

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

May 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.

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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](#)

FREE GNSPH Early Years Conference

To Understand and be Understood: Creating Confident Communicators

A FREE Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Conference
with keynote speakers Dr Charmaine Agius Ferrante and Dr Kim Hall

Tuesday 25th June 2024
The Grand Hotel
Gosforth Park
NE3 5HN

8:30-4:00pm
8.30am: Hot breakfast buffet
9.15am: Start (lunch provided)

'Take away' a bag of high quality FREE resources to support implementation back in your setting!

Plus a chance to win a hamper worth over £150 in our raffle.


[Find out more about the conference and book](#)

Tuesday 5th June 1.00pm-2.30pm

Forest School in Action Workshop
Mathematics: The Language of Nature
at Bothal Woods with Goosehill Early
Excellence

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

Friday 7th May 9.30am-11.30am

Childminder Setting Open Morning in Blyth
**Different time slots available throughout the morning.*

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 12th June 1.00pm-4.00pm

Physical Development in Early Years Open
Day (includes a Learning Walk) at
Haltwhistle Academy

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 12th June 4.00-5.30pm

Number Sense Network Session at
Seascape

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 13th June 9.30am-3.15pm

The Autism Education Trust Leadership
Modules 1 & 2 at Croftway Academy

[Learn more](#)

Saturday 22nd June 9.30am-12pm

Autism Education Trust: Good Autism
Practice at Cleaswell Hill SEND School

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 26th June 4.00-5.30pm

Early Mathematics Network Session at
Haltwhistle Academy

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 27th June 4.00-5.30pm

Number Sense Hub Network Session at
Rosemary Lane Nursery School

[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

Our fully funded Hartbeeps childminder network/CPD sessions have been met with fantastic feedback again throughout May. These sessions will be continuing up until September so please secure your place now!


[Hartbeeps Information](#)


Our Recent Events

Early Literacy Network Session at Croftway Academy and Bexhill Academy

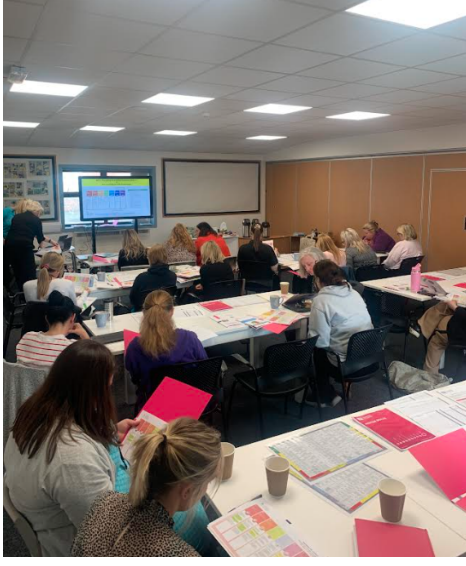
At these recent early literacy network events, practitioners gathered to explore resources and strategies aimed at enhancing early literacy outcomes. Central to the discussions was the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) [Early Literacy Evidence Store](#) and the EEF's [Preparing for Literacy](#) report. Attendees also delved into Launchpad for Literacy, and how this tool can be used in many ways to improve communication and literacy skills in all children, including the most disadvantaged.

Feedback from Croftway Network Session: *"Thank you, I now have so many strategies I can implement back in my setting."*

"It was great to hear about real examples linked to the EEF's evidence store."

Feedback from Bexhill Network Session: *"Great use of QR codes so we can 'see' modelled activities. Great reference to the EEF toolkit and further research."*

"Gorgeous setting and loved the videos of practice. Very inspiring!"



Lullabies, Nursery Rhymes and the Retelling of Story into Fluency and Comprehension

Director of SIA Education, Jonathan Brown, and our strategic partners at Bothal Primary School, shared how they have had great success in implementing approaches from the EEF's Evidence Store with regards to developing fluency and comprehension in the Early Years. Practitioners left with several evidence-informed strategies to implement back in their settings.

"This was so beneficial. A good mix of theory and ideas were included. It was lovely to see photos and video examples too!"



Parent Partnerships: Supporting Children's Communication and Language in the Home Environment Network Session at Castle Kindergarten (Sacriston)

At a recent parent partnership network event, the spotlight was on enhancing communication and language development in the Early Years through active parental engagement. The event featured insights from the EEF's [Early Years Toolkit](#), a comprehensive research resource that underscores the critical role parents play in their children's early learning. Attendees, including childminders, PVIs and school-based settings, engaged in discussions on effective communication strategies and shared experiences on fostering a language-rich environment at home.

