

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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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:

- Bespoke support for individual schools as per request:** Tailored solutions designed to address your unique challenges and priorities, drawing on the latest research evidence.
- 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.
- 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](#)

Our Recent Events

A jam-packed May for our Hub!

Wow, what a busy and brilliant month May has been for our Hub! We've been buzzing with activity, and it's all thanks to the incredible partners and our ever-growing community.

We kicked off the month with another **insightful SEND reviewer online training** delivered by **NASEN**. We would like to say a huge thank you to **Speech and Language UK** for their three brilliant and varied webinars, and to **BBC Tiny Happy People** for a fantastic session on becoming a champion. The **Autism Education Trust team at Cleaswell Hill** also provided a very informative webinar on 'Food and Nutrition in Children with Restricted Diets.'

Our heartfelt thanks go to **Castle Kindergarten (Hylton Castle)** for hosting a truly inspiring network meeting focused on **provocations outdoors** – it was wonderful! And a big shout-out to **Sue Asquith** for her informative webinar on curriculum building for 3-4 year olds.

May also saw the continued success of our online **childminder, SEND, and Early Years leadership networks**, packed with updates and the latest news. A massive thank you to our amazing community who joins us online and makes these sessions so valuable. Plus, our **childminder networks in collaboration with Hartbeeps** are still going strong!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a productive and inspiring 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 across the North East.

[See all our events](#)

Thursday 5th June 9.30am-11.30am

Childminder Network at Brocksbushes Play Barn

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 10th June 4.00pm-6.30pm

Webinar - School Readiness with Sue Asquith

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 11th June 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 17th June 7.00pm-7.45pm

Online Childminder's Staffroom Network

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 18th June 4.00pm-5.00pm

Thursday 19th June 1.30pm-2.30pm

Online BBC Tiny Happy People Champion Training

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 19th June 6.30pm-7.30pm

Under 2s Network: Building a Happy Brain in Babies at Goosehill Early Excellence, Morpeth

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 24th June Time TBC

Wingate Nursery School Network - Creating a Community of Collaborative Learners

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 3rd July 6.00pm-7.00pm

Summer Forest School Network: Share & Celebrate with Goosehill Early Excellence at Bothal Woods, Morpeth

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 8th July 3.45pm-4.45pm

Webinar - Strive for Five: Enhancing Language through Conversations with Town End Research School

[Learn more](#)

Webinar - Childcare Expansion: Creating an Enabling Environment with Susie Drake

[Learn more](#)

Monday 23rd June 6.00pm-8.30pm

Webinar: Curriculum Building for 0-2 year olds with Sue Asquith

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 25th June 8.00am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 8th July 1.30pm-3.00pm

Open Setting Network - Childcare Expansion: Creating Enabling Environments at Haltwhistle Academy

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 8th October 7.00pm-8.00pm

Online BBC Tiny Happy People Champion Training

[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 (9.30am-10.30am)

Thursday 5th June, Thursday 3rd July
Click [here](#) to book.

Blyth South Beach HQ (10.15am-11.15am)

Tuesday 17th June, Tuesday 8th July
Click [here](#) to book.

Morpeth Chantry Play Hub (10.45am-11.45am)

Tuesday 10th June
Click [here](#) to book.

Lanchester Community Centre (10.30am-11.30am)

Friday 20th June, Friday 18th July, Friday 19th September, Friday 3rd October, Friday 14th November
Click [here](#) to book.

Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm)

Wednesday 11th June
Click [here](#) to book.

Sherburn Community Centre (1.00pm-2.00pm)

Wednesday 18th June
Click [here](#) to book.

Bishop Auckland Methodist Church (1.30pm-2.30pm)

Monday 16th June
Click [here](#) to book.

Blogs



Early Language Acquisition: The Path to Fluency

Stella Jones, Director of Research & Development WISE, Director of Town End Research School and Content Lead for Primary Literacy – Research Schools Network

Fluency in language is more than just a developmental milestone - it's the foundation of a child's ability to communicate, understand others and navigate the world around them. From their earliest babbling to speaking in full sentences, fluency grows naturally but is deeply influenced by motivation and success.

