



## **KEYSPH Newsletter January 2024**

Stronger Practice Hubs were set up by the Department for Education as part of their Early Years COVID-19 Covid Recovery Programme. Kent Early Years Stronger Practice Hub (KEYSPH) aims to:

*‘Empower practitioners through Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) evidence-based practice, networking opportunities, setting to setting and school to school support, building and fostering a lasting legacy and commitment to improving outcomes for all children.’*

## **Welcome from KEYSPH Partners**

Last week we celebrated the launch of the KEYSPH, as part of which we have held some Welcome Webinars. These webinars provided the opportunity for the Early Years and Childcare Sector to learn more about the Hub and to contribute towards our planning to move it forward. Thank you to those who were able to attend, it was fantastic to see so many of you there and your contributions during the events were appreciated and valuable.

For those of you unable to attend the Welcome Webinars or hear Julie Miles (Hub Practice Lead) and other partners speak at various recent briefings, the Stronger Practice Hubs were set up by the Department for Education as part of its Early Years COVID-19 Recovery Programme. The programme is led by The National Children’s Bureau (NCB) and The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) with the aim of supporting early years settings across the sector to address the impact of the pandemic on young children, by sharing effective practice and building lasting local networks.

## **Let us talk about the value of Outdoor Learning.....**

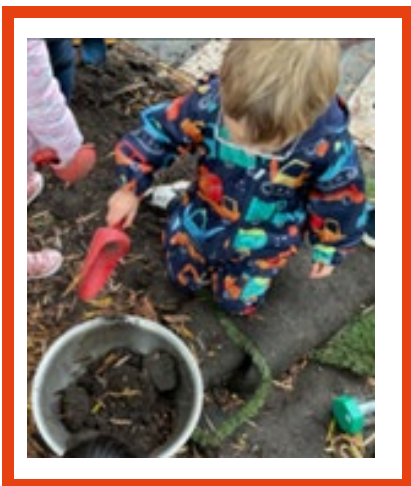
As practitioners we have all heard of various approaches, ethos’s, and theories about outdoor learning for early years children, which all promote the benefits and learning outcomes for children within the natural environment however are we doing this justice? Does your setting have within its curriculum a plan for the outdoor spaces? To be fully invested in the outdoor environment we as practitioners need to be passionate, committed and know the value of the learning opportunities that we provide. Outdoor learning is not just about play outside it is experiences and opportunities that create the foundations for lifelong learning. As we

all have seen children's PSED post covid has been dramatically delayed, children during this time have not had access to the wide range of opportunities that would have been afforded to them before the pandemic. We want to bring to the forefront of our practice the importance of being outside and seek to ingrain it into daily routines within settings no matter what space is available and what type of setting you work within. Let us look at PSED and talk about how the outdoor environment can enhance a child's experience and development.



Who remembers as a child taking risks, curiosity and wonder at the world around you, lets focus on some of these experiences and memories to reset the balance between leaving risks in place to teach children how to manage them as opposed to removing risks from our settings, children need to think for themselves and learn to self-manage to the mantra of 'is it safe' this simple question covers a multitude of scenarios which promotes children to be in control and with practitioner support explore concepts and ideas that they may not have the opportunity to experience.

Let them build the tall towers, climb the trees, test the depth of a puddle, use tools, and immerse themselves in discovery be it a minibeast hunt or exploring the weather as the seasons change.



When we as practitioners need to be positive role models for the children, whether it is wearing a hat on a chilly day, engaging in meaningful conversations, and sharing what we notice within our environment or being on hand to provide resources to support a child's experience. When outside children are less restricted and will often collaborate with different members of their peers to whom they would in the indoor space, this promotes friendships, shared thinking, imagination, turn taking and teamwork.

We have shared a couple of pictures of our practice, if you would like to share some of your outdoor spaces, activities, and learning, please email them in and share good practice.

## Let's talk about childminding...

If you are a childminder and would like some free support, please contact the Childminder Mentor Programme, which offers bespoke support to childminders across England. Trained early years professionals will provide support to childminders in the roles of Area Lead and Mentor. You will receive friendly support and advice from Mentors who have at least three years' experience in the childminding field. You will also have an opportunity to network with other childminders in your area who are part of the programme. Sign up [COVID-19 Recovery Childminders | Hempsalls](#)

## Let's talk about training...

If you are thinking about further training, the Early Years Professional Development Programme provides support for practitioners to:

- improve skills to identify children at risk of speech, language, and communication needs
- provide an understanding of the theory of child development in early mathematics
- develop skills to support children's self-confidence, relationships, and self-awareness through expertly developed Personal, Social and Emotional Development training with parents and carers to support the home learning environment
- improve engagement.

If you are interested in finding out more click [Early Years PDP Programme](#) or contact your Local Authority representative.

Settings can also sign up for support from the Department for Education's Experts and Mentors Programme. Early years settings can now self-refer and request the support of an Expert and/or Mentor from the programme using the [application form](#) on the Pen Green Centre website.

## Let's talk about social media...

We would like to draw your attention to our social media platforms, [Facebook](#) (KEYSPH) [Instagram](#), X and [TikTok pages](#). [@Kenteysph](#).

