

The Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

February Newsletter



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!

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Our Recent Events

Webinars with Goosehill Early Excellence: 'Spark a Thought' and 'Making the Ordinary Extraordinary'

These webinars were full of evidence-informed practice and research with wonderful ideas to take back to settings to improve communication and language and personal, social and emotional development. If you missed these bite-size webinars and want to be inspired then you can request a copy here.

Spark a Thought: *"It was an inspirational session with lots of practical ideas that can be implemented with ease to support communication and parental engagement."*

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary: *"These webinars are a fantastic opportunity, bringing new ideas and supporting reflection on our practice."*

[Spark a Thought Webinar](#)

[Making the Ordinary Extraordinary Webinar](#)

Early Identification, Early Action: Working with Parents/Carers

Our strategic partners at Central Primary School held a fantastic session about how they have developed approaches using EEF evidence to improve early identification, build relationships and engage and involve parents/carers in their child's learning and development. Practitioners then had the opportunity to network and explore the outstanding early years environment.

"I have loved this session, bringing families closer to their child's learning is so important!"



Total Communication

Our strategic partners at Cleaswell Hill SEND school delivered a session which highlighted how they use a range of approaches in the EEF's Communication Language module to implement a range of strategies focused on improving speech, language and communication skills. The highly skilled staff modelled the different strategies which was brilliant to see in action and practitioners had the opportunity to network and explore the outstanding provision.

"Thank you for providing me with the knowledge and strategies to improve communication back in my setting."



Hartbeeps Networking Sessions for Childminders

This month we launched the start of our Hartbeeps sessions for childminders. These sessions give childminders the opportunity to network and build relationships with like minded individuals, whilst supporting the children to engage in fun and interactive singing and storytelling sessions with a highly trained and skilled Hartbeeps Imaginator. Through these sessions, Hartbeeps imagimators model evidence-informed practice and approaches known to support the development of children's communication, language and early literacy skills. We have several more dates available to book and more coming soon too!

"A wonderful morning spent with Hartbeeps supporting communication and language and all areas of the EYFS."

[See all our Hartbeep Sessions](#)

If you are a PVI or school-based setting near any of the locations, you can express your interest in attending with a group of children if there are remaining spaces. You can express your interest by emailing us at greatnorthsph@wiseacademies.co.uk



Forest School in Action Sessions

This month Goosehill Early Excellence started to deliver their forest school in action sessions. Childminders were able to come along with their children and PVI's and school-based settings were able to come and observe the delightful children from Goosehill access forest school sessions. The themes so far have been 'Leaving our Mark' and 'Mathematics: The Language of Nature' and they have included several inspirational ideas to take back to settings. These sessions have brought approaches from the EEF Early Mathematics and Early Literacy evidence store to life, e.g. Early Mathematics Evidence Store Approach 5: Facilitating Mathematical Language.

Childminder: *"I was blown away, what an amazing experience for both me and my children!"*

The next two sessions are focusing on 'Woodland Tales' (oral storytelling) and 'Nurtured in Nature' (supporting social and emotional skills). These sessions are fully booked for PVI and school-based settings, however you can email us at greatnorthsph@wiseacademies.co.uk to be added to the waiting list.

There are still spaces for childminders in these sessions and you can book using the link below:

[Forest School for Childminders](#)



How Intelligent Materials Facilitate Mathematical Language

Goosehill Early Excellence demonstrated how they use intelligent materials to facilitate mathematical language (EEF Early Maths - Approach 5) and how several of the approaches in the Communication and Language Evidence Store are also focused on through the use of loose parts. Practitioners were able to network and tour this outstanding Early Excellence centre.

Childminder: "This was very informative and interesting how loose parts linked into maths."

Developing Prosody into Fluency in Language

Our strategic partners at Central Primary School highlighted the importance of prosody and how lullabies, songs, rhymes and stories are vitally important in developing children's fluency in language. This session also highlighted the importance of direct human adult interaction to support the development of vocabulary and prosody. Practitioners also had the opportunity to network and explore the outstanding early years environments.

"The theory was very interesting & I found it useful how to implement this into story and song time."



Dates for your Diary

Please see below for a range of CPD available to book for FREE in March.

Unless stated otherwise, these sessions are open to all childminders and practitioners working in early years settings across the North East. Each session is carefully matched to a free resource linked to the subject theme to support practitioners to implement evidence-based approaches in their own settings.

Wed 13th March 3.45-5.30pm

AET Making Sense of Autism at Cleaswell Hill SEND School

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 14th March 4-4.45pm

Webinar: 'How can stories and characters be used to develop PSED?

[Learn more](#)

Monday 18th March 3.45-4.45pm

Early Literacy Networking Session at Croftway Academy

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 20th March 6.30-7pm

Webinar: Examining unconscious bias in Early Years

[Learn more](#)

Monday 25th March 9.30am-3.30pm

A Guide to Implementation and Managing Change focusing on Early Literacy at Durham Leadership Centre

[Learn more](#)

Wednesday 27th March 3.45-5.15pm

Early Literacy: A Systematic Approach to Supporting Children's SLC Skills at Adderlane Academy

[Learn more](#)

Thursday 28th March 4-4.45pm

Webinar: 'High quality interactions through shared reading'

[Learn more](#)

Ongoing throughout March

Networking Sessions for Childminders with Hartbeeps

[Learn more](#)

View all of our upcoming CPD events on our website!

[See all our events](#)



Foundation Years Live: March Events

Foundation Years are hosting two free, early years practitioner-focused events in March. These events are a fantastic opportunity to hear presentations on topics including the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs, SEND in the Early Years, and practical approaches to language acquisition, as well as a chance to network with other practitioners.