[Find out more by reading the blog!](#)

DfE/EEF News

Early Years SENCO Level 3

This qualification is designed for Level 3 practitioners working in private, voluntary or independent early years settings. It's also suitable for Ofsted-registered childminders and childminder agencies.

Early Years SENCOs play a key role in identifying and supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They work closely with families and professionals to make sure children receive the right support, helping to secure the best possible outcomes in their early development and learning.

⚠ Limited funding available ⚠

Final chance to apply for our July EY SENCO cohort!
Apply by June 1 for the best chance of securing a place!



As part of the government's plan to break down barriers to opportunity, improving outcomes for children in early years education, the Department for Education is very pleased to announce that Best Practice Network (BPN) has been selected as our delivery partner to provide 1000 SENCO training places in financial year 2025-26.

Am I eligible for Early Years SENCO Level 3?

The Level 3 Early Years SENCO qualification is for:

- Level 3 practitioners in private, voluntary or independent settings (PVI's)
- Ofsted-registered childminders
- Childminders registered with a child minding agency (CMA)

To apply, you must have either:


- A full and relevant Level 3 qualification (check here: <https://check-an-early-years-qualification.service.gov.uk/>)
- Childminders may be eligible if they hold a full and relevant Level 2 qualification, have completed at least one Level 3 training module, and have significant experience working in Early Years.

[Find out more](#)

Guidance report
Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools
 Published 19 May 2025

Overview Summary of recommendations Downloads

Summary of recommendations



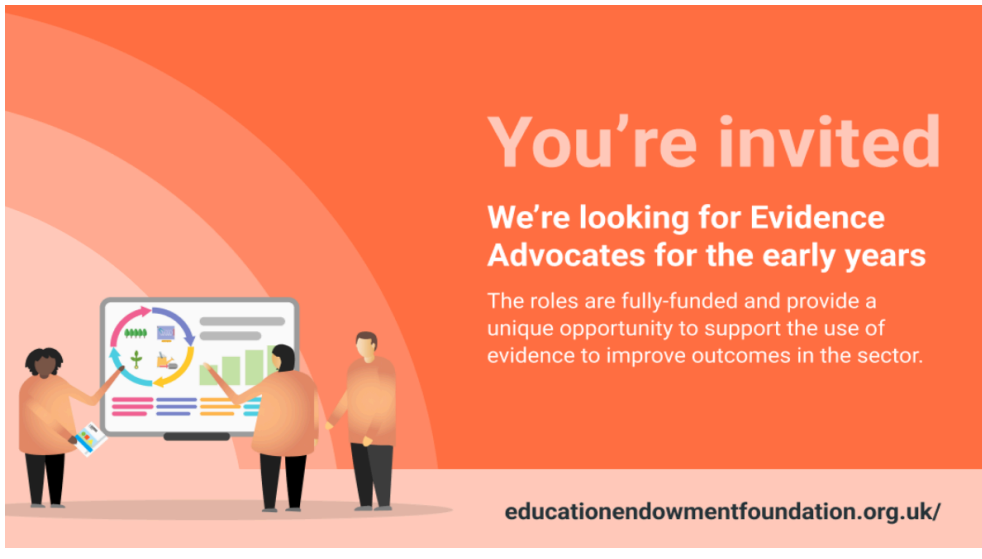
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 Create a positive and supportive environment for all pupils without exception

Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) - updates to SEND guidance page

"Pupils with SEND have the greatest need for excellent teaching," EEF

Therefore the EEF have updated their SEND guidance page. You'll find some of the EEF's most popular resources - like the 'five-a-day' approach!

[Explore now](#)



You're invited

We're looking for Evidence Advocates for the early years

The roles are fully-funded and provide a unique opportunity to support the use of evidence to improve outcomes in the sector.

educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/

The early years of a child's life play a critical role in shaping their future. Experiences during this time influence both short-term development and long-term outcomes.

To support the early years sector in this vital work, the Education Endowment Foundation is inviting applications for newly funded roles focused on improving outcomes through evidence. The Evidence Advocate roles will help bridge the gap between research and everyday practice, ensuring that the best available evidence reaches the settings where it can make the most difference.

