

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

October 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

October's Highlights: A Month of Meaningful Connections and Learning



October has been packed with brilliant networks, events, and webinars! We want to extend a massive thank you to all our hosts and partners who made this possible.

A special shout-out goes to **Goosehill Early Excellence** for running three amazing networks this month: Coastal School, Forest School, and an Under 2s Network—all of which received fantastic feedback.

We're also grateful to the **Fusion Learning Hub** at Cleaswell Hill for delivering two brilliant Autism Education Trust (AET) CPD events.

Thank you to the **BBC Tiny Happy People Team** for their Champion Training, to **Sue Asquith** for a fabulous webinar on the new Ofsted framework for childminders and to **Julian Grenier** for launching our new research network with such a fantastic turnout!

Finally thanks to **Hartbeeps** for continuing to provide inspiring childminder networks that emphasise the importance of developing the areas of communication and language and physical development in our early years children!

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](#)

Wednesday 5th November 3.30pm-5pm

Webinar - Unlock Early Writing Success: A Practical Approach with WISE Academies

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 11th November 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leaders Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 12th November

Pre-recorded webinar for Childminders - Understanding and Supporting Children's Behaviour *(please sign up to receive this on the above date)*

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 13th November 3.45-5.45pm

Anxiety-Based Demand Avoidance CPD at Cleaswell Hill School, Choppington

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 13th November 4pm-5.30pm

Wingate Community Nursery School Network - Meaningful Mathematics: Laying the Foundations for Mathematical Success in Meaningful Contexts

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 19th November 3.45-4.45pm

Online - New Early Years Leaders Network: Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 20th November 9.30-11.30am

Childminder Network at Brocksbushes Play Barn

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 20th November 6.30-7.30pm

Castle Kindergarten (Sacriston) Network - Capturing the Awe and Wonder of Autumn

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 25th November 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years SEND Breakfast Briefing Network

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 26th November 4pm start

Open Settings Network at Shotley Bridge Infant School

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 2nd December 1.00pm-4.00pm

AET CPD: Anxiety-Based Demand Avoidance at Croftway Academy, Blyth

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 4th December 9.30am-11.30am

Childminder Network at Brocksbushes Play Barn

[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 6th November

Click [here](#) to book.

Fawdon Family Hub, Newcastle (9.30am-10.30am)

November Date TBC

Click [here](#) to book.

Blyth South Beach HQ (10.40am-11.40am)

Tuesday 4th November

Click [here](#) to book.

Lanchester Community Centre (10.30am-11.30am)

Friday 14th November

Click [here](#) to book.

Spennymoor Community Centre (1.30pm-2.30pm)

Wednesday 12th November

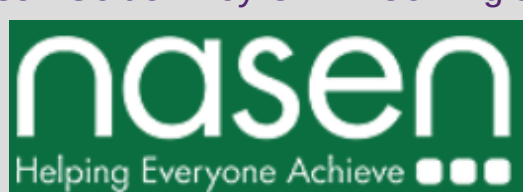
Click [here](#) to book.

Sherburn Community Centre (1.00pm-2.00pm)

Wednesday 12th November

Click [here](#) to book.

nasen Golden Key CPD - Coming soon!



This training program upskills EY practitioners to identify and provide for the needs of all children in their care. It involves identifying individual needs, fostering trust with children and their parents/carers, and daily interaction with children to gain a holistic understanding of their preferences, interests, and development needs.

Programme layout:

- 4 x 2 hour live webinars (15th January, 22nd January, 29th January, 5th February 3.30-5.30pm)
- All learners will receive a certificate of attendance.

Programme content:

- The legislation for SEND in the Early Years
- The Graduated Approach and Pyramid of Provision
- Parent Partnership and sensitive conversations
- Working with the SENCO and with outside agencies
- The Early Identification of SEND
- Observation methods and assessment tools
- Transition for children with SEND
- Literacy and Numeracy in the Early Years

Express your interest today by completing our form. Please only express an interest if you can attend ALL of the live online sessions.

