

Early Years Conference

Playful Beginnings

Brighter
Futures for
Children

Conference details for delegates already booked

Date: Saturday 25 February 2023

Time: 9am to 4.30pm

Venue: Holiday Inn, Basingstoke Road, Reading, RG2 0SL





About the conference

Attend the conference and submerge yourself in the powerful world of PLAY!

- ★ PLAY helps children to think independently, solve problems and make decisions
- ★ PLAY enhances creativity and imagination
- ★ PLAY promotes fun and choice with learning
- ★ PLAY enables children to develop social skills, language and communication
- ★ PLAY provides an opportunity to practice life skills
- ★ PLAY is important for healthy brain development
- ★ PLAY is an excellent bonding opportunity
- ★ PLAY is how children learn and interact with the world.



Featuring keynote speakers:



Kym Scott - The Power of Play

In her speech Kym will explore the thorny issue of ensuring children are challenged in their play. She will highlight the myths that exist in this area and share her views around the conditions that enable truly challenging play to take place.

Kym is an established conference speaker, trainer and consultant in the field of early years education. She has spent the last 20 years working in partnership with schools and settings in a variety of circumstances, both in the UK and overseas and has a proven track record of helping leaders to raise the quality of their early years provision and improve outcomes for children.

As well as supporting at leadership level, she spends a significant proportion of her time working directly in classrooms and nurseries. This is key to ensuring that she retains a deep understanding of the reality and challenges of working with young children, and this work also provides her with numerous real examples to draw upon in her training.

In response to COVID-19 and the lack of opportunity to deliver training in person, Kym created her own subscription-based online early years professional development site, 'The Place to Learn', consisting of pre-recorded, on-demand training videos covering a wide range of aspects of early years pedagogy and practice.



Dr Helen Bilton – Professor of Outdoor Learning and Play, University of Reading

First Steps Outside: The Journey to Outdoor Education. Helen will share her research on the fundamentals for an effective outdoor teaching and learning environment and bust the myths associated with outdoor play.

Dr Helen Bilton Professor of Outdoor Learning and Play, University of Reading.

Helen originally trained as a nursery/infant teacher and for the last 42 years has been researching, teaching, and disseminating about the outdoor teaching and learning environment for children. She has a local, national, and international reputation in early years outdoor education and has written and published numerous papers and research-led textbooks, bringing practice and theory together for researchers and practitioners in the field. Helen believes in an holistic approach to education. Additionally she is knowledgeable about health education, managing behaviour and the role of the adult in schools. She is the Lead Educator on several, successful courses on FutureLearn. understanding and helping families in need of additional services.





Elaine Bennett - Keeping Early Years Unique (KEYU) founder, trainer and early years teacher

Solving the mystery of mastery in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) reforms: *The EYFS educational programme for maths uses the word “mastery”. Many primary schools have taken on the mastery approach, but what does this look like in a*

nursery or reception classroom? What about if you are a toddler or baby with a childminder or in a day nursery? What does mathematical mastery mean (and look like) when you have been in existence for less than 60 months?

Elaine began her career over 25 years ago as a nursery nurse before moving into teaching. Elaine is currently based in Shoeburyness, Essex as EYFS Leader. She has also worked as an EYFS adviser at Southend-on-Sea local authority, where her particular focus was raising the profile of maths and moderation. As well as teaching, she now works as a freelance early years consultant and specialises in delivering training, workshops and keynote speeches focusing on mathematical development.

Elaine is passionate about the power of play to make maths real, exciting, inspiring and accessible for children and the adults that support them. Being, still, very firmly based in practice means that Elaine's consultancy work is current and full of real-life stories from her busy, happy classroom. In 2015, Elaine founded KEYU - a grass-roots organisation with over 50,000 members who are all committed to the power of play.

You'll have the opportunity to attend three of the following five workshops:

★ Extending children's language, communication and vocabulary through play *Kym Scott*

★ Fundamentals in physical skills - if you don't get the physical right, nothing else will go well.
Dr Helen Bilton

★ A principled approach to early years maths - let's talk birth to five matters
Elaine Bennett

★ Shake, rattle and roll workshop - playful beginnings with music! *Danielle Ballentine-Drake*

★ Grow your own stories - interactive story-telling
Cassandra Wye



Other workshop presenter biographies



Danielle Ballantine-Drake is the Head of Early Years and Voice at Berkshire Maestros. She has over 20 years of experience working with music in a very broad range of early years settings. Danielle believes that music is for everybody and that it is a powerful tool for human communication, right from birth. She loves to inspire children and their adults to have the confidence to play and have fun through music-making with plenty of games, action songs and movement activities.



Cassandra Wye is a storyteller who has 30 years of experience working around the world to promote access to education for children marginalised from mainstream education including refugee children, children with disabilities, street children and children in servitude.

Cassandra's workshop will introduce you to the techniques of multi-sensory storytelling and show you how to use them to make your own stories engaging for all children - including children with special educational needs and disabilities and children for whom English is an additional language.

The delegate fee includes:

Three fantastic speakers, three workshops, refreshments throughout the day with a hot lunch provided AND a free to enter raffle with opportunities to win a prize!

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**Brighter
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