

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

May 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.

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Our Recent Events

May Highlights: A Month of Collaboration and Inspiration!



May has been an absolute hive of activity across our networks! We want to extend a massive thank you to everyone who made our events, training sessions and showcases such a resounding success this month. Here is a look back at what we achieved together:

- **Expert-Led Networks:** Thank you to the **Newcastle Research School** and the **Great North Maths Hub** for kicking off the first of our three online maths networks. We also greatly appreciate the **Fusion Learning** team for delivering more fantastic online inclusion networks.
- **Professional Development:** A huge shout-out to the **Emotion Coaching** team for training another cohort of passionate educators, and to everyone who logged on for our online **Leadership**, **SEND**, and **New to Early Years Leadership** networks.
- **Inspirational Showcases:** We are incredibly grateful to **Castle Kindergarten (Haswell)** and **Cleves Cross Primary School** for opening their doors and showcasing their wonderful settings.
- **Community Support:** Thanks to the **Hartbeeps** teams for their brilliant, ongoing childminder networks.
- **A Grand Finale:** What an end to May! A final, special thank you to **Jan Dubiel** and **Helen Battelley** for the deeply inspiring 'Myth-Busting' writing conference.

Thank you to every single person who attended, hosted and contributed this month!

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](#)

Tuesday 2nd June 3.45pm-4.45pm

Online Inclusion Network: Low-Arousal Approaches and Behaviours

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 2nd June 6pm-7pm

Under 2s Network: Small Steps in Wild Spaces with Goosehill Early Excellence in Bothal Woods

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 9th June 4.00pm-5.00pm

Open Settings Network at Ayresome Primary School

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 10th June 3.45pm-4.30pm

Online Inclusion Network: An Introduction to EY Specific AET Good Autism Practice (CPD Accredited)

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 25th June 9.30am-11.30am

Childminders Network at Brocksbushes Play Barn

[Learn more](#)

Monday 29th June 4.00pm-4.45pm

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

[Learn more](#)

Monday 6th July 3.45pm-4.45pm

Online Network for New/Aspiring Early Years Leaders

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 8th July 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leaders Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 15th July 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

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:

- **Rising Sun Country Park, Benton (9.30am-10.30am)** - Thursday 2nd July. You can book [here](#).
- **Blyth South Beach HQ (9.30am-10.30am)** - Thursday 14th July. You can book [here](#).
- **Kingston Park (Tesco) (9.15am-10.15am)** - Thursday 4th June. You can book [here](#).
- **Lanchester Community Centre (10.00am-11.00am)** - Friday 10th July. You can book [here](#).
- **Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm)** - Wednesday 10th June. You can book [here](#).
- **Sherburn Community Centre (1.00pm-2.00pm)** - Wednesday 10th June. You can book [here](#).

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!](#)

See our 'other news' section below to find out how you can request bespoke SEND support!

DfE/EEF News

Following the strong engagement with the national RISE Reception webinar programme last year, we are pleased to announce that DfE will be hosting the next series during the summer term 2026.

These sessions will focus on EYFS profile assessment, transitions into Reception, and preparing high quality Reception provision, offering practical, evidence-based support aligned with recent guidance.

To register for these webinars, please use this link: [RISE Reception Quality Webinar Series](#).

Other News

Bespoke SEND Support

Bespoke SEND Support

****Initial trial in school-based settings in Northumberland****

Hands-on, expert guidance directly within your setting from Abi McCarthy from Cleaswell Hill Specialist School



Focused Observation & Routine Reviews



Tailored Strategy Recommendations



Real-time Peer Coaching



Advice on Training Pathways

Please note: This is advisory support only



Find out more and express your interest today!

[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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