



Kent Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

KEYSPH Newsletter March 2024

Stronger Practice Hubs were set up by the Department for Education as part of their Early Years COVID-19 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.'

Inspirational Good Practice

We are pleased to add some new early years settings this month 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 in your own settings. Although KEYSPH will link settings, it is for settings to work within their policies and procedures during visits, for example, upholding confidentiality and respectful practice.

The first four practitioners visiting each of the settings below will be provided with a bag of resources to take away to use in their own setting. We will be asking about how you use these resources. These are limited to first come first served so will not last forever.

If you would like to visit a setting, email us at 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 contact 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 committed 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 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.
10. An outstanding forest school nursery is based in Birchington, Kent. They can offer forest school training, introductory sessions and welcome visitors and other organisations to use their amazing facilities. The company are really community focused and are happy to share their skills and good practice.

11. A full day care nursery in Maidstone has recently reviewed and changed their baby room environment focusing on heuristic play resources and a large exploratory play space for the babies to freely access. Their two- to four-year-old room is also amazing with many inviting zoned areas. They are proud to share their improvement journey with other settings as they worked hard as a team to bring their vision to life.

12. A nursery in Swanley has a fantastic outdoor area full of interesting play spaces, including a large sand pit, growing area, natural bug hunter area and a story corner. They also have a separate woodland school at the side of the nursery where small groups of children have the freedom to explore, experiment with woodwork, tools and climb into hammocks as well as many other activities.

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

New settings who are interested in sharing their good practice will feature in subsequent communications.

Dates for your Diary

Brilliant Babies to Terrific Toddlers – A Tool for Reflection

Saturday 20 April at 9.30am, 22 April at 4pm and 5.30pm, 24 April at 5.30pm and 7pm

We are proud to introduce our new 'Brilliant Babies to Terrific Toddlers – A Tool for Reflection' document. Every setting working with babies under two years will receive a copy of the document in the post (those from Local Authority areas outside Kent may have different arrangements). These 45-minute introduction webinars will bring the document to life and further webinars are planned throughout the year.

[20 April 2024 - 9:30pm](#)

[22 April 2024 - 4pm](#)

[22 April 2024 - 5:30pm](#)

[24 April 2024 - 5:30pm](#)

[24 April 2024 - 7pm](#)

If you are considering setting up baby provision but are not currently open for babies email KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org to request one.

SENCO Drop In - 16 April at 7pm

Are you a SENCO and would like some top tips and strategies that other experienced SENCOs have used in their settings? If so, please join us for our SENCO question and answer session.

[16 April 2024 - 7pm](#)

Our next '**Let's Talk About**' sessions are scheduled for **18 April (and 30 April at 4pm and 7pm)**. Links are sent following attendance at webinars so you can join us to ask questions, share your learning with others and the impact on the children in your care.

Further Bitesize Webinars to Follow

- Staff wellbeing
- Pre-phonics Activities linked to Stories
- Ten Top Tips to Support Pre-phonics Development
- Navigating the EEF Evidence Store
- Key Reflection Audit Tool

Please give us Feedback

If you have questions on the work of KEYSPH, or you would like to become involved or receive some support then please email us. KEYSPH@theeducationpeople.org.

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