Express your Interest

Resources

Blogs



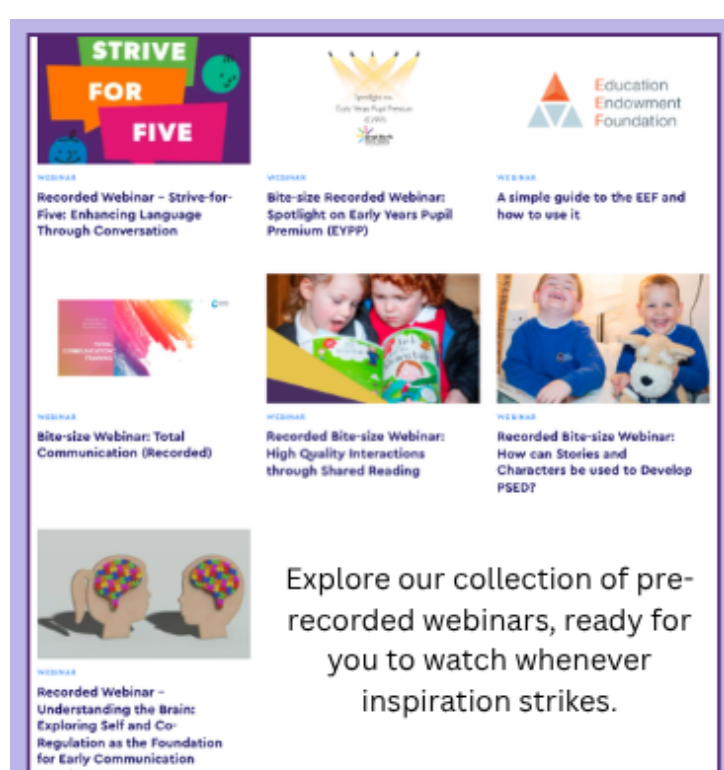
Visit the Stronger Practice Hub website and check out the **resource page**, which hosts a range of informative **blogs**. These resources offer a wealth of information, covering a broad spectrum of early years topics—from practical advice on **navigating nappies** to enriching content on **nutrition**, **mathematical stories**, and the transformative power of **reading aloud**.

Check them out!

Recorded Webinars

Enhance your practice with our online resources! Our website also features a range of **evidence-informed webinars** available to watch in your own time. Current topics include a spotlight on the **EYPP**, strategies for **high-quality interaction through shared reading** and guidance on the **'Strive for Five'** method.

Check them out!



Explore our collection of pre-recorded webinars, ready for you to watch whenever inspiration strikes.

DfE News

New! Free DfE Workshop: A Special Approach to Making it REAL to support families and practitioners

This workshop will provide practitioners with an overview of how to support the home learning environment for families with children with SEND.

Date: Wednesday 12th November

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Online

Book now

Other News

Maths Champions

Improve children's outcomes by three months through becoming a Maths Champion in your setting.

Express your interest here: www.bit.ly/GREATeoi

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Maths Champions

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) are delighted to have secured funds to deliver the Maths Champions programme through the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Department for Education (DfE). The 12 month online programme has been evaluated by the EEF with York and Durham

University and has been proven to boost children's Maths and Language attainment by an average of 3 additional months. **As part of this DfE-funded scaled delivery, the programme will be available at no cost to participating settings.**

The programme aims to improve maths attainment of children in an early years setting by training a Maths Champion and Deputy Maths Champion (MC and DMC) in key mathematical concepts and increasing staff confidence. After completing a live induction and online training modules the MC will lead on completing a staff confidence and nursery environment audit and action plan to improve the mathematical learning environment and confidence of all staff. They will also lead on implementing 10 or more core activities with children that build on the key areas of maths learning. MCs will then be able to revisit their audits and review the outcomes of the core activities. Throughout the 12 months the MC and DMC will have access to ongoing one-to-one support from an Early Years Expert as well as regular webinars on arising topics.