As an Evidence Advocate, you'll help:

- Design and deliver evidence-based professional development
- Develop and implement high-quality resources
- Support the quality assurance of our materials
- Champion evidence use across the sector
- Share practitioner insights to shape future support

The EEF are keen to hear from those who are passionate about improving early years practice through evidence and are recruiting from all types of settings (including childminders), and across all regions of England.

For more information on the application process, join the EEF's upcoming webinar on Monday 9th June 2025 from 4-5pm, where you can ask questions and find out more about the roles. [Register your place.](#)

Find out more and apply: [Application form: Early Years Evidence Advocate](#)

Other News

Extension of the Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Programme Competition

We have a winner! 🎉

Great news! We're thrilled to announce the winner of our Hub extension prize draw: A huge congratulations to **Kate**, a childminder from Newcastle!

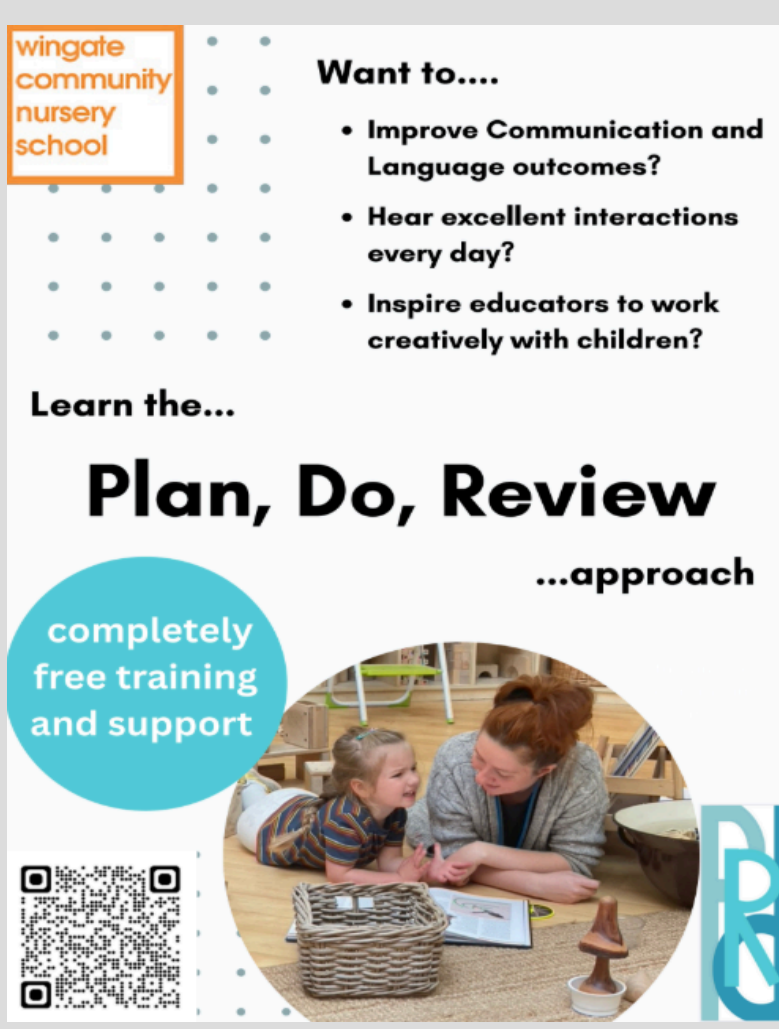


Plan, Do, Review

Plan, Do, Review is an approach that targets communication, language and thinking skills for children aged three to four. The project is led by the team at Wingate Community Nursery School; an outstanding school for over 27 years, whose practice is rooted in respect for children and their childhood.

Wingate has delivered and developed the Plan, Do, Review approach for over 20 years. They are now working with the Education Endowment Foundation and University of Leeds, on a Pilot Project to understand the impact and scalability of the approach.

Settings who sign up to take part in the Plan, Do, Review Pilot Project will receive a fully funded package of training and support as well as funding to cover backfill costs for the training sessions.



wingate community nursery school

Want to....


- Improve Communication and Language outcomes?
- Hear excellent interactions every day?
- Inspire educators to work creatively with children?


Learn the...

Plan, Do, Review

...approach

completely free training and support





[Find out more](#)



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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