

## The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

### November 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.*

[Recent Events](#)

[Dates For Your Diary](#)

[Blogs](#)

[EEF/DfE News](#)

[Other News](#)

## Our Recent Events

### Our November Highlights

What an incredible month we've had at the Hub!

- **Early Years Networking Success:** Our strategic partners at Bothal and Central Primary led impactful sessions focused on *Early Identification* and *Early Communication and Language*.
- **Nature-Inspired Learning:** Castle Kindergarten in Sacriston hosted a fantastic network event on *Embracing Loose Parts in Nature*.
- **Open Settings Networking:** Haltwhistle Academy, our lead school, welcomed visitors for an inspiring open settings networking session.
- **Professional Development Webinars:** NEAT Research School shared valuable insights during a webinar on the *ShRec Approach*.
- **Festive Creativity:** Goosehill Early Excellence ran their inspiring monthly network, with this session focusing on *Festive Forest Crafts*.
- **Leadership Breakfast Series Launched:** We kicked off our first Online Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network with great success.
- **Childminder Networks Return:** We're delighted to have relaunched our childminder networking sessions this month.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making November so dynamic and rewarding. We look forward to more opportunities to connect and grow together!



## 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 3rd December 10am-11.30am

Forest School in Action Network: 'Making our Mark with a Festive Twist' at Amberley Primary School, Killingworth

[Learn more](#)

Monday 9th December 4pm-5pm

Webinar- 'Spirit of the Studio' with Pete Moorhouse

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 10th December 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing Network

(This will also run monthly on the following dates 21/1/25, 20/2/25, 13/3/25)

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 12th December 3.45-4.45pm

Webinar - 'Navigating Nappies: Mastering Toilet Training in the Early Years'

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 17th December 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

(This will also run monthly on the following dates 28/1/25, 18/2/25, 25/3/25)

[Learn more](#)

Monday 20th January 1pm-3.30pm

Online Accredited Training - 'Sensory Processing in the Early Years: What it is and why it matters'

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 22nd January 4pm-5pm

Webinar - 'An Introduction to Intergenerational Learning'

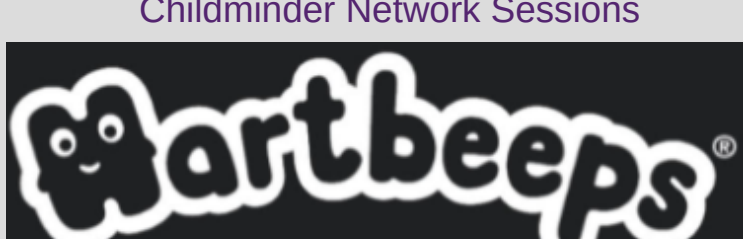
[Learn more](#)

Thursday 23rd January 6.30pm-7.30pm

Network Session at Castle Kindergarten, Albany

[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:

## Prudhoe Family Hub

Wednesday 11th December 9.30am, Wednesday 15th January 10.30am and Wednesday 19th February 10.30am

Click [here](#) to book.

## Rising Sun Country Park, Benton

Thursday 9th January 9.45am and Thursday 6th February 10am

Click [here](#) to book.

## Blyth Family Hub

Wednesday 11th December 2pm, Wednesday 8th January 2pm, Wednesday 5th February 2pm, Wednesday 12th March 2pm

Click [here](#) to book.

## Lanchester Community Centre

Friday 29th November 10am, Friday 13th December 10am, Friday 10th January 10am, Friday 7th February 10am, Friday 14th March 10am

Click [here](#) to book.



## Recorded Webinar - 'Understanding the Brain: Exploring Self and Co-Regulation as the Foundation for Early Communication'

Join Stella Jones, Director of Town End Research School, as she explores how brain anatomy underpins the development of communication in the early years.

[Request a copy](#)

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

[Express your Interest](#)



## Blogs

### Navigating Nappies: Supporting all Children in Toilet Training



[Read the Blog](#)

Toilet training is a significant milestone in early childhood development, yet many children, including those with sensory processing challenges or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), may face difficulties in mastering this skill. According to the [Kindred School Readiness Survey](#), 91% of Reception teachers reported having children in their class who were not toilet trained, highlighting a broader challenge for schools and nurseries who need to dedicate more time and resource to developing children's independence in this area. Early years educators play a crucial role in providing support and creating an environment that fosters understanding, patience, and success. This blog will explore strategies to support children with sensory sensitivities and ASD in their toilet training journey, ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed.

## EEF and DfE News

### EEF research on professional development in early years

Are you a leader in an early years setting, a school early years lead, or a childminder?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) wants your input. Please share your views in a short 10-minute survey about the professional development and support programmes your setting has used. Your feedback will help shape the EEF's future work to better support settings like yours.

The survey closes on 20th December.

[Take part here](#)

### DfE School Based Nursery Capital Grant

The DfE recently hosted webinars on the school-based nurseries capital grant, where they explained the application process and shared key considerations for designing a nursery. You can watch the recordings using the links below;

[Webinar for schools](#)

[Webinar for local authorities and responsible bodies](#)

The guidance has been updated to address frequently asked questions, including:

- Eligibility criteria
- Role of Local Authorities
- Cost considerations
- Application process

The guidance can be accessed [here](#). The DfE has also produced general guidance on [Establishing school-based nursery provision](#).

Schools and responsible bodies that are interested but not currently ready to apply or do not meet the current eligibility criteria will be able to register an interest for any potential future phases of the programme. This will help the department to assess demand in different parts of the country and, alongside continued sector engagement, support the development of the most appropriate model to expand the programme for future years.

The application window is open until **19 December 2024**.

## Other News

### The Early Years Sign Survey

A researcher from Newcastle University has requested your support in completing a survey about how sign systems such as Makaton and BSL

are used by practitioners working with 0-5 year olds in Early Years settings in the UK.

The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete through JISC online; it does not ask for any personal details, and all data collection procedures comply with GDPR. Ethical approval has been provided by the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences.



[Complete the survey](#)



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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