

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

July 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

Webinars

DfE/EEF News

EEF

Our News

Our Recent Events

Our Conference - 'To Understand and be Understood: Creating Confident Communicators'

Our recent Early Years Conference was a resounding success, attracting over 150 enthusiastic Early Years practitioners from across the North East. The event featured engaging workshops, insightful sessions and several networking opportunities. Attendees left equipped with new strategies and resources to enhance their practice, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our guest speakers, workshop presenters and stall holders for your amazing contributions to the day.

"Excellent Organisation, jam packed day and lots of expert knowledge which will impact on practice."

"Wow! The best EYFS conference that I have ever attended! Amazing speakers with a wealth of knowledge. It is amazing that best practice is being shared so openly. Thank you Great North!"



Recent Events Summary

In June and July, we would also like to thank...

- Goosehill Early Excellence for hosting more inspirational forest school networking sessions.
- Debi Savoy, for opening up her wonderful home for fellow childminders to come and see first hand how she caters for children in her care.
- Haltwhistle Academy for hosting a brilliant open day on Physical Development and a network session delving into early mathematics.
- Rachel and the AET team at Cleaswell for delivering three very informative sessions around Autism, including exploring the leadership modules.
- Seascope Sunshine Day Nursery and Rosemary Lane Nursery for hosting excellent network sessions all about number sense.
- The Hartbeeps team for continuing to provide fantastic network sessions for childminders.



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](#)

Saturday 21st September 9.30am-11am

Monday 23rd September 1pm-2.30pm

'Embracing Loose Parts in Nature for Holistic Learning Opportunities' at Castle Kindergarten, Sacriston

'Forest School in Action: 'Leaving Our Mark' with Goosehill Early Excellence in Bothal Woods

[Learn more](#)

[PVI/School-based - Learn more](#)

[Childminders - Learn more](#)

Thursday 26th September 1pm-2.30pm

Thursday 26th September 4pm-5.30pm

'Forest School in Action: Mathematics - The Language of Nature' with Goosehill Early Excellence at Haltwhistle Academy

'Self Regulation: Understanding and Supporting Children's Behaviour in Early Years' Network Session at St Margaret's CofE Primary School, Durham

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Early Years Conference for Childminders

You are invited to our upcoming Early Years Conference, a FREE event dedicated to supporting the invaluable work of

childminders like you. This conference will provide a fantastic opportunity to enhance your skills, connect with fellow childminders, and explore the latest developments in early years education. You will also receive a FREE goody bag of resources to support with implementation of the theme back in your setting.

Please express your interest to ensure you receive priority booking when the venue is confirmed.





Save the Date: Exciting FREE Early Years Conference Coming Soon for Childminders!

Saturday 12th October AM
Venue TBC

Express your interest today to get priority booking!



Express your Interest

Hartbeeps Sessions for Childminders running through the Summer Holidays



Hartbeeps

FREE SESSIONS FOR CHILDMINDERS AND CHILDREN 0-5

These sessions 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. Scan the QR code to book!



[HTTPS://BOOKWHEN.COM/CHILDMINDER](https://bookwhen.com/childminder)

Hartbeep sessions for Childminders are continuing to run throughout the summer holidays. We are aware some of you may be off with your own children during this time and would like to let you know that you are welcome to book yourself and your own children at these sessions in the summer holidays.

This will allow you to still network with other childminders whilst supporting your children to engage in fun & interactive singing and storytelling sessions with a highly trained and skilled Hartbeeps Imaginator.

Hartbeeps Imaginators will deliver interactive sessions, modelling evidence informed practice and approaches known to support the development of children's communication, language and early literacy skills.

Please click [here](#) to see more information about venues, dates and time.

Webinars

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

Please see below for a range of recorded webinars that you can request...

'Total Communication' delivered by Abigail McCarthy, EYs and KS1 Lead at Cleaswell Hill Special Education School

Request a copy of this webinar



'How can Stories and Characters be used to Develop PSED?' delivered by Stella Jones, Director of Town End Research School

Request a copy of this webinar

'High Quality Interactions through Shared Reading' delivered by Stella Jones, Director of Town End Research School

Request a copy of this webinar



'EEF Evidence Informed Practice' delivered by Jen Ogden, Deputy Director of Town End Research School

Request a copy of this webinar



Even more webinars will be released over the summer holidays!

DfE/EEF News

EEF Early Years Evidence Store - New Theme Launched

Physical Development

Approaches and practices to support physical development in the early years



Approaches for supporting physical development



Physical Development Overview



1. Promoting Physical Activity



2. Teaching the Skills Needed for Movement and Handling



3. Teaching the Skills Needed for Mark-Making and Letter Formation

The EEF has added the latest theme to its Early Years Evidence Store, designed to help early years staff to put evidence-informed approaches into practice.

The physical development theme explores how early years professionals can support young children's physical development. It focuses on three approaches including promoting opportunities for children to be physically active.

These are:

- Teaching the skills needed for movement and handling
- Promoting physical activity
- Teaching the skills for mark making and letter formation

Explore the Evidence Store

EEF Survey

Calling all colleagues working in the early years sector (e.g., PVI settings, childminders, nursery schools, etc.)! The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) would like your support in completing our survey which is designed to help us better understand how we can work together to encourage more early years settings across England to take part in educational research projects. As a small token of appreciation, you can choose to enter into a prize draw for a chance to win a £30 Amazon e-voucher. Help us complete the survey here: <https://shorturl.at/6oREp>



EEF Programmes

Last call to apply for one of the below fully funded 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.

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

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[Learn more](#)

Other Great North Stronger Practice Hub News

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](#)

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