

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

April 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/EEF News

EEF

Our News

Our Recent Events

A Guide to Implementation and Managing Change focusing on Early Literacy

We had a fantastic turn out at the Durham Leadership Centre and Seven Stories for these CPD sessions. Thank you to Town End Research School for spending time highlighting the key messages from EEF's '[A Schools Guide to Implementation](#)' which really helped set the scene for the rest of the day which focused on Early Literacy.

"As a leader, I will now carefully think about how I implement new initiatives."

"Really interesting and useful training, it was lovely to see examples through the PowerPoint and visuals around the room."



AET Good Autism Practice

Our strategic partners at Cleaswell Hill delivered a fantastic Autism Education Trust module which was full of research and evidence-informed ideas/strategies for practitioners to implement in their setting.

"This has given me lots of ideas to put into practice and to consider when adapting or extending current practice."

"I now have a better understanding of how to support children in my setting."



PSED/SEL Early Years Network Session at Town End Academy

Thank you to Rebecca Longstaff and the Early Years team at Town End Academy for hosting a wonderful network session. We heard all about the approaches you have implemented from the PSED Evidence Store and how successful these have been.

"This setting has been very helpful and I will be implementing a lot of the evidence-informed strategies."

"It was brilliant to network with other practitioners and share best practice!"



Hartbeeps Childminder Networking/CPD sessions

Our fully funded Hartbeeps childminder network/CPD sessions have returned and got off to a fantastic start! These sessions are matched to a new set of resources to support the implementation of evidence-informed communication and language strategies back in your setting! We have had fantastic examples of implementation shared from the last round too which has been great to hear...

"Thank you to Hartbeeps for allowing us to join your classes. One resource my children loved was your sunshine, especially our SEN children...my mam got her sewing on and made us a mini one using random fabrics we already had. Thank you to the hub....these sessions have been inspiring and we can continue to implement the things we have seen, tried and enjoyed!"



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

Wednesday 8th May 4-5.30pm

Lullabies, Nursery Rhymes and Retelling of Story into Fluency and Comprehension at WISE Academies Head Office, Sunderland

Learn more

Tuesday 14th May 4-5.30pm

Early Literacy Network Session Bexhill Academy, Sunderland

Learn more

Saturday 18th May 10-11.30am

Tuesday 21st May 4-5.30pm

Parent Partnerships: Support

Communication & Language in the Home Environment Network Session at Castle Kindergarten, Sacriston

[Learn more](#)

Enabling Environments: Creating a

Language & Early Literacy Rich Environment Network Session at Green Lane Primary School, Barnard Castle

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 22nd May 3.45-4.45pm

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

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 12th June 4-5.30pm

Durham Number Sense Network with Seascope Nursery, Peterlee

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 13th June 9.30-3.15pm

The Autism Education Trust (AET) Leadership Modules: Part 1 & 2 at Croftway Academy, Blyth

[Learn more](#)

Saturday 22nd June 9.30-12pm

The Autism Education Trust (AET) Good Autism Practice at Cleaswell Hill SEND School, Choppington

[Learn more](#)

Dingley's Promise FREE SEND Online Training (worth £250)



Dingley's Promise has used the expertise and knowledge of practitioners to develop SEND online short training courses. The courses are tailored for educators, childminders, practitioners, and anyone who works in an everyday setting with children with SEND, to help you work more inclusively with the children you support.

[Find out more](#)

Durham Childminders Conference

Calling all Durham childminders! Durham local authority have kindly asked the GNSPH to join them at their Childminder's conference on 18th May; and we are pleased to announce that the team from Goosehill Early Excellence nursery will also be joining us to deliver an interactive Forest school workshop session. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Calling All Childminders! A Day of Discovery and Delight

Why not join us for a day of Learning, Fun and Connection led by experienced professionals, passionate about early childhood development in home-based settings.

What's in store for you?

- ❖ Interactive workshops: Hands activities and group discussions for practical learning.
- ❖ Mix and mingle: Rub elbows with fellow childminders and make new pals!
- ❖ Score some awesome freebies and fabulous prizes all day long!

