

# Family Learning in the Early Years: First Steps to a Fairer Future

## Family Learning Conference

24 November 2022 | Online | 9.30am-2pm

The pandemic has significantly impacted young children and families, as well as all the infrastructure of care and support for them. Families are now facing the biggest cost of living crisis for decades which means it's more important than ever for community and learning organisations to work together to help tackle disadvantage, particularly for families in the early years.

This conference will give you opportunities to:

- Understand the impact Covid-19 has had on increasing inequalities and what you can do within your organisation to address this.
- Discover creative and effective early years initiatives that will engage new learners or audiences.
- Gain a richer understanding of how you can expand your curriculum or learning offer to support children in your community to be school ready.

Join our online conference for:

-  inspiring keynote speakers
-  information rich workshops
-  opportunities to connect and share with other professionals
-  access to all event recordings and resources

**“As a Family Learning leader I’ve always found the Campaign for Learning events to be useful sources of new practice, ideas and networking opportunities for myself and my team.”**

ESOL & Family Learning Co-ordinator  
for a Local Authority.

Earlybird ticket £60+VAT (until 16 October 2022)

Standard Ticket £75+VAT (from 17 October 2022 onwards)

**Book your  
tickets now**

# First Steps to a Fairer Future

## Family Learning Conference

24 November 2022 | Online | 9.30am-2pm

### Attendees from previous conferences said:

"I hugely enjoyed the conference last Wednesday- brilliantly run and some excellent thought provoking discussions."

**Bea Stevenson, Head of Education, Family Links**

"The conference helped me to think about how to deliver online and face to face going forwards, considering new ways to engage and reach families. It allowed me to reflect on considerations that I had not done in the past."

**Early Years Project Manager for national children's charity**

"It was a good opportunity to share and have some great ideas from other professionals. I could implement these ideas in my teaching."

**Family Learning Tutor for a Local Authority**

"This family learning conference was the most interesting and thoughtful CPD event that I've taken part in on the theme of family wellbeing. The range of speakers and topics was excellent and there was a thoughtful programme of meaningful and relevant sessions that I'm still reflecting on weeks later."

**Tracey Smith, Learning Programme Producer – Families, V&A Dundee**

### Who should attend?

If you are a practitioner, programmer, manager, creator or communicator working with families and want insights, tools and practical approaches to create positive change in your setting then you need to attend.

### This conference is for:

- practitioners or tutors that work directly with families
- project managers/ officers
- curriculum managers
- early years managers/ officers that decide on the strategy of the learning department
- community engagement managers/ officers
- learning and engagement managers/ officers
- outreach managers/ officers
- anyone with an interest in early years.

# Programme

**9:30am** Welcome and overview

**9:40am** **Keynote:** Jenny Gibson, Mission Director, A Fairer Start and Chief Scientific Advisor at Nesta

**10:10am** **First workshops: Choose one session from 1-3 of the workshop list.**  
Please note, all sessions will be recorded and be available to watch after the conference.

**1. Poverty Proofing<sup>©</sup> in early years, health and culture** with Luke Bramhall, Head of Youth Services and Poverty Proofing at Children North East

**2. Warm and responsive interactions** with Stacy Mann, Subject Specialist Early Years and Childcare at NCFE

**3. The importance of early years for lifelong health - Oxford Brain Story** with Dr Elizabeth Rapa, Senior Postdoctoral Researcher in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Group at the University of Oxford

**11:10am** Break

**11:20am** **Keynote:** Ellie Suggate-Francis, Assistant Director – Early Childhood Unit at National Children’s Bureau

**11:50am** Networking exchange

**12:10pm** Lunch break

**12:40pm** **Second workshops: Choose one session from 4-6 of the workshop list.**  
Please note, all sessions will be recorded and be available to watch after the conference.

**4. Art in the early years** with Dr Penny Hay (National Teaching Fellow, FRSA, FHEA, FCCT), artist, researcher and educator

**5. Play Out! - taking early learning outdoors** with Mary Devlin, Family Learning Specialist at Learning Unlimited

**6. How Cambridge took a community approach to early years communication** with Chris Barton, Senior Adviser for Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups and Helen Wootton, Early Communication and Language Adviser for Talking Together in Cambridgeshire at Cambridgeshire County Council.

