

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

June Newsletter and Key Dates for you Diary



Welcome!

As you may be aware, the Civil Service has now entered the pre-election period. This will last until the General Election concludes. During this time there will be restrictions on Government communications and activities that are funded by the Department. Therefore, you will have noticed that during this period our Stronger Practice Hub communications and social media presence has been quieter than usual. **We still have events planned, you can see them below. *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.***

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.

Thursday 4th July 1.00pm-2.30pm

'Forest School in Action: Woodland Tales' with
Goosehill Early Excellence Nursery in
Bothal Woods

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

[Childminders - Learn more](#)



Saturday 6th July 9.30am-12pm

'Autism Education Trust: Understanding Good
Autism Practice and the AET Framework for
Leaders' at Cleaswell Hill Special Education
School

This is for...

- Childminders who already manage assistants or are thinking of taking on assistants in the future.
- PVI's, Nurseries, and School's Early Years managers, middle & senior leaders

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 10th July 1.00pm-2.30pm

'Forest School in Action Workshop: Nurtured
in Nature' with Goosehill Early Excellence
Nursery in Bothal Woods

[Childminders - Learn more](#)

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



Wednesday 17th July 6pm-7pm

'Summer Forest School Network Session'
with Goosehill Early Excellence Nursery in
Bothal Woods

[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](#)

Hartbeeps Networking/CPD Sessions for Childminders and Children 0-5

These sessions will be continuing up until September (and throughout the summer holidays) so please secure your place now!

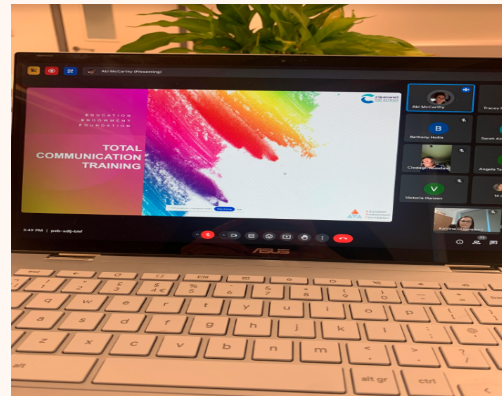


[Hartbeeps Information](#)



Webinars

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-Based Programmes

As part of the Department of Education's Early Years Recovery Programme, we are working with the EEF to fund the following programmes. **Recruitment for all of these programmes is closely very soon, so please act now if you would like to take part.**

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



Training to Support Children's Language and Learning

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](#)

'I Need This to Read'

'I Need This to Read' is a programme running between September and December 2024 to improve and develop the pre-reading skills which are needed to successfully access phonics teaching.

Comprised of both a Nursery Programme and a Reception Intervention Programme, it offers an excellent opportunity for practitioners to develop their knowledge and skills while looking at ways that they can embed this learning into their practice.

We are looking for 12 schools with a nursery to deliver the programme and provide feedback for future development.

All enrolled schools will receive a £1,200 payment for their participation in research.



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