

## 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.*

[Recent Events](#)

[Dates For Your Diary](#)

[Blogs](#)

[EEF News](#)

[Our News](#)

## Our Recent Events

### 'Creating Confident Communicators: Providing the Best Start for All Children' Conference

The **Creating Confident Communicators: Providing the Best Start for All Children** conference was a tremendous success, drawing childminders and practitioners from PVI and school-based early years settings. This impactful event delivered workshops and presentations centered on evidence-based strategies to support children's communication development, providing practitioners with actionable insights to enrich their educational approaches. A special thanks to **Kay Heslop, Goosehill Early Excellence, Wingate Nursery, Childsplay Nursery, NEAT Research School, and Town End Research School**, whose expert presentations and workshops made this event invaluable. Their contributions emphasised practical, research-backed techniques, empowering educators to support confident communication and early learning in children.



### More October Highlights

October has been a vibrant month at the Stronger Practice Hub, full of engaging sessions that foster best practices and enrich professional learning. This month's highlights included a series of inspiring Forest School workshops led by Goosehill Early Excellence, offering hands-on strategies for outdoor learning. Bothal Primary hosted a network session on the importance of routines and expectations, a key element in creating structured, supportive environments. We also enjoyed a fantastic webinar, *Vocabulary Matters*, by NEAT Research School, which explored effective vocabulary-building techniques. Additionally, practitioners gained valuable insights at Haltwhistle Academy through an Autism Education Trust session, and a collaboration with Durham local authority and Beechdale Nursery School brought further focus to Forest School methodologies. Closing out the month, our popular webinar by Town End Research School on *Understanding the Brain: Exploring Self and Co-Regulation as the Foundation for Early Communication Development* delved into how self-regulation supports communication and early learning.

**Thank you to everyone who joined and contributed to making this month impactful!**



## 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](#)

Thursday 7th November 4pm-5.15pm

'Early Identification: SEND/Family Approach' at Central Primary School, Ashington

[Learn more](#)

Saturday 9th November 9.30-11am

'Embracing Loose Parts in Nature for Holistic Learning Opportunities' Networking Event at Castle Kindergarten (Sacriston)

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 13th November 9.30am

Childminder Network featuring Hartbeeps at Prudhoe Family Hub

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 14th November 5pm - 5.45pm

Webinar: 'The ShREC Approach' Virtual via Zoom with Newcastle Research School

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 14th November 4pm-5.15pm

'Early Communication & Language - Lullabies, Story Telling and Nursery Rhymes' at Bothal Primary School, Ashington

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 19th November 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 21st November 9.30am

Childminder Network featuring Hartbeeps at Rising Sun Country Park

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 21st November 1.15pm-3pm

Open Settings Network Event at Haltwhistle Academy

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 26th November 4pm-4.45pm

Webinar 'Early Identification: SEND/Family Approach'

[Learn more](#)

Tuesday 10th December 8am-8.40am

Online Early Years Leadership Breakfast Briefing

[Learn more](#)

Childminder Network featuring Hartbeeps at Prudhoe Family Hub

Webinar 'Navigating Nappies: Mastering Toilet Training in the Early Years'

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)


**Available for:**  
Childminders only

**Access:**  
One year access to a modular professional development course.


- 5 Modules
- Duration: 5 x 30 mins.
- Highlights evidence informed practice to guide effective interactions.
- Links to the EEF Early Years Evidence Store supporting materials.

**Cost:** Fully Funded

**Contact:**  
The Great North Stronger Practice Hub



## Effective Interactions for Early Years Educators



[Learn more](#)

## Blogs

### Providing Certainty for Children, Staff and School Leaders



Discover how Ashington Learning Partnership (ALP) transforms early years education in one of the most deprived areas in the UK. Their Ofsted-rated "Outstanding" practice demonstrates the transformative power of their model. Read the blog to learn how to implement these strategies in your own setting and unlock the potential of every child.

[Read the Blog](#)

## EEF News

The EEF has added two new important updates to its Early Years Evidence Store. These include a new online resource to support high-quality interactions in the early years and a new downloadable resource for promoting the positive mental health and wellbeing of young children.

**Improve early education through high-quality interactions**

Two evidence-informed strategies to develop the quality of practice in early years settings.



[Find out more](#)



### Supporting children's mental health and wellbeing in the early years

Evidence shows that certain strategies and activities can promote positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes in the early years.

[Find out 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!**

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[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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