

# Early Years Conference

## 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (8.30am-4pm)

*The American Express (Amex) Community Stadium, Falmer, BN1 9BL*

### Securing the Prime Areas: the best place to start

This year's conference will explore in depth how to ensure all children secure the prime areas of learning, providing them with a strong foundation on which to build a lifetime of education. We are delighted to welcome our keynote speakers Tamsin Grimmer and Helen Battelley, both EYFS experts in their respective fields of PSED and Physical Development. Delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in two workshops of their choice, working with a host of EYFS experts including Tamsin Grimmer, Helen Battelley, Ben Kingston-Hughes, Helen Moylett and Menna Godfrey. Refreshments and lunch will be provided and there will be a marketplace to explore during the breaks. All delegates will also receive a goody bag!

#### **Morning workshops:**

**Workshop 1:** Tamsin Grimmer 'Exploring Diversity and Equity'

**Workshop 2:** Helen Battelley 'Boosting learning through movement'

**Workshop 3:** Ben Kingston-Hughes 'Communication and Language and Joyful interactions'

**Workshop 4:** Helen Moylett 'Family Chatter Matters'

**Workshop 5:** Menna Godfrey 'Natural loose parts - what are they and how do they help children's learning and development?'

#### **Afternoon workshops:**

**Workshop 6:** Tamsin Grimmer 'Our behaviour toolbox'

**Workshop 7:** Helen Battelley 'Storytelling in early childhood'

**Workshop 8:** Ben Kingston-Hughes 'Working with vulnerable children'

**Workshop 9:** Helen Moylett 'Communication spaces matter'

**Workshop 10:** Menna Godfrey 'Mud kitchen play'

Conference places can be booked on the [Learning Portal](#). Please email your first and second workshop preferences for the morning and afternoon to [sles.events@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sles.events@eastsussex.gov.uk) at the time of booking your place. Workshops will be capped so be quick to book to avoid disappointment!

Price include a full days training, refreshments, lunch and a goody bag!

£95 for schools

£80 for pre-schools

£45 for Childminders

## Meet our speakers:

Tamsin Grimmer



Tamsin is an author, consultant and lecturer at Bath Spa University. Tamsin has spent all of her professional life working in the EYFS sector having worked as a childminder, teacher and EYFS advisor. Tamsin is passionate about young children's learning and development and is fascinated by how very young children think. Tamsin strongly believes in listening to young children, making learning multi-sensory, active and, of course, playful.

### **Morning keynote with Tamsin Grimmer 'PSED Matters'**

During this keynote Tamsin will discuss the prime area of PSED and the importance of building secure relationships with our children. She will outline how we can also enable our children to develop self-regulation and highlight the value of an emotionally enabling environment.

### **Workshop 1: Exploring Diversity and Equity**

During this workshop Tamsin will consider our duties under the Equality Act (2010) and the importance of promoting diversity and equity. We will think about the implications of this for our practice and how we can become more inclusive in our approach.

## **Workshop 6: Our behaviour toolbox**

During this workshop Tamsin will explore the many strategies educators have in their behaviour toolboxes. Viewing all behaviour as communication, Tamsin will encourage us to become behaviour detectives in order to know how to promote positive behaviour and support our children appropriately.

### **Helen Battelley**



Helen is an internationally renowned consultant, trainer, author and speaker in Physical activity/movement in Early and Primary Education with an MA in Early Childhood Physical Activity. Her training style is energetic, passionate and highly motivational. She has been working as a dance and movement specialist for over 19 years and continues to work directly with children. Helen is respected globally for her valued contribution to raising the profile of early years physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviours.

### **Afternoon keynote with Helen Battelley ‘Active Together - educator, child and family’**

‘This generation of children are the least active since regards began!’ Children and Young Peoples Survey 2022. This keynote will explore the data around childhood inactivity and present ways to support children to be more active and engaged in movement.

### **Workshop 2: Boosting Learning through Movement**

This workshop will support practitioners to understand the importance of reflexes from birth to 5 years. Insightful information and activities will be shared on how to support the combined development of the senses and motor skills which underpins physical development.

### **Workshop 7: Storytelling in early childhood**

This workshop will demonstrate how to bring stories to life through the use of music and movement. Be prepared to be active!