"There were so many initiatives for supporting children's CLD, and how the staff share these with parents in some really inventive ways to get parents more involved with their child's learning at home. We will absolutely try some of these ideas to engage our parents!"



Durham Early Years Providers: 'Day of Discovery and Delight' Childminders Conference

We had the pleasure of delivering in partnership with Durham Early Years Advisers at a conference for childminders alongside the amazing Goosehill Early Excellence team. Goosehill delved into innovative approaches for integrating mathematics into outdoor learning and nature. A key focus was on utilising the EEF's [Maths Evidence Store](#) and the [EEF's Improving Maths Guidance Report](#), which offer research-based insights and practical strategies for early maths education. Childminders explored how nature-based activities can enhance mathematical understanding, discussing methods to seamlessly incorporate subitising, measurement and spacial reasoning into outdoor play.

"I loved the presentation by Goosehill about mathematics and nature. I will be able to implement so many new ideas into my setting from subitising in nature to using random every day objects to support maths!"



Enabling Environments: Creating a Language and Early Literacy Rich Environment Network Session at Green Lane Primary School

During this wonderful network session, we found out how Nicola and her team have transformed their learning environments to support children's communication, language and early literacy development, using evidence-informed practice from the EEF's Evidence Store's [Communication and Language](#) and the [Early Literacy](#) theme approaches. This network session also focused on the importance of characteristics of effective learning, talking and thinking floorbooks and celebrating children's progress in drawing with parents.

"I feel totally inspired after this networking opportunity and can't wait to implement some of these inspiring ideas back in my setting!"



Webinar: Total Communication by Cleaswell Hill SEND School



Cleaswell Hill is one of our strategic partners. During this insightful webinar, we found out how the Early Years Lead uses a range of approaches in the EEF's Communication and Language Evidence Store to implement a range of strategies focused on improving speech, language and communication skills.

Practitioners left this webinar with several strategies and ideas to implement back in their own setting to support all children but particularly those with SEND and/or a communication and language delay.

"Absolutely enjoying these webinars, easy accessible, clear and relevant interesting information and can be used and implemented in settings".

[Request a copy of this webinar](#)

Our Latest Resources

Blog

Embracing Nature: Enhancing Early Years Maths through Outdoor Learning



Exploring the wonders of nature can be a powerful way to foster early mathematical skills. Integrating mathematics into nature offers a unique and effective approach to early childhood education, deeply linking with the principles of the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) Statutory Framework](#). This blog sheds light on the importance of maths in nature and we also delve into key evidence-informed recommendations and approaches in the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) [Mathematics Evidence Store](#) and their "[Improving Mathematics in the Early Years](#)".

[Read it here](#)

DfE/EEF News

NEW EDITION EEF Guidance Report - A School's Guide to Implementation

Based on new and extensive review of evidence on implementation in schools, the EEF's updated report outlines three key elements that underpin effective implementation.

A School's Guide to Implementation

Summary of recommendations

These three elements work together. The process helps schools do implementation. The cross-cutting behaviours and contextual factors help them do it well.

1 Adopt the behaviours that drive effective implementation • Engage people so they can shape what happens while also providing overall direction. • Unite people around what is being implemented, how it will be implemented, and why it matters. • Reflect, monitor, and adapt to improve implementation.	2 Attend to the contextual factors that influence implementation • Consider whether what is being implemented is evidence-informed, right for the setting, and feasible to implement. • Develop systems and structures that support implementation, for example, time allocation or data systems. • Ensure people who enable change can support, lead, and positively influence implementation.	3 Use a structured but flexible implementation process • Use a structured process to apply the behaviours and contextual factors to your day to day work. • Adopt a practical and tailored set of implementation strategies organised into manageable phases: Explore, Prepare, Deliver, and Sustain. • Treat implementation as a process of ongoing learning and improvement.
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[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



[Learn more](#)

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



Department
for Education



Great North
Early Years
Stronger Practice Hub



Education
Endowment
Foundation



Elklan
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 Elklan 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

Social Media

Please follow us on Social Media to stay up to date with all of our recent news and events. We often run prize draws on Facebook too linked to implementation, feedback and EEF materials!



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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