To take part in the programme you must:

- Be a private, voluntary, or independent (PVI) nursery, maintained nursery school or children's centre, or state funded school-based nursery with children accessing 3- and 4-year-old places attending for at least 15 hours per week
- Be able to nominate a level 3 practitioner to be the Maths Champion, who will run the programme in your setting and nominate another level 3 practitioner to be the Deputy Maths Champion, who will support the Maths Champion.
- Not currently be using the NDNA Maths Champions programme or have taken part in the programme in the last two years.
- Be committed to completing the mandatory steps of the programme over the 12- month period to the best of your ability.
- Have onsite access to a computer with internet connection.
- Be based in England.
- Be ready to begin on programme between February and June 2026.

For more information on the programme please, please read the attached documents.

[Maths Champions Leaflet](#)

[FAQs](#)

You can express your interest today by completing our expression of interest form!

[Express your Interest](#)

Congratulations to Childsplay Nursery in Newcastle

We are delighted to extend our warmest **congratulations** to **Childsplay Nursery in Newcastle** for winning the prestigious Nursery World **'Nursery of the Year'** award.

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce that a series of forthcoming **network events** will be held at this celebrated location.

20 YEARS of celebrating the early years

sponsored by **hr inspire**

Nursery of the Year

WINNER
Childsplay Nursery Claremont Co-op Newcastle-upon-Tyne

“Outward-looking and dynamic” – judge

HIGHLY COMMENDED Little Explorers, Derby
Children at Little Explorers spend the majority of their time outdoors engaging in rich, hands-on experiences that build resilience, independence and a profound respect for the natural world. The nursery is based on a 450-acre site that includes a working farm, enabling children to be immersed in experiences that change with the seasons – from explorations in the stream and navigating woodland terrain to playing at the 'nature camp'. There are daily farm visits when children can see animals, collect fresh eggs and pick herbs and vegetables to use in cooking. The nursery's approach supports a holistic understanding of the world and fosters mindfulness, environmental awareness and deep-rooted learning. Practitioners understand their role, knowing when to teach, support, facilitate or simply observe.

FINALISTS
• Little Wild Tribe, Essex
• Ready Generations, The Nursery in Belong – Chester

CRITERION
Open to registered settings offering full daycare for children from birth to five (private, voluntary or maintained sector), which have an Outstanding or Good grade (or equivalent). Should display excellence in every aspect of care, learning and development for all children; provide inspirational environments; have an exemplary approach to staff development; and foster warm, supportive relationships with parents and carers.

Childsplay was opened as a non-profit co-operative in 1982 by a group of parents who wanted to provide children with the best early education at an affordable price. More than 40 years later and the setting's original ethos remains. Being a co-operative brings a special 'feel' to the setting, with children and practitioners often talking about their 'Childsplay family'. The nursery is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach and the forest schools of Scandinavia. Practitioners are given the opportunity to visit Reggio Emilia in Italy and take part in a week-long training conference. This helps to develop vital knowledge and allows for better understanding in the importance and significance of the ethos. The nursery is also a research-based provider and works alongside local universities. Staff believe every child should be provided with the most amazing early years experiences possible. They strive to provide these through a wide range of activities, including outdoor learning, Forest School, allotment trips, an intergenerational project, yoga and poetry classes. Children are consulted on all matters of nursery life to provide them with autonomy. During a recent garden redevelopment, children requested sand and water play, somewhere to grow pumpkins, somewhere to sit so they could watch the birds and a climbing area, two- to three-year-olds have an attic space – perfect for quiet time – and the three- to four-year-olds have honeycomb structures to encourage interactions and quiet time. There is a working kitchen in the pre-school unit which children have free access to along with their atelier. Pre-school children visit a local care village once a week to engage with their older friends. And as a co-operative, all staff and parents have an equal say in how the setting is run. This all leads to a close-knit nursery family.

Launchpad for Literacy

The first newsletter with linked CPD is now available and can be viewed here -

[Gap Identification in The Early Years and Beyond](#)

If you are interested in a **free** Launchpad for Literacy toolkit, funded by North East Combined Authority (NECA), please get in touch with Kirstie Page directly via email: kirstie.page@launchpadforliteracy.co.uk

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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