Our posts and videos provide up to date information and ideas to support practitioners working with young children. There is also information and links to forthcoming webinars and workshops. Find all social media links at the bottom of this newsletter

Have a wonderful 2024!

Julie, Neerasha, Gem and Emma

## Upcoming Events and Other News from the Hub

We have lots of exciting webinars and workshops planned for the spring term. We will continue to promote these in our social media posts.

Our Brilliant Babies to Terrific Toddlers document will be sent to early years settings and childminders later this term, with children under two years on role. If you are thinking of providing care for this age range and would like the document, please email us on [KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org).

Virtual webinars will bring the document to life and will be delivered later this term. Look out for more information through our social media platforms.

Two virtual Speech and Language webinars delivered by the Evelina Team from Guys and St Thomas's SLT. These focus on creating:

- Enabling Environments on [27 February at 4pm – 6pm](#)
- Enabling Environments on [29 February at 7pm – 8.30pm \(priority for childminders\)](#).
- In Tune Interactions on [4 March at 4pm – 6pm](#)
- In Tune Interactions on [6 March at 7pm – 8.30pm \(priority for childminders\)](#).

Our virtual Maths Mastery webinar will be delivered by Northfleet Nursery School

- [30 January at 4pm – 5pm](#)
- [12 March at 7pm – 8pm \(priority for childminders\).](#)

Following on from previous Maths Mastery webinars, a 30-minute bite size workshop on 'number bags' is being recorded and will be available from the beginning of February. Look out for how to request access through our social media channels.

In addition, following on from the Self-Regulation webinar there will be an Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Informed Practice (ACES) virtual webinar delivered by Specialist Teachers based at Five Acre Wood School later this term.

We have been allocated **NELI- Preschool** and **Emotion Coaching** by the EEF for delivery in Autumn 2024. If you are in an area of deprivation and would be interested in putting your name down on our waiting list, please email us [KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org).

## Inspirational Good Practice

We are proud to announce that we have some early years settings that are keen to share their 'inspirational practice' with you. These settings have agreed that practitioners from other settings can visit them so they can share elements of their practice and ideas. This will support enhancing practice your own settings. Although KEYSPH will link settings, it is for settings to work within your policies and procedures during visits, for example upholding confidentiality and respectful practice.

The first four practitioners visiting each setting, we be provided with a bag of resources to take away and use in your own setting. We would be interested in hearing about how you use these resources and what difference they make.

If you would like to visit a setting, email us at [KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org) and give us the number of the setting shown below. We will then pass on your details to the setting who will make contact with you.

1. Discovery Day Nursery in Parkwood in Maidstone, Kent is the lead member of KEYSPH. They are proud of the support they provide for their families, particularly those with children with high levels of SEND. They are commitment to support every child with very best practice.
2. Northfleet Nursery School is a member of the Hub. They are passionate about the difference that they are making for their children and would welcome early years settings, childminders and schools to come and visit them. They also delivered the Maths Mastery webinar and are happy to show others how it works in practice.
3. Our Hub partner Gem is a childminder with a difference. She has access to a woodland area for her children to explore. She is keen to support other childminders especially with offering ideas how to provide opportunities for childminders to embrace outdoor learning.
4. A six times rated Outstanding nursery in Dartford in Kent. Rightly proud of their strong and dedicated team. The manager/owner ensures that she provides the right support and training for her staff that makes a difference to her setting. This is an awe-inspiring forest school with a holiday club.
5. A wonderful pack away setting based in Canterbury in Kent. They have recently achieved an outstanding rating and are willing to share their work around communication and language strategies and focused vocabulary with introduction of three new words each week.

6. Based in Southborough in Kent, this fantastic setting is happy to talk to settings about how they implement their planning and curriculum in their setting. they have outcomes with high expectations for both staff and children. They have an experienced team to support children with SEN.
7. An outstanding setting in Boughton in Kent with a highly experienced Manager is keen to share long-term practice with others. In particular, the inspirational learning environment and work with families.
8. An outstanding pack away setting based in Ashford in Kent is proud of the work they do to support their families as well as their routine at snack time. They and are happy to share with others.
9. A wonderful setting based in Folkestone who are happy to open their setting to other early years settings. They have good routines, lovely staff interaction and always plan to ensure their children's needs are met.

We also have a list of childminders, settings and maintained nurseries that will be sharing their practice with us in different ways, either through blogs, vlogs, filming or photos. We will be promoting this in our social media posts, bitesize workshops and newsletters.

It is not too late to join us in sharing your practice. these settings are from Kent but if you are from one of the other local authority areas and would like to become involved, please email

[KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org)

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Other settings who have shown an interest in sharing their good practice will feature in subsequent communications.

## Useful Information and Resources

### Department for Education COVID-19 Recovery Programmes

[Early Years Professional Development Programme - Phase 3 \(PDP3\)](#)

[Experts and Mentors Programme](#)

[Childminder Mentor Programme](#)

[Early Years Online Child Development Training](#)

### Please give us Feedback

If you have questions on the work of KEYSPH, or you would like to become involved or want some support then please email us. [KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org).

Please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and on [TikTok @kentey sph](#)

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