend a network session at My Little Kingdom on 19th March. It was great to meet so many Early



Durham Childminders Network

Years practitioners and to see

this wonderful provision.



On Saturday 23rd March we were invited to attend the Durham Childminders Network which was full of passionate childminders from across Durham. It was incredible to speak to you all about the EEF and to have your feedback about our future plans. We are looking forward to seeing you all again soon!



We hope you have found some content that can support you within this newsletter. If you are looking for something more specific, don't hesitate to reach out to us directly!

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