Date: Saturday, 18th May 2024
Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: Durham Leadership Centre, Spennymoor

SCAN ME

[Book now](#)

Forest School in Action Workshops (4 dates across May-July)

Due to the success of the last set of Forest School in Action Workshops these are returning again! You will leave each session inspired and full of evidence-informed ideas to take back to implement in your setting. Each session is also carefully matched to a resource that you will 'take away' to support sustainability. Find out more by clicking on the buttons below:

[PVI and school-based settings](#)

[Childminders](#)



Great North Stronger Practice Hub Conference

Save the Date

Great North Stronger Practice Hub Conference

[Book now](#)

Tuesday 25th June 2024

Come along and don't miss out on this exciting chance to join the GNSPH team at their conference on 25th June. Take this opportunity to listen to educationalists and network with early years professionals from across the region, who will share evidence informed best practice, as you engage in fun and interactive practical workshops.

Each practitioner will 'take away' a bag of high quality FREE resources to support implementation back in your setting too! More details will be released soon but in the meantime **BOOK NOW TO SECURE A PLACE!** We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Our Latest Resources

Blog - Enhancing Early Literacy: A Guide to Evidence-Based Practices



Early literacy lays the foundation for a child's lifelong learning journey. It encompasses the essential skills required for reading, writing, and comprehension. As educators and caregivers, it's crucial to implement evidence-based practices to ensure children develop strong literacy skills from an early age. In this blog, we'll explore some of the best practices in early literacy, drawing upon the Early Education Foundation (EEF) [Early Literacy Evidence Store](#), the EEF's [Preparing for Literacy Guidance Report](#) and the EEF's [Communication and Language Evidence Store](#).

[Read it here](#)

DfE/EEF News

Vodcast: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) safeguarding consultation

On Monday 22 April, the Department for Education (DfE) launched a consultation on proposals to strengthen the safeguarding requirements in the EYFS. These proposals have been informed by extensive engagement with providers, health professionals, sector stakeholders and safeguarding experts and using lessons learned from previous incidents.

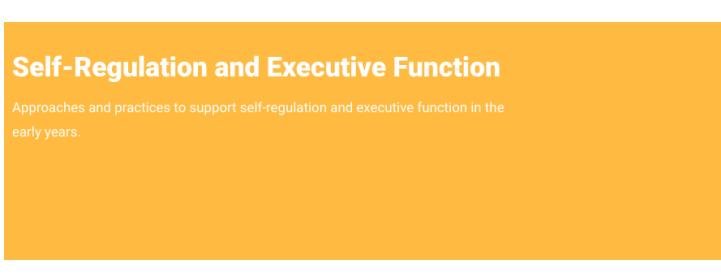
Watch the [DfE vodcast](#) to understand the changes, before responding to the consultation here: [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) safeguarding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



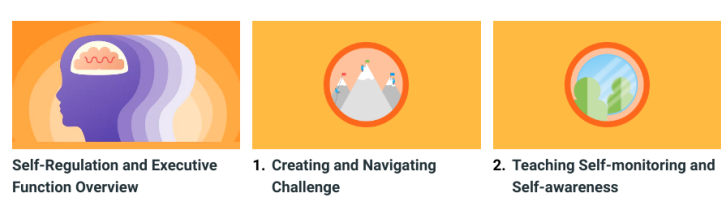
NEW: Supporting Children's Self Regulation and Executive Function

The EEF has added a new theme to the Early Years Evidence Store – an online library of evidence-informed guidance and video demonstrations – which aims to support early educators in their practice.

The new theme of the store focuses on supporting young children's executive function and self-regulation. It highlights five approaches that early educators can weave into their practice to support children's development in this area.



Approaches to support self-regulation and executive function



[Explore now](#)

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:

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.



[Learn more](#)

Elklan Communication Friendly Settings

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 Elkan 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

[Learn more](#)

Other Great North Stronger Practice Hub News

Thank you!

We just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support and feedback. We endeavour to continue to respond to feedback and requests to help improve the outcomes of the children across the North East.

Bespoke Advice and Feedback

Our Hub is here to signpost you to any appropriate support or to put together a bespoke package in collaboration with your Local Authority offer. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

[Get in touch](#)

We offer bespoke advice and feedback!

Telephone: 0191 7070 124 Ext. 2
Email: greatnorthsph@wiseacademies.co.uk

[Get in touch!](#)



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](#)

Has this email been forwarded to you?

Sign up to our newsletter to get them automatically!

[Sign up](#)

Follow us for more updates on social media!



You are receiving this email as you signed up for our newsletters.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [Unsubscribe](#) or [Update your preferences](#)