

Enhancing Learning Behaviours in the Early Years



Warwickshire Early Years Hub (WEYH) and Coventry City Council came together on 03/09/25 to host an Early Years Conference on Enhancing Learning Behaviours in the Early Years.

108 Early Years practitioners from schools and settings across Coventry and Warwickshire attended the day, which was supported by the nationally and internationally recognised Early Childhood Specialist Jan Dubiel.

Jan is cited as 'one of the most influential people in British education' by the Times Educational Supplement for his work in the Early Years. Through his keynote speech he shared his research on the key behaviours that sit behind the processes by which children learn, and why they are so important as the basis for intellectual development.

Four workshops held through the day explored these themes further and enabled practitioners to reflect and consider what to focus on and nurture, in order to fully open children's eyes and minds to learning.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with delegates stating:

'An Amazing way to start the new academic year! Buzzing!'

'Lots of new knowledge! It will change our practice.'

'Amazing! Have taught for 27 years. It's not often there is something new... this will help me review and improve practice'

'Excited to go away and meet with the team to plan how we can review practice and incorporate new thinking'.

'Hugely impactful. Excellent examples for how to apply knowledge of learning behaviours to classroom provision.'

Jan expressed that *'it was an honour to present at this conference with so many dedicated, committed and reflective educators who are willing to continue developing their expertise. The future looks good for children in Coventry EYFS Provision.'*

99% of attendees stated that they had acquired new knowledge. Practitioners commented that they found it incredibly valuable having the opportunity to share practice and ideas with other settings, that the information was very 'relatable' and they were immediately thinking about how they could implement content into practice. Other colleagues said how useful it was to reflect and think about the quality of interactions with children, as well as to gain practical strategies of how to put it all into practice. Many commented that they hoped for many more conferences and training opportunities!

Sincere thanks and acknowledgement go to the NEU Warwickshire District and Coventry Start for Life for sponsoring the event, and for enabling access for practitioners across the Early Years sector to attend such an influential and informative event at the very start of a new academic year.

Jan's extensive research and national perspective, together with the local experience of EY specialists from Coventry and from Warwickshire Maintained Nursery Schools, proved a compelling combination. It highlighted that by striving to understand learning behaviours and plan for them, a significant impact can be made on children's abilities to fully engage and to reach their learning potential.