Virtual on Teams - Wed, 6 Mar 2024 10:00 - 11:30 GMT - [register here](#)

In person event, live in London - Fri, 22 Mar 2024 10:00 - 15:15 GMT - [register here](#)

Our Latest Resources

Five Minutes on Early Reading



Stella Jones, Director of Town End Research School, has shared a fantastic resource with us this month linked to Early Reading.

"Learning to read is an important and usually exciting journey for children. Many children will progress very quickly, while others will find learning to read a harder and slower journey. However, the evidence is clear that just about every single pupil can learn to read effectively. The choices that teachers make will influence how likely pupils are to succeed with reading. This short guide aims to help teachers understand how reading develops, with an explicit focus on early reading. If teachers know more about how reading develops then they can make better choices about the activities used in the classroom."

[Download](#)



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](#)

DfE Training Programmes

Early Years Professional Development Programme (Final Cohort)



Early Years
Professional Development Programme

High quality, evidence-based CPD for Early Years Practitioners

- eLearning sessions
- Online facilitated webinars
- Resources including video, articles and recommended reading
- Programme Trainer and peer support opportunities

Partnership with:
 Department for Education
 Speech and Language UK
 Anna Freud
 Dr Sue Gifford
 Dr Catherine Gipton

Last chance to register for the FREE to access, government funded CPD for early years practitioners and childminders starting this April! This is the FINAL cohort so don't miss out!

The Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP) is available to early practitioners and childminders across England. With expertly written content covering Communication and Language, Early Mathematics and PSED, the EYPDP supports practitioners with the practical skills and tools to support the unique development needs of children aged 2-4 years.

Delivered online with a blended mix of e-Learning and facilitated webinars, this CPD takes around 8 months and 60 hours to complete and is recommended by 90% of practitioners currently on the course.

This is a government funded programme with limited places available. Don't miss out, secure your place today for April!

[Learn more](#)

Early Years SENCO Level 3 Qualification



Early Years SENCO Level 3

For a level 3 practitioner in a private, voluntary or independent setting. It is also appropriate for Ofsted-registered childminders and Ofsted-registered childminder agencies.

This is an important role to ensure the best possible educational outcomes are achieved for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

FUNDING IS COMING TO AN END

Apply by March 31 to secure a remaining funded place!

[Learn more](#)

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.



Elklan - Communication-Friendly Home-Based Settings

Calling all childminders! Elklan's Communication Friendly Home-Based Settings (CFHBS) will give childminders an enhanced knowledge about speech, language and communication (SLC) development and how to support all children but particularly those who have, or are at risk of having, a SLC need. The final cohort is due to start in September so please express your interest now.

[Learn more](#)

Elklan - Communication-Friendly Settings

We have some exciting news! Recruitment for the FREE Elklan's Communication Friendly Setting Research Programme has begun. The programme involves 2 x EYPs at your setting receiving a level 3 and 4 accreditation and the whole setting receiving a Communication friendly Setting award.

We are delighted to announce there are still spaces for Early Years Settings in Durham, Newcastle and Northumberland.

Elklan have organised FREE information sessions and there are a range of dates/times to choose from. If you would like to apply to the programme, please submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) and book an information session which are compulsory as part of your EOI.

If you have any immediate questions in the meantime, please email kirsten@elklan.co.uk.

[Learn more](#)

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](#)

Other Great North Stronger Practice Hub News

Joint Education Team (JET) Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle EYFS Conference

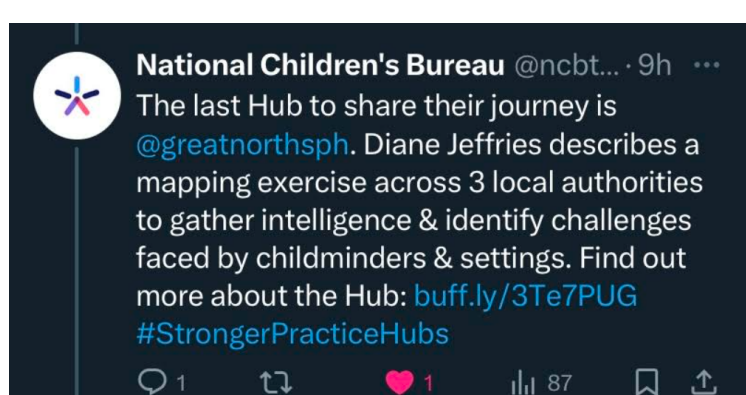
On Wednesday 7th February we delivered a workshop on SEL/PSED in the Early Years at the JET Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle EYFS Conference. Thank you to Rebecca Longstaff, Early Years Lead at Town End Academy, who presented alongside the GNSPH team.

It was absolutely lovely to meet so many early years practitioners and thank you to JET for this amazing opportunity. Northern Lights Stronger Practice Hub also presented at this conference and it was fantastic to work in partnership together.



Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs National Shared Learning and Dissemination Event

On Thursday 29th February we were thrilled to be involved in the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs National Shared Learning and Dissemination Event. The aim of this event was to share and celebrate the incredible work of the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs programme. This event was attended by over 240 delegates from across the UK from a range of different roles and organisations. The GNEYSPPH shared our journey so far and collaborated with other Stronger Practice Hubs to present about maintaining effective partnerships and supporting professional development. It was also fantastic to hear information from the other Hubs, NCB, DfE and EEF.



We hope you have found some content that can support you within this newsletter. If you are looking for something more specific, don't hesitate to reach out to us directly!

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