**1:40pm** Group discussion

**2:00pm** Evaluation and Close

# 1

## Poverty Proofing© in early years, health and culture

Poverty Proofing© is a nationally recognised tool to help organisations and professionals to understand and mitigate the impact of poverty. In this workshop, we will reflect on the stigma, shame and bias that could prompt practitioners to think about how existing practices may create unseen barriers to participation; based on the voices of those with lived experiences of poverty. We will explore how poverty can impact attainment and development for children and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

### About the speaker

Luke Bramhall is Head of Youth Services and Poverty Proofing at charity Children North East. Luke leads the development of the Poverty Proofing© model, growing it into a nationally delivered intervention that has consulted with hundreds of thousands of people on their experiences of poverty. He is also the Lead Health Inequalities Advisor for the Child Health and Wellbeing Network and regularly speaks on how poverty impacts on child health and development.

# 2

## Warm and responsive interactions

This workshop will explore the power of co-regulation in supporting self-regulation. By gaining a full understanding of the term self-regulation, we can further support, coach, and model this to the children and families that we work with and by doing so, impact and influence a child's development and overall wellbeing. We will engage in some practical solutions that will develop our emotional support practice and increase our awareness of our own influence in situations that may be described as challenging.

### About the speaker

Stacy has worked in the Early Years Sector for the last 20 years, starting as a nursery nurse and working up to nursery manager and then children's centre manager. Stacy is now the Early Years and Childcare Subject Specialist for NCFE. Stacy exudes passion for wellbeing and a positive mindset which has fast become her area of expertise. Her enthusiasm for learning and supporting people has led her to train as a Relax Kids and Charge-Up coach.

# 3

## The importance of early years for lifelong health - Oxford Brain Story

The Oxford Brain Story team will be introducing the science of brain development; essential information for everybody to understand how our earliest experiences can affect our long term mental and physical health. The core themes of the Oxford Brain Story are a key public health message, similar to our understanding about the importance of diet or exercise for our physical wellbeing. In order to improve outcomes for both children and adults, we need to establish a universal understanding and a shared language to talk about the impact of adversity and our role in mitigating its effects.

### About the speaker

Dr Elizabeth Rapa is a senior postdoctoral researcher in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry group at the University of Oxford. Under the leadership of Professor Alan Stein, the group focuses on clarifying the key mechanisms underpinning child development in the context of adversity. In partnership with the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative the Brain Story aims to make neuroscience accessible to frontline workers and the wider community to improve outcomes for families.

# 4

## Art in the early years

Penny will discuss the importance of art in the early years and how it can support children's development, especially in the light of the pandemic. She will share a range of projects in the early years that are full of creative ideas for working with families and settings. The session will be interactive and discussion based with a gentle practical element that will provide ideas and approaches that you can take away for your own practice. This workshop will help you develop a deeper understanding of how you can engage children and families in art and creative practice.

### About the speaker

Dr. Penny Hay is an artist, educator and researcher, Reader in Creative Teaching and Learning and Research Fellow Bath Spa University and Director of Research, House of Imagination. Signature projects include School Without Walls and Forest of Imagination. Penny's PhD focused on children's learning identity as artists. Penny is a National Teaching Fellow and Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching, with awards from Action for Children's Arts and Creative Bath.

# 5

## Play Out! - taking early learning outdoors

This workshop will explore the impact that Covid-19 lockdown had on young children, and consider ways of addressing this through increased opportunities to play outdoors. Using the example of Learning Unlimited's project, "Play Out!", we will share ideas for working with parents and children to link outdoor activities with elements of the EYFS. We will also consider the importance of location, partnership working, methods of engagement and communication with parents. All of which can make a meaningful difference to the success of such a project and ensure they reach the children who need it most.

### About the speaker

Mary Devlin worked with her colleague, Sarah Rees, to design and secure funding for the Play Out! project. She has worked in Family Learning and Early Years for over 20 years. She established and led a Children's Centre for seven years and worked for the National Children's Bureau as a trainer and consultant on their early years programmes. Also an artist, she enjoys designing creative workshops for parents and children.

# 6

## How Cambridge took a community approach to early years communication

Chris and Helen will share insight into how they worked with community groups to better understand the needs of parents and carers of children aged 0-5; with a focus on how children's storybooks were being used by families locally. They will explain how Talking Together in Cambridgeshire's Festival of Stories encouraged parents and carers to engage with stories and books and to access organisations who could offer them support. Chris and Helen will share some practical ideas and activities, and some of the resources used to support this work.

### About the speaker

Chris Barton is the Senior Adviser for Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups for Cambridgeshire County Council's Early Years Service. Helen Wootton is the Early Communication and Language Adviser for Talking Together in Cambridgeshire which is also part of the local authority's Early Years Service work.