#### **Workshop speakers:**

#### **Ben Kingston-Hughes, Inspired Children**



Ben Kingston-Hughes is an international keynote speaker, author and multi award-winning trainer. He is also the Managing Director of Inspired Children and has worked with vulnerable children across the UK for over 30 years. He has appeared on television several times working on a variety of children's projects and his distinctive blend of humour, neuroscience and real-life practical experiences have made his training invaluable for anyone working with children. His new book, "*A Very Unusual Journey into Play.*" is now available.

### **Workshop 3: Expressions of Joy - Communication and Language and Joyful interactions**

This inspiring workshop explores how joyful interactions through songs, stories and rhymes, are essential to our children and their developing brains. The workshop focuses on how children *really* learn communication and language by exploring the fascinating neuroscience behind it and gives practical ideas to bring a little more joy to our children's lives. It highlights Joy, not as an optional extra to childhood, but as a fundamental basis for all learning and development and shows how joyful early years practitioners can be truly life-changing for their children.

### **Workshop 8: Working with Vulnerable Children**

This transformative workshop looks at how we can support our vulnerable children to thrive and shows how positive adults can have the most profound and life-changing impact on these children. The workshop explores how we can see

through a child's behaviour to the vulnerable child underneath by understanding the emotional and neurological damage of anxiety. We can then begin to support children to heal and ultimately to thrive. It also highlights a series of practical play activities to engage with vulnerable children providing vital childhood experiences for all of our children.

### **Helen Moylett**



Helen is a nationally recognised independent early years consultant and writer who co-authored *Development Matters* in 2012. Helen has experience of working with children across the sector from teaching in primary schools, being the head teacher for an early years centre and senior lecturer in primary and early years education at Manchester Metropolitan University. Helen was also part of the task force for *Birth to Three Matters*, development of the Early Years Foundation Stage and led the *Every Child a Talker* programme nationally.

### **Workshop 4: Family Chatter Matters**

Many children are at risk of language delay and their numbers have increased since Covid. All the research points to the importance of time spent in conversation with prime caregivers as the key to early language development. This workshop will explore practical ways to help parents tune in to, and support, their children's communication and language needs.

### **Workshop 9: Communication Spaces Matter**

In order to develop their skills young learners need interesting things to talk about as well as someone interested to talk to. This workshop will provide participants with a framework to consider the physical and emotional spaces they provide for supporting children's progress in communication and language development.

## **Menna Godfrey**



Menna is passionate about sharing outdoors with young children, particularly the spaces immediately outside the nursery door. Menna is an experienced trainer, director of Early Childhood Outdoors and national trainer for Outdoors Thinking. Having begun her early years journey as a childminder, Menna opened a 'set up and pack down' setting in a church hall before opening as an outdoor playgroup. Her setting achieved a judgement of outstanding at its last 4 Ofsted inspections. Menna's training will challenge you to pay attention to the learning and development possibilities that the outdoor environment provides so readily.

### **Workshop 5: Natural loose parts - what are they and how do they help children's learning and development?**

The term 'loose parts' has become common place in many early years' settings in recent years. This workshop will consider what lies behind the use of loose parts, what is it that they offer that is such a powerful support for learning and how can we make best use of the natural loose parts that we find in outdoor space surrounding our settings. We will consider what Simon Nicholson meant when he wrote the Theory of Loose Parts, "In any environment, both the degree of inventiveness and creativity, and the possibility of discovery, are directly proportional to the number and kind of variables in it." This interactive workshop will give participants the opportunity to engage with natural loose parts as well as a chance to discuss how they can make best use of seasonal opportunities that the natural world offers in terms of loose part availability.

### **Workshop 10 : Mud kitchen play**

Join Menna to consider why young children are so irresistibly drawn to the elements of mud and water. Participants will use video of children at play to stimulate discussion about the ways in which playing with the stuff of the earth supports children as they develop across the prime areas. The focus of this

session will be on Mud Kitchen Play, we will discuss what makes a good space for young children to explore these fascinating materials and ways that you can begin or enhance the provision in your setting. Consideration will also be given to ways to overcome the practical challenges